

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

JUNE 2019

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,

The Sunday morning Bible study will continue with the gospel of Mark through June 16th. We will then take a summer vacation, starting up again on October 6th, following the Israel trip. The topic has yet to be

determined. However, given the fact that attendance at the Bible study has fallen off dramatically from what it once was, perhaps I need some suggestions as to what to offer. Or, perhaps the way it is offered can be improved? In any case, Bible study is not optional for those who propose to grow in their faith. As Lutherans, everyone knows that Jesus Christ comes to us in an outer and an inner way. The two correspond with one another. Moreover, since Jesus Christ is our only source for spiritual blessings, including the assurance of salvation, one would definitely not want to neglect seeking him, asking for him, and knocking on his door. His promise is to respond in a positive way to all of these entreaties.

He comes to us in an outer way (externally), through the word and sacraments. But these external things would be nothing but things if Jesus did not use them to penetrate our hearts through the Holy Spirit, the inner way. So, the reason we study the scriptures is that this is the way to our Lord and Savior. Through the gift of the Spirit, Jesus is embodied in the word so that when we read and understand it, we have what it promises. Sometimes it is hard to believe in the truth of God's promises because we live in a world that contradicts it over and over again. There is only one way to deal with this problem so that we do not become one of the many Americans who used to be believers but are now in the process of becoming unbelievers. We need to read, hear, and pray about the promises found in scripture. Luther knew exactly what he was doing when he decided to translate the Bible into the language of the people. There was a danger that some would twist and distort the meaning of scripture for sure. But the alternative, that no one would have access to it

was worse. Now, we take it for granted. But that's not good either. The scripture can do us no good sitting on a shelf. Unless we are committed to opening it up and reading it on a regular basis, we might as well not even have a Bible. It is not a book meant to adorn the coffee table. The Holy Spirit will speak to you, and the Spirit speaks using the story of salvation as told in scripture.

However, while there will be no Sunday morning Bible study over the summer, there will be a midweek class. This summer, I want to focus on two very important topics, one practical and one theoretical. But the two are very much related. The practical is the topic of Christian ethics, both individual and social. We are going to look at how faith in Jesus Christ impacts our day to day choices in both big and little ways. The theoretical topic is science and religion, specifically, certain scientific dogmas that leave us with the impression that science and religion are mutually exclusive and will always be at war with one another for the souls of people. From a biblical and theological point of view, the two are very much related. For, the conclusions we reach regarding the origins of the world and ourselves has everything to do with the values we will live by. This class will begin on Wednesday, July 10th at 1:00 pm in the youth room. As always, invite a friend. The unchurched in particular are invited to attend.

As of the writing of this article, I have yet to leave for Norway. However, by the time you receive this, I am (hopefully) back. My guess is that we had a good time. We continue our search for a new organist and office manager. “Thank you” to Judy for filling in until we find someone to replace Tanya. In fact, given the interviews that are now scheduled, I am hoping both positions will be filled by early July if not before. Please keep these concerns in your prayers for Hope.

Finally, we will be having another semi-annual meeting on June 23rd after the service and before lunch during Cafe' Hope. You will all receive annual reports and we will be electing new council members. Please make every effort to

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be there. This is a great way to demonstrate that you have "skin in the game" with respect to the well-being of our congregation. Lunch will follow in Nielsen Hall.

Blessings to all, Pastor Dan

Educational Opportunities this Summer

The Sunday morning Bible study will complete its study of Mark on Sunday, June 16th, after which we will take a break for the summer. The topic, TBA, will begin on Sunday, October 6th, after the Israel trip.

The midweek study will begin with a new topic on Wednesday, July 10th. An explanation of the study is included in my cover letter. We will be looking at issues related to science and Christian ethics. It should be a very interesting class so invite a friend, particularly unchurched people.

The book club meets the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. This summer we are going to read C.S. Lewis's classic book, "Mere Christianity." I read this book a long time ago, but when I picked it up again, I saw gems of insight I had missed previously. This is a great book, well worth your time and meeting with a group of people to discuss what it says will enrich your experience of the book. Please join us for an hour of learning and sharing. Pastor Dan

The women of the church will be meeting the third Thursday of each month in Nielsen Hall to go through the Bible study in "Gather" magazine. Pastor Dan will lead the discussions. Please join us for an hour of learning and fellowship.

The last Men's Breakfast and Bible Study for this year will meet on Saturday, June 1st at 7:30 in Nielsen Hall. We will continue our study of "They Were Christians," a book about consequential people who were motivated by their desire to serve God. The program will begin again next September.

Pastor Paul's Notes



The drama and momentum from Easter to Pentecost is on a people BEING SENT, telling about what God has done for all people, as in the Psalmist's exclamation,

"Come and listen....and I will tell you what he has done for me." (Ps. 66)

Being open to the Spirit, that God's mission be done--- through us: that's the CHALLENGE which is underlined during these days of Easter. It means acting with the Power of the Spirit to be about God's mission, being open to what God has in mind for us. It means taking seriously God's gifts to us and how we have been equipped to share in this community and around the world. I recently came across this quote, said to be from John Wesley:

"Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can,
In all the places you can, at all the times you can,
to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

I have a CONCERTMATE available to anyone who is interested. It is a portable musical instrument with 61 full-size keys and 100 Songs. Included is a stand, stool and owner's manual.

