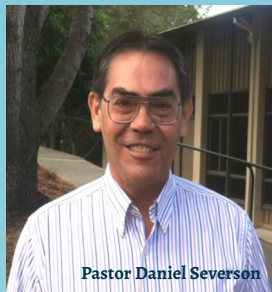


“Knowing and sharing the good news of Hope in Christ”



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,
Our congregation is dealing with some difficult issues at the present time. When I first heard that our beloved organist, Douglas Franks, had been diagnosed with an advanced brain tumor, I was shocked. I had not

noticed any symptoms, or reasons to be concerned about his health prior to receiving the news from his step-daughter at the hospital only one day after Doug's wife Linda had left me a message that he may have had a stroke. Doug is a consummate musician and his ability to play the organ and piano seemed as good as ever only three days before this. Moreover, after he returned home from the hospital, and I had the opportunity to visit Doug and his family, he seemed perfectly normal. I am greatly saddened that he and his family have to deal with this terrible disease. Doug is not only a great musician. He is a wonderful person with a gentle and loving personality. He was always very helpful to me in answering questions regarding hymns over the past few years, and his knowledge of Lutheran hymnody is very impressive. I miss him very much, as I'm sure all of you do as well. Please continue to hold Doug and his family in your prayers. I am certain that our gracious God is with them, and that his love and promise of new life will guide them through the difficult weeks and months that lie ahead.

I am also assured that God has graciously aided us in our need to find musical guidance since Doug has been absent. Our Choirs Director, Shirley Fitzgerald, has stepped-up big time, offering to play as needed, (she was needed for the Wednesday Lenten services) and arranging music for the choir that is doable in the absence of an organist. My heartfelt thanks to Shirley for her help during this time. Also, we have been fortunate to find substitute organists for all the services so far. Michael Page in particular has been and will continue to be available for many Sundays. I thought he did a great job on Easter. Moreover, on the first Sunday of

Doug's absence, when we had no time to find a substitute, Elaine Dummer did a wonderful job playing the piano for us. So yes, the Lord has been with us, and will continue to be in the days and weeks to come. As of this date, the "Organist Search Committee" has not met, but will in two days. Please pray for us, that God will send us a suitable candidate for this most important job in making it possible for us to gather for worship.

Shortly thereafter, our Office Manager, Tanya Cerdan, submitted her resignation so that she could take a job that will help advance her career goals. Tanya will be with us through the first week in May and thanks to Margo Kannenberg, Lynn Loveall, and Karen Reed we are already prepared to interview our first candidate for this position. Tanya too has been very helpful in going the extra mile regarding her responsibilities. Her expertise with the use of technology in particular has been super helpful. She has posted sermons and lectures on the website (and I know this service is being utilized because many people have told me that they listened to these postings). Her ability to use artwork to brighten-up bulletin announcements, the newsletter, congregational letters, and banners has been much appreciated. While I'm saddened to see Tanya move on, I wish her every success in reaching her goals.

We will keep the congregation informed of our progress in filling these positions. Without good people to fulfill these jobs for us, we could not function as a church with an active and vibrant ministry in so many areas.

You all may have noticed that our offerings are falling significantly short of meeting expenses. Giving this year is down from the same period as last year and even though there were no salary increases, expenses, particularly for heating and electricity are up. This is not all that surprising given the fact that some of our active members have moved or passed away. This will probably be an ongoing challenge for us this year. However, while I encourage everyone to give this stewardship challenge serious consideration, there is

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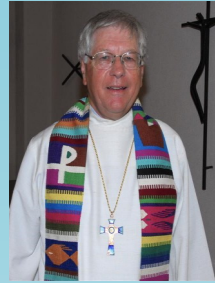
also good news. The preschool is making a profit, and next year, we will finally pay off the mortgage. This will help in terms of the need to use savings in order to pay our bills. Thank you all for your incredible generosity.

