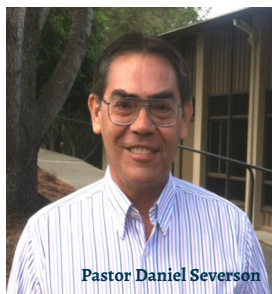


The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

AUGUST 2019

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,

On August 7th, we will begin a midweek class on Christianity and America’s founding documents.

Why is this important and why would we spend time on it? First, the connection between the two has become largely unknown. There are several reasons for this. For one thing, it simply is not being taught any more. More recently, the approach taken to the history of America’s founding is based on a post-modern understanding that suggests that European colonization of North America was a disaster for the indigenous population in the form of disease, oppression, and violent dislocation. Columbus Day is now more thought of as something to bemoan than celebrate. While there is truth to this perspective, like many versions of a story, it is entirely one sided and thereby gives many people, especially young people, the impression that America is not the shining city on the hill that the pilgrims believed they were creating. But even more egregious, it tends to give the impression that Christianity was a force for evil rather than good. I personally have no problem telling the story of America’s founding from the point of view of those who were excluded and oppressed. However, to emphasize this aspect of the story to the exclusion of the other is ungrateful in the extreme, given the fact that everyone who lives here today participate in the unprecedented benefits of what the founders created—people who participated in the sins of their own time, just as we participate in the sins of ours, but who nevertheless rose above the limitations they inherited from Europe. The other reason is that, over the past few decades, the constitution has been interpreted in ways that clearly betray the intentions of those who wrote it. This is the simplest thing to demonstrate. All you have to do is come to find out.

The connection between Protestant Christianity and the founding documents (The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution) is not always clearly stated. However, it can be easily demonstrated that it is there. The reason this is important to know is because it verifies something I have been aware of for a long time. While some believe the west abandoned it’s Christian roots when the modern world was born out of the Enlightenment; a time when people turned to reason and science in their search for truth rather than sacred texts that recorded revelations from the past; actually, this is not the case. The ideas brought over the sea by the Protestant dissidents; people who were oppressed by old world traditions and authoritarianism; these people used the theological ideas they believed in to create a new society. For example, the Protestant idea of the “priesthood of all believers” helped contribute to the notion that is enshrined in the first amendment to the constitution which can be boiled down to one simple idea, namely, the freedom of conscience. Equality before the law, the consent of the governed as the only reasonable way to establish government authority, and basic human rights that the authorities have no right to interfere with; while these ideas can also be found in the philosophical treatises of the time, nevertheless they all grew out of the Protestant Reformation, and the experiences of various Protestant groups in the early years of the reformation of the church. New ideas are not germinated in a vacuum. They arise in the context of what came before. America’s founding documents are no exception.

John Adams, among others, clearly stated that the principle of the separation of powers in the constitution was based on the biblical idea of sin. Because human beings are flawed and easily tempted to succumb to the elixir of power, it is clear that when one person or group of people are invested with all the powers of government, we will end up with a tyranny. History confirms this over and over again, even up to our own century. This is what has led to so much oppression, injustice, and war, and even genocide.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Therefore, the constitution divides government authority into three branches, designed to check one another's power and preserve the liberty of the citizenry. References such as this on various topics can be found in the letters, essays, and notes of those who attended the Continental Congresses in Philadelphia for both the writing of the Declaration and the Constitutional Congress.

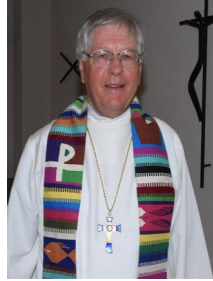
Perhaps the most debated line in the Constitution is the meaning of the First Amendment clause on freedom of religion. Today, this is often referred to as "the separation of church and state." Actually, the Constitution does not say this. This is what it says. "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." When a group of veterans place a memorial cross in a public cemetery, is congress establishing a religion? Some courts have thought so. Or, when the government forces a group of nuns to provide birth control to employees of the convent, is it allowing for "the free exercise thereof?" Some courts think the nuns are in violation. How is that? Thomas Jefferson wrote a letter to a group of Baptists who appealed to him while he was the President because they were nervous about their own religious freedom. In his response, and because no one wanted government out of the business of religion more than Jefferson, he used the phrase of placing "a wall of separation between the church and state." His intent was to protect these Baptists from government interference. However, since the 1960's, the courts have used this phrase to interpret the meaning of the First Amendment. I don't think Jefferson would be happy. Nevertheless, it seems as though this is now settled law.