Please let me know if you would like it or if you know someone who could use it.

There are NO activities scheduled for Seniors in June.

From our Council President



The face of our church is changing. In mid-May, Jerilyn Struven and I attended the annual assembly of our Sierra Pacific Synod at the Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi. Its theme was "We Are Church Together: Working in God's Vineyard" which is based on Matthew 9:37-38. For the first time, the assembly was held on a

single day. (It's been at least two days in the past.) Jerilyn and I were voting delegates at the assembly, a first for me. I have been a visitor at an assembly before, but this was my first time as a delegate.

So, how is the face of our church changing? Many of the speakers and presenters were Hispanic, possibly a departure from the Lutheran Church of old. Some of the assembly presentations were conducted in Spanish or English or both. Some of those who had speaking parts were the children of farm workers, for example, who have grown up and been educated to contribute to society by serving as advocates for those who need help in moving on to make an honest living and improve their living conditions. Instead of a keynote speaker, we heard short faith reflections from Lutherans who represented the Immigrant Empowerment Project of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, the Unite Here Local 49 of the Hospitality Union and the California Agricultural Workers Organization.

In the Bay Area, and especially on the Peninsula, we are distant and may be somewhat insulated from the plight of immigrants who are trying to better their lives. Several Lutheran congregations, mostly in the Central Valley, have ministries that are directed towards helping those who need help to get along and get ahead.

There were 442 delegates present at the assembly, along with 69 guests and visitors. Nearly two thirds were lay, with the remainder being clergy. There were more women than men by a ratio of 56% to 43% with 1% identified as nonbinary. Almost 9% of the delegates were persons of color or spoke a language other than English. This is a number that synod leadership would like to increase to better represent the changing face of the church.

Pastors celebrating significant anniversaries of their

ordination and congregations celebrating significant anniversaries of their founding were recognized. The online program contained wonderful write-ups about all of these. The synod is made up of nine conferences. Hope is part of the San Francisco Peninsula Conference that extends from San Francisco to Los Altos. Each conference elected a new dean for a three-year term. Our new dean is Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco.

Closer to home, I would like to encourage all voting members to attend our semi-annual congregational meeting on June 23rd to be held immediately following worship. It is important for as many people as possible to attend for a couple of reasons. We need a quorum (50 voting members) in order to conduct business, and we also would like input from as many people as possible. We will be voting on new church council members and a new financial secretary.

Church Council News

Thank-you to our church council members who have completed their term of service to Hope.

They are:

Anne Wilson, Social Concerns

Heidi, Worship Committee

Judy Jeschke, Secretary and Youth

Lynn Loveall, Finance & Personnel Committee

Mark Grimstedt, Property Management

Martha Welch, Preschool Liaison

Linda Harvey, Financial Secretary

Please be sure to join us on June 23rd as we elect new council members!



Youth News

Congratulations to all members of the Hope Family that are celebrating a graduation this Spring. Sunday June 2nd will be Graduate Recognition Sunday at Hope. The graduates will be listed in the bulletin and recognized during the pre-service announcements.

For those of you with elementary aged children, please note that our Sunday School for students in grades 3-6, will pause over the summer. We will, however, continue to hold the SPARK time sermon release each Sunday. Sunday School will resume again in mid-August on Sunday mornings from 11-11:30, following our sending hymn.

Although summer often means a time away from studies (and church), I hope your family finds a way to continue to keep Christ in your lives. Mt. Cross has both family camp opportunities and youth camps for children in 1st grade through High School. Please consider these or other local Vacation Bible School options.

Judy Jeschke
Hope Church Council Youth Representative

Preschool Corner

Congratulations to our students that will be graduating on June 4th!

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

Blessings,
Tracy Siri
Preschool Director



From our Choir Director

WHAT IS A CHORUS?

A chorus is a group of singers with more than one person on a part. It is also a section of a piece where all join in to sing together. The chorus got its name from ancient Greece where the chorus joined in to sing and dance and comment on what was going on. A chorus can be a choir that sings in church.

Choral music has been written about every subject and every occasion. It can be a simple arrangement or written in complicated lines of counterpoint. Most choral music is written to be sung in four parts, but can be in more parts. Composers have written choral music based on the Catholic Mass since the 1300's. The chorus, sometimes called the refrain, is the part that keeps coming back after each verse.

What is the job of the chorus (choir) in the church? It is not to "perform" but to lead the congregation, especially when the music is *difficult, unknown, or new to the people*. The choir also helps lead the liturgy, and supports the congregation in all parts of the service. Most church choirs are usually volunteers and use the gift of music that God has given them. They're usually not professional singers, but most often are members of the congregation. Church choirs rehearse on their own time, often during the week, and then sing for the services.

Information from The Golden Encyclopedia of Music, by Norman Lloyd.