Christian communities face challenges and bear crosses just as individuals do on a regular basis. While some people outside the Christian faith have seen difficulties as a reason not to believe in a loving God, Christians should know better. In fact, it's precisely when we face difficult issues; issues that can create anxiety and fear over what the future holds that we most clearly perceive the active presence of grace among us. A perfect world where everything worked out just fine, and difficult problems were non-existent, is not a world in need of grace. Moreover, who needs faith if there were never any reason to doubt, to fear what could happen, or feel as if a miracle is needed? While situations that cause discomfort, pain, and doubt are not pleasant, nevertheless, it is times such as this that bring us to rely on the grace and mercy of God, to find strength and hope outside of ourselves, and to seek the grace of God through prayer, worship, and sacrificial service to a cause greater than ourselves. As disciples of the One who endured the cross before rising victorious to new life, we also must pick up our own cross, and then trust in Christ to lead us to new life. During this Easter season, we are reminded more than ever that with Christ, hope never dies.

A blessed Easter season to all,

Pastor Dan Severson

Pastor Paul's Notes



We give thanks to God for the lives of:

Jens Hansen
Bob Paulus
Helen Widdra

who passed away the first week of April. We remember each as they were involved in Hope for many years. We pray for each of these families:

“Almighty God, your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen”

SENIOR MINISTRY ACTIVITIES:

Game Day

DATE: Tuesday, May 7

TIME: 12:30-2 pm

LOCATION: Nielsen Hall

NOTE: Bring a lunch and/or something to share

Lunch at Miramar Restaurant

DATE: Thursday, May 23

TIME: 12:30am-2:30pm

LOCATION: Miramar Restaurant, Half Moon Bay, CA

NOTE: Bus transportation will be provided. \$6 for the trip.

Sign-ups can be found in Nielsen Hall

From our Council President



When I was growing up, Easter was one of the biggest holidays we celebrated, both in church and at home. Of course, as a child, I thought Christmas was better. You can guess why. Easter was a close second. We had an Easter egg hunt at home, and we always got a chocolate Easter bunny or large Easter egg. We

had a fancier-than-usual breakfast. It was a chance to wear fresh new clothes to church and sing hymns with lots of alleluias. After church, we'd have dinner with the whole family. When we were older, there were several years when my sisters and I would get up super early for Hope's sunrise service at 6:00 a.m. Sometimes we'd even go back for a "regular" Easter service later in the morning – we lived only two blocks from Hope.

Over the years, I've dwelled on the significance of Good Friday. It's an odd name for a day that seems so dark – until you think about what really happened on that first Good Friday and why. Worship on Good Friday makes me think more deeply than usual. We would not be Christians (followers of Christ) without the events of Good Friday and, of course, Easter. On Good Friday, I really get into the day's message, and it makes me appreciate the sacrifice that Jesus made for me. It is a solemn day that demands attention for what happened. It almost seems more significant than Easter but isn't really. Without what happened on the cross, we would not have a reason for Easter.

Can you tell that I am writing this article during Holy Week? By the time this is published, we will be past Easter Sunday, but, as Christians, and we are Easter people. It's good to be reminded of that. Nevertheless, I'm caught up in thinking about the events of Holy Week and how our emotions are tugged back and forth between joy and sadness.

In school, I was younger than most of my classmates. It seemed that all my friends were getting their drivers licenses while I was still 15. My 16th birthday fell on Good Friday that year. In those days, everything, even government

offices, closed for three hours on Good Friday. Churches had three-hour marathon services that were too intense or too long for just one pastor to lead. Hope used to share Good Friday services with St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, alternating the location every other year. One hymn we sang had 14 verses, two for each of the seven last words of Christ. It was very slow, in a minor key, and reminded me of a funeral dirge. Three or four pastors would take turns leading the service and giving a homily on each word. The slogan for the day was, "Come when you can; leave when you must." That year, I went to St. Andrew's with my mom. We slipped out about 2:30 to get to the old DMV on Villa Terrace so I could get in line for my driving test when the office reopened at 3:00. I was fourth in line. I took my driving test – and passed. Because my driving status had now changed, my mom wanted to wait until she could call the insurance agent on Monday before she'd let me drive by myself. It felt like the longest weekend of my life – not a bad thing for Easter.