Class meets in the youth room on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. If you don't already have copies of the Declaration and the Constitution, this would be a good time to get one and bring it along. I hope you are all having a great summer, and, if you are not out of town, I hope you will come and join the discussion.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

Pastor Paul's Notes

PASTOR PAUL'S NOTES

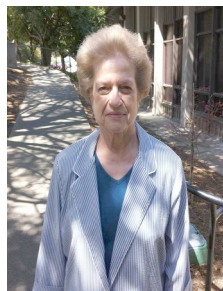


We give thanks to God for Douglas Franks and Anne Hermansen, who passed away in July. Douglas served faithfully as Hope's organist for many years as well as being the accompanist for choirs. His musical talents and friendship will be missed.

Anne Hermansen had served as parish secretary at Hope and was among Hope's first member-families. Her joyful service was a strong witness to the good news of the gospel. May God's comfort and love nourish and bless the families of Douglas and Anne in the days to come.

You are invited to complete the "SENIORS MINISTRY" response sheet included in this "Voice." As one of the ministries in the congregation, you are invited (Senior or not), to express your comments and suggestions. The task force will be meeting in August to plan activities for the coming year and will consider your input. Please return the response sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Choir Director



Shirley is currently in the midst of recovery from an illness and not available for her usual schedule. Activity with the Bells and Choir in our August Calendar is

tentative and confirmation will be announced soon.

From our Council President



Your new church council has already held its first meeting. We want to welcome Dave Schoch and Nick Holl onto council and bid farewell and many thanks to Heidi Waters and Martha Welch who have completed their terms. Once again, Judy Jeschke will serve as secretary, Karen Reed will continue as vice president, and I will be president. Margo Kannenberg will continue as treasurer, a non-council position, and Claire Owens is our new financial secretary, taking over from Linda Harvey who has ably recorded giving for several years. The work of the church continues with just a slight change in the cast of characters.

We also want to welcome aboard our new organist, Vaughn Jones, who brings with him a wealth of experience as a church organist, and our new office manager, Carmel Cabahug-Volpe, who is fitting in well to her position in the church office.

Some of the committees at Hope are chaired by the same council member as last year, but there has also been some shifting of chairs. Judy Jeschke has moved over to the Preschool Committee, Hank Harper has taken over the Worship Committee, Nick Holl is the new chair of the Youth Committee, and Karen Reed is now handling the Stewardship Committee. Anne Wilson remains chair of the Social Concerns Committee, Mark Grimstvedt is still chair of the Property Management Committee, Monika Hastings continues as chair of the Education Committee, and Sandi Kane stays at the helm of the Evangelism Committee. Lynn Loveall and Dave Schoch are sharing responsibilities for the Finance and Personnel Committees. If you have any concerns in any of these areas, these are the people to contact. Better yet, if you want to contribute to the mission of these committees, please contact the committee chairs. It is only when as many of us as possible contribute to the ministry of the Hope Lutheran Church that Christ's message of hope will effectively reach the people of San Mateo and the surrounding area.

Church Council News

Thank you to all who attended our congregational meeting in June to elect new congregational representatives. We are pleased to announce the 2019-2020 Hope Church Council Members and Responsibilities.

Hope's Church Council

President:	Don Hermansen
Vice President:	Karen Reed
Secretary:	Judy Jeschke
Education:	Monika Hastings
Evangelism:	Sandi Kane
Finance and Personnel:	Lynn Loveall and David Schoch
Preschool:	Judy Jeschke
Property Management:	Mark Grimstvedt
Social Concerns:	Anne Wilson
Stewardship:	Karen Reed
Worship:	Hank Harper
Youth:	Nick Holl
<u>Non-Council Positions</u>	
Treasurer:	Margo Kannenberg
Financial Secretary:	Claire Owens



Hope's Annual San Jose Giants Outing (and Turkey Mike's Famous Barbeque)!!



Sandi Kane reminds us and invites us to our **Annual San Jose Giants Outing on Saturday, August 17, 2019.**

The gates open at 4:00 pm and the game starts at 5:00 pm! Please save the date and sign up for our annual baseball outing to see the San Jose Giants, our minor league farm team of the San Francisco Giants since 1988. The price for adults: 27.00; Price for children 12 and under: 16.00. These prices include Turkey Mike's BBQ. You can take the food to your seats and enjoy all the pre-game festivities, or you can dine in the picnic area (nice and shaded). Please sign up in the breezeway (or in Nielsen Hall)

by 8-11-19. Contact Sandi Kane if any questions at 415-902-0958. For more info on the game and stadium, please go to <https://www.milb.com/san-jose>.