Shirley Fitzgerald
Choir Director

While our hard working singers and ringers take some time off during the summer, it's your turn to supply some special music for the upcoming services. We need people to cover June 16 through September 1. There will be a sign up sheet in Nielsen Hall. Let us know when you are available, and we'll be in touch. Accompaniment can be available.



May 2019

To Hope Lutheran Church,

Bob really appreciated the cards, love, and prayers from our friends at Hope. The time he spent as a teaching pastor was one of the most joyful times of his life and ministry. I would like to thank you on his behalf.

I also want to thank so many of you for the prayers, cards, and sympathy you have expressed since his death. It was his wish that any memorial gifts be given to Hope. I would like to have the money used for the payment of the mortgage.

All of the people of Hope will always hold a special part in my heart.

Gloria Paulus

We Welcome through Baptism

Callie Alyssa

will be baptized during our service on June 2nd, 2019



Born: 11/16/2016

Parents: Calvin and Katerina

God Parents: Jodi and Jason Lipof

Called to Eternal Rest

Dorothy Joan Stienstra

Dorothy Joan Stienstra, 92, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, surrounded by loved ones. Having clung steadfastly to her faith and its promise of eternal life, she joins her husband, son Brian, her parents and brother in heaven. A memorial service was held at Hope on May 25.



WRCW Circles

Over the summer, we will hold a joint Women's Circle

3rd Thursday of the month 10:00am

Location: Nielsen Hall

Pastor Dan will lead the Bible Studies in "Gather" magazine



**Savvy Seniors at Miramar Beach Luncheon,
May 23, 2019**

Photo submitted by Margaret Timeus



Birthdays in June

Eno Ekong	6/3	Rea Tucker	6/15
Jerry Brooks	6/4	Esther Ekong	6/20
Sandi Kane	6/4	Robert Lillo	6/20
Sidney Prasad	6/5	Owen Sallander	6/21
Maxine Fisher	6/10	Penny Spike	6/23
Wendy Hermansen	6/10	Shannon Wilson	6/24
Dustynne Mendes	6/12	William Klemens	6/27
June Hendrickson	6/13	Jason Reed	6/28
Delores Roscoe	6/14		



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

* = Friend of Congregation

Spark Time Sunday School



Children Ages 3-8 are dismissed after the Children's Message for a 15 minute lesson and return to their parents in church.

Children Grades 3-6 dismissed to Sunday School during Sending Hymn and join parents in Café Hope after 30 minutes of study and activity.

(Beginning June 30, Sunday School will recess for the summer and resume again on August 18)

Date	Lesson	Bible Text
June 2	Paul and Silas	Acts 16:16-40
June 9	The Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-4, 36-42
June 16	Praise God	Psalm 8
June 23	God's Promises to Abraham	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
June 30	Jacob Wrestles	Genesis 32:22-31

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
6/2	Skip Dahl	Nancy Kehl Marilyn Gaal	Erica Lin	Debra Stucke
6/9	Margo Kannenberg	Mark & Erica Grimstvedt	Marlys Jungroth	Sandi Kane Hank Harper
6/16	Sandi Kane	Linda Harvey Angamma Prasad	George Amarandos	Judy Jeschke Erica Lin
6/23	Kirsten Severson	David & Mary Phillips	Skip Dahl	Debra Stucke
6/30	Bill Kannenberg	Monika Hastings David Schoch	Heidi Waters	Monika Hastings Heidi Waters

Upcoming Events

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 23, 2019 - After Worship

Election of Church Officers

Lunch to follow in Nielsen Hall

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday June 9 & 16 @ 11:45am

In June, Our Sunday morning Bible study continues the study of the Gospel according to Mark. Mark was, according to the church fathers, the scribe for Peter. The last two classes on Mark will meet Sunday June 9 and June 16 from 11:45 to 12:30, in the Education Building.

All Choirs Sunday—June 9th

For many years, one Sunday in June at the end of the "choir season" the choirs have presented a special music service. It has taken several forms. Sometimes it has been a huge festival services, but in the last few years, it has become a service in which the Chancel choir has voted on its favorite anthems of the most recent year, and The Bells of Hope play a piece that is most meaningful to them. Please join us for Choirs Sunday.

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.

MIDWEEK CLASS: THE UNDERGROUND BIBLE

Our midweek bible class will continue meeting at Wednesdays at 1:00-2:00pm. This 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. Our June meeting dates and topics are:

June 5th— The two kingdoms to the exile of Judah

June 12th—The Exile to the Greek Occupation

June 19th—Independence under the Hasmoneans to the Romans

Men's Breakfast

The last Men's breakfast for this year meets on June 1st in Nielsen Hall. Breakfast is served at 7:30am and the study begins at around 8:00am. We will continue our study of the book "They Were Christians".

We will pause for the summer and resume in September.

BOOK CLUB—June 6th

Our next meeting of the book club will be on Thursday, June 6th at 1pm in the Fireside Room. The book we will be discussing is entitled, Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. This book is a classic and a favorite of many people since Lewis wrote it during World War II. Please join us for inspiration and a great discussion.

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Voice of Hope Deadline for July edition: Friday, June 14



Hope Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday School at 11:00 AM

