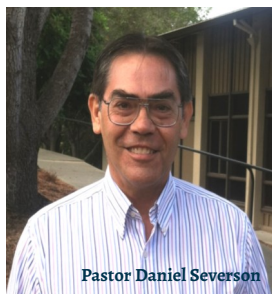


The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

# The Voice of Hope

SEPTEMBER 2019

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

**D**ear Friends,

This is the month when our normal programs, on leave for the summer, start up again. There are several in particular that I am hoping more people will want to take advantage of. The first is the Sunday morning Bible study which meets three Sundays a month from 11:45 to 12:30 in the Educational Building. The gospel readings for Sunday services this year are taken mostly from the gospel according to Luke and that will be our topic for class as well. Luke has become the preferred gospel for many people recently because it emphasizes several issues of concern to the society as a whole these days. In Luke's gospel, Jesus' concern for and ministry with the disadvantaged and marginalized in the Galilean society of his time receives more attention than it does in the other three gospels. For example, he confronts those who became obscenely rich, and who lived in one of the two cities in Galilee at that time, with their greedy and selfish attitude. These folks became rich, not through a successful business plan, or because they created a new and popular product. Rather, it was either because of the high tax burden imposed on laborers and small farmers, inheritance, or because they repossessed the land of folks who could not pay the high interest debt they incurred in years when the crops were less than favorable. The consequence was a wealth gap that violated the clear instructions their ancestors had received from Moses when they entered the land to possess it (instructions that originated from the God who gave them this land), and a situation where many people were reduced to begging or banditry. We see all of these characters in Jesus' parables.

Jesus' message to these folks was not only that greed is a sin, and that amassing wealth at the expense of others who were just as entitled to the bounty of this land is unjust. More than this, it was the idolatry of wealth, and the fact that this

alienated a person from the grace and love of God. Therefore his warning was that, if you are not “rich toward God,” you have neither the abundant life that only God can give you now, but your time on this earth will ultimately become meaningless, and you will take your dying breath while having lost everything you lived for. For Jesus, everything in the end boiled down to life in the “kingdom of God.” In so far as we have entered into a relationship of trust with the love of God in Jesus Christ, we have life. This alone has eternal significance, and represents the goal of life.

Another aspect of Jesus' ministry highlighted by Luke was his treatment of women. While the first creation account in the opening chapters of Genesis gave both male and female equal status as having been created in the image of God, the men in the ancient world did not act as if this was the case. For example, while a husband could divorce his wife at will, women were not accorded the same option, should that have become necessary, even if it was for their own safety. Moreover, not being permitted to earn an income for themselves, should they have suffered a divorce, many were reduced to prostitution. Jesus freed many women from the burdens of having been condemned as sinners, he paid equal attention to them in his healing and teaching ministry, and he had women with him and his disciples as they traveled about from village to village. (Luke 8)

These are just two of the many themes Luke brings to light in his version of Jesus' life and ministry. Starting on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, we are going to begin our study. On the third Sunday of each month, the council meets, and so the study will meet on the first, second, and fourth. I hope to see you there.

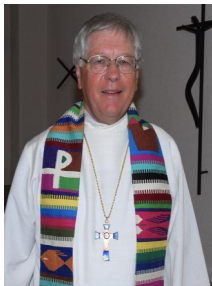
Also starting up again is the Men's Breakfast and Bible study. The first meeting will be on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:30 to 9:00 am in Nielsen Hall. It will then meet each month on the first and third Saturday of the month. We will be finishing our discussion of the book, “They Were Christians,” a book about people whose faith was the foundation of their motivation to serve. However, we will

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

finish this book in a couple of weeks and so I invite participants to think about another good read for this group. I look forward to meeting with the men of Hope again. We always have a great discussion and a fabulous meal.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

## Pastor Paul's Notes



**T**he more I read the following quote I realize again and what contemporary challenge it is for the church's mission:

"Anybody who loves must always be prepared to have their plans interrupted. We must be ready to be ready to be surprised by tasks which God sets for us today. God is always compelling us to improvise. For God's tasks always have about them something surprising and unexpected. God is always a God of surprises, not only in the way in which he helps us (love, forgiveness, new life) ... But also in the manner in which He confronts us with tasks to perform and people to serve." — Helmut Thielicke

Now go back to that statement and note the key words that become a kind of 'strategy' for action.

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SENIOR MINISTRY FOR SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY, September 3, 12:30—2:00 pm

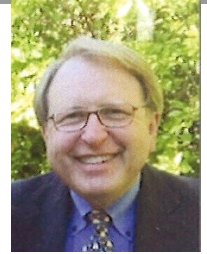
"Group Planning for the year Ahead"

Bring a sandwich, beverages provided

NEW ADVENTURES, OPPORTUNITIES,  
CHALLENGES

THURSDAY, September 19 — Lunch— Outing  
Site to be determined on the 3rd.

## From our Council President



**I** hope you will allow me to share some very personal thoughts. In June and July, I traveled to San Diego to spend time with my mother as her health started to decline. She and my father, along with my sisters and I, were at Hope from the very beginning. We lived just two blocks away, and we seemed to be at Hope more than just on Sunday mornings. For a long time, my mom was the office secretary at Hope. She was a perfectionist in all that she did, and, long before computers, she kept meticulous, hand-written church records. Family members helped her with her work at special times. After Christmas, she would type out a new church directory each year. For a full evening, she and my father would hole themselves up in the kitchen to proof-read a draft of the directory. One would read out loud the names, spelling them out, the addresses, and the phone numbers while the other followed along on the master copy. Then they would trade places and do it all again. Back in the church office the next day, she would run off copies of the directory on the mimeograph and collate the pages before stapling them together. In those days, boxes of offering envelopes were mailed out. Before the end of the year, I would go with her to the old main post office on South Ellsworth Street to carry trays of envelope boxes, each with a mailing label affixed. She made sure she could use the bulk postage permit to save the church some money.