Preschool Corner

It's been an amazing year. I am very blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful teachers and families.

We have Family Night coming soon and the children are so exciting about "Under the Sea". Steve Koehler, the Magician, will be there entertaining the families.

Have a Happy Summer. We will be back in September.

Blessings,
Tracy Siri
Preschool Director



From our Choir Director

PERSEVERANCE

A definition of perseverance is the steady persistence in a course of action.

We have experienced difficult times recently, but in the face of all that, the choir and handbells have continued to persevere in their steady course to provide music for us. They have worked diligently to prepare music for us to inspire and serve us for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. These special people give of themselves for our benefit. They are relatively small in number, but they are great in their dedication and work. Thanks to all.

Shirley Fitzgerald
Choir Director

Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Dear Members and Friends of Hope,

Our income for the 1st quarter of 2019 has fallen short of our budget goals for this period. Please continue to prayerfully consider what you can do to help Hope financially, as we move through 2019.

January - March 2019 Financials

Total church income: \$90,290

Operating church income: (without memorials) \$83,045

Total church expense, including mortgage: \$109,260

Income **down by 9.9%** over last year's income in Jan-Mar

Expenses **up by 2.2%** over last year's expenses in Jan-Mar

Church budget income shortfall: \$26,215

Expenses in line with budget: \$108,159 budget vs \$109,260 actual

Preschool 1st quarter profit: \$13,086 (note: need profit to cover salaries in July/Aug)

Margo Kannenberg
Treasurer

Stewardship

The essential Easter message is the perfect theme for this month's (and life's) article. Jesus, by word and example from the start of his ministry in Galilee curing and caring for the blind, the crippled, widows, orphans, beggars, society's dregs, to his foot washing on Maundy Thursday, commands and shows us that we are "to love one another" - to care for the least of us, especially the unloved. If we are to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, as we take communion with God by walking in Jesus' footsteps, reminded of his life and its sacrifice, made for us, we are to constantly ask ourselves for opportunities to let God work through us - for two goals: to a) bring us in closer communion with God, and b) oppose evil in all forms (including corruption, exploitation, poverty, starvation, homelessness, helplessness, despair, and threat of bodily harm/death) with loving service to others. So here are a few ways you might:

1. Contribute toward the challenge goal. As of last months council meeting nothing had been contributed. Please don't wait until year-end.
2. Contribute to disaster relief organizations. WAY too much unmet need at the moment.
3. Help advance scientific knowledge. An AARP article gave 3 examples - a man watching clouds, a man and woman organizing residents to collect water samples, and a woman photographing wildflowers in natural and UV light. Get ideas for a local project you might enjoy by checking your local library or these websites: scistarter.com, zooniverse.org, citizenscience.gov
4. Do some spring cleaning; give used, but no longer of use, glasses frames, clothing, dishware, electronics, toys, etc. to charity.

I'm sure many other ideas come to you as you enjoy this beautiful season in one of, if not solely, the best climates and landscapes in the world. Get going, do something new.



HLCW Circles

Mary Circle

3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Location Varies
Contact: Martha Welch

Sarah Circle

3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Location Varies
Contact: Lois Nieman



Birthdays in May

Philip Gaal	5/1	Claire Owens	5/12	Marlys Jungroth	5/22
Lana Saner		Margit Hansen	5/13	Lisa Green	5/25
Erica Lin	5/3	Doug Kannenberg		Rosemarie Nickel	
Nikolaus Grimsby	5/6	Edem Ekong	5/14	Trudy Gamborg	5/26
Barbara Blundell	5/8	Gisela Han	5/15		
Kailen Sallander	5/9	Kai-Erik Schroeder			
Ruth Lillo	5/11	Louise Fischer	5/16		
Bryan Rianda		David Schoch	5/21		
Niels Voss		Ian Colgan	5/22		

Names in bold = our brothers/sisters turning 90-90+ years!