Altar Flower Donations

NEW "LOANER VASES"

We are delighted to announce that altar flower donors may now borrow new short "loaner vases". The tall altar floral arrangements fit well in these short glass vases, and they are heavy enough to hold most tall arrangements intact to enjoy at home. Hope has recently received a donation of five beautiful square glass vases for this purpose. Please return these vases to the narthex table within 2-3 weeks so we can keep these available for lending. Thank you to everyone who donates flowers to decorate the altar! Please continue to sign up on the flower chart posted in Nielsen Hall.

From the Worship Committee



Thank you for all the altar flower donations for the month of August




Birthdays in August

James Haritatos	8/3	Andy Hermansen	8/20
Karl Voss	8/7	Stephanie Bravo	8/21
Pamela Rianda	8/9	Lyle Johnson	8/25
Helen Hanlon	8/13	Andrew Hastings	8/26
Meghan Foster	8/14	Jennifer Crawford (Fischer)	8/27
Patricia Kennison	8/14	George Studle	8/27
	Haley Blundell	8/29	

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
August 4	God Teaches About Anger	Matthew 5:12-37
August 11	Love Your Enemies	Matthew 5:38-48
August 18	Ten Bridesmaids	Matthew 25:1-13
August 25	Parable of the Talents	Matthew 25:14-30

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
August 4	Skip Dahl	Bill Fisher	Karl Voss	Monika Hastings
August 11	Sandi Kane	TBD	Skip Dahl	TBD
August 18	Kirsten Severson	TBD	Hank Harper	Judy Jeschke
August 25	Bill Kannenberg	TBD	Lisa Sallander	Sandi Kane Hank Harper

Upcoming Events

TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

On Wednesday, September 25th Pastor Dan will lead a group of twenty-one (21) people for a trip to Israel. He will be back on Friday, October 4th.

PRESCHOOL

Preschool Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 7 at 8:45 am. The Preschoolers will start school and they will be at the Chapel on August 15th at 11:45 am and 3:00 pm.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study on Sunday is on a break for the summer. On Sunday September 15th, we will begin a study of the gospel according to Luke.

ELMS

The date for worship at The Elms this month is Wednesday, August 21st. We could use more enthusiastic people to help bring some joy to the residents who are always very grateful for our time together. The service is at 10:30 am but if you want to carpool, meet us at the church at 10:00 am. All are welcome to come, and the residents will thank you.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Evangelism Committee will meet on Thursday, August 1st at 7:00 pm.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 14th at 10:00 am in Choir Room.

HLCW CIRCLES

Over the summer, we will hold a joint **Women's Circle** 3rd Tuesday of the month (August 20)
Time: 10:00 am.
Location: Nielsen Hall

PASTOR DAN'S MID WEEK CLASS

The class began on Wed. July 10th at 1pm in the Youth Room and ends on Wednesday, July 31st (or maybe August 7th).

Our topic will be titled, The Christian Life on the Ethical Perspectives Based on Christian Faith. We will look at issues related to Christian Ethics both on the social and on the individual perspective. How does Jesus' call to "follow me" inform our ethical perspectives?

The following is an outline of the class.

- 1) How does the biblical notion of "sin" inform our ethical decision?
- 2) How does faith in Christ change our perspective on ethical behavior?
- 3) What is the relationship of faith and good works?
- 4) Church and Society: The role of faith in the secular realm.

BOOK CLUB—August 1st

The book club is working its way through C.S. Lewis' book entitled "Mere Christianity." Our next meeting is Thursday, August 1st at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. As much as more people have joined us, I continue to encourage more participation. We meet for one hour to share our insights.

Pastor Dan

Hope Lutheran Church
600 W. 42nd Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403

Presorted
NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
San Mateo, CA
Permit No. 160

Address Service Requested

August 2019



Voice of Hope Deadline for September edition: Friday, September 20



Hope Lutheran Church

650-349-0100

helc@pacbell.net

www.hopelutheransanmateo.org

www.facebook.com/hopelutheransanmateo

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday School at 11:00 AM