* = Friend of Congregation



Spark Time Sunday School

Children from Kindergarten thru Grade 6
dismissed to Sunday School during Sending Hymn and

join parents in Café Hope after approximately 30 minutes of study and activity.

Date	Theme	Scripture
May 5	Saul to Paul	Acts 9:1-20
May 12	Peter and Tabitha	Acts 9:36-43
May 19	Peter's Dream	Acts 11:1-18
May 26	Lydia	Acts 16:9-15

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
5/5		John Dummler Eric Hoover	Kirsten Severson	Monika Hastings
5/12	Don Hermansen	Phil & Marlyn Gaal	Helena Dummler	Debra Stucke
5/19	Margo Kannenberg	Skip Dahl	Lois Nieman	Sandi Kane
5/26	Hank Harper	Bill Hroziencik Sandra Polster	Don Hermansen	TBD

Upcoming Events

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sundays @ 11:45am

Starting this Sunday, our Sunday morning Bible study will begin a study of the Gospel according to Mark. Mark was the first gospel to be written, somewhere between 65 and 70 A.D. Mark was, according to the church fathers, the scribe for Peter. Since by the mid 60's A.D., it was clear that Jesus' return would be delayed much longer than most people thought at the time, and since the only remaining eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry were dying, it became clear that a written record of Jesus' life and ministry was going to be a necessity for future generations. This should be a great study so I hope all of you previous attenders will want to return. Sunday mornings from 11:45 to 12:30, excepting the second Sunday when church council meets. The educational building on Sundays from 11:45 am. to 12:30 pm.

Seniors Luncheon—May 23

Seniors will have a lunch-outing on Thursday, May 23 at Miramar Restaurant in Half Moon Bay. Bus transportation will be provided at \$6 per person. The bus leaves the church at 12:30pm. Sign-ups will be in Nielsen Hall.

St. Andrew's Luncheon—June 8

On the second Saturday every three months @ 11:15am, St. Andrew's will be hosting their Senior Caring Communion Service and Luncheon. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP ASAP! From Hope Lutheran there is room for only the first 10 people who RSVP. If you would like more information about this event or would like to attend, please call the church office.

THE UNDERGROUND BIBLE—May 1

Our next class is entitled, "The Underground Bible: Learning the History of Israel from Archaeology." For this class, we will go through the entire history of ancient Israel from the Patriarchs to the Roman period. In connection with the archaeological information, we will also be reading the biblical texts, especially those of 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. The start date for this class will be announced soon.

Pastor Dan and Kirsten will be visiting with Kirsten's family in Norway from May 15-25. Therefore **class will not meet from May 15-25**. The midweek class will be back in session on May 29.

Seniors Ministry—May 7

Seniors will come together on Tuesday, May 7 for Game Day. It will begin at 12:30pm in Nielsen Hall. Please bring a bag lunch or something else to share.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's breakfast meets the first and third Saturday of each month in Nielsen Hall. Breakfast is served at 7:30am and the study begins at around 8:00am.

Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, May 4th and 18th.

BOOK CLUB—May 2

Our next meeting of the book club will be on Thursday, April 4th at 1pm in the Fireside Room. The book we will be discussing is entitled, They Were Christians: The Inspiring Faith of Men and Women who Changed the World by Cristóbal Krusen. Please join us for inspiration and a great discussion.

Hope Lutheran Church
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May 2019



Voice of Hope Deadline for June edition: Friday, May 17



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www.hopelutheransanmateo.org

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Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday School at 11:00 AM