Many of my parents' friends were people they knew from Hope. In the beginning, they worked on church activities together. In elementary school, I belonged to a group called Junior Crusaders. We met downstairs in Nielsen Hall on Saturday afternoons. (In those days, the two middle rooms formed one big square room for large group activities. This was before the education building and the

sanctuary were built.) My parents oversaw that group with other parents. We had crafts, Bible stories, games, and snacks. Then a few years later, dinner groups for grown-ups, called Merrimates, were formed. They shared dinner and fellowship in each other's homes once a month or so for many years. When my mother discovered bridge, she grew to love playing it with friends from Hope.

After my father died in 2005, my mother moved to San Diego County near my sister Karen. She lived independently in the La Costa Glen retirement community in Carlsbad until May and liked nothing better than to be with family members or talk with them by phone. She was proud to live to be 98 and a half. When she became ill, she was cared for in skilled nursing at La Costa Glen. While my sisters and I were with her, we reminisced, talked, prayed, and held hands, but we knew better than to try singing to her. Instead, we played soft music on a cell phone placed on her pillow. She slipped away peacefully a few days after I left to come home. She had talked by phone or visited with all nine of her grandchildren, and she talked with her brother in Fargo (a retired Lutheran pastor) and her sister in Brooklyn. After her move south, my mother worshiped regularly at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Encinitas along with my sister and her family. Both pastors visited my mom, prayed with her, and brought communion to her. She told them and us that she had lived a good life and she was at peace. Her life was complete. As much as we all miss her, we have the assurance that she is in the presence of Jesus and with all the loved ones who went before her. Her strong faith is a wonderful legacy that she left for us all.



Preschool  
Corner

Summer is over and we are back to school this week. Our classes are filled with children who have wonder in their eyes and are excited to be in school. **Special Thank**

**You to...** Anders Voss and his family and friends for repairing and rebuilding the preschool shed in the playground. He is an Eagle Scout. He received many donations from companies such as Statewide Roofing (who also taught the Eagles Scouts how to shingle the roof). Thank you, Anders for all your hard work.

- ◆ The 2019 Pre-K/TK Graduation Class that purchased the new playhouse for the school playground.
- ◆ For the floors being polished, new tanbark for the playground and the newly painted railing to the parking lot. The school looks fresh and beautiful.

We welcome our new teacher, Ericka Wong. She will be joining Priscilla, Colleen and I educating and entertaining the littles ones. I am truly blessed to work side by side with such wonderful teachers and friends.

At Hope, we cherish teaching faith and fostering Christian values into our children. Looking forward to the new school year! Blessings,

Tracy

Eagle Scouts  
Thanks



# Thanks

*You may have done your good deed today & yesterday & last week or months ago  
gratitude will always stay forever — Dolores Roscoe writes*

Dear Members of HOPE,

Many thanks for the prayers, thoughtful offers of help, cards and phone calls from Pastors Dan and Paul and HOPE friends. It was so reassuring and much appreciated to know that someone was there for me while I was recovering and confined to home for so long. HOPE has such a wonderful church family. Again, I thank you very much... Sincerely,

## Quilters

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us (Romans 12:6) ... He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers (Exodus 35:35) ... QUILTING is the God given gift of HOPE ... Keep your cloths coming so our God given gift can flourish more and more ...





# Hillsdale Peace Party

This year Hope is partnering with Hillsdale High School to provide support for struggling families in the Hillsdale community. On the first and third Monday of each month, designated families will receive a care package that will hopefully last for two weeks. In September, we will help with the initial stocking of the Peace Pantry. For the rest of the school year, we will hopefully sponsor a specific family.

We are asking that Hope members help by donating any of the non-perishable and other essential items listed below. Each month the list will be updated to indicate the needs of the family we are sponsoring. Please bring all donations to the church narthex by Sunday, September 15 and on the third Sunday of each month in the future. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your check out to Hillsdale Foundation.

**Non-perishable items:** peanut butter, jelly, pasta, rice, can goods, can meat (chicken, tuna, etc.), can fruit, pasta sauce, can beans or dry beans, can chili or can soup, can ravioli, Box Mac n' Cheese, oatmeal, granola bars, crackers, boxed cereal, etc.

**Hygiene Products:** shampoo, soap, tooth paste, tooth brush, dental floss, deodorant, multivitamins, feminine hygiene products, etc.

**Essential Items:** socks, under shirts, Band-Aids, zip lock bags, \$25 gifts cards to Target or Safeway, Bus Passes, laundry detergent, etc.

## Reformation Sunday



A special Sunday at Hope!

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us for a very special Reformation Sunday on:

**Sunday, October 27 at 10:00am.**

Not only is this a special service to honor the reformation of Martin Luther, we are inviting friends and those we have not seen at Hope in weeks past. There will be special music and a special Cafe Hope lunch, but mostly we hope there will be YOU!

## Birthdays in September

Alexander Hoover	9/3
Owen Hoover	9/3
Jilian Coyne	9/5
Jackie Fischer	9/7
Judy Grimsby	9/7
Lynn Loveall	9/12
Melissa Hastings	9/20



Nancy Jung	9/20
Shirley Rohe	9/20
John Dummler	9/21
Debra Stucke	9/24
Phyllis Kilgore	9/26
Mary Phillips	9/26
Ashley Pedro	9/28

## 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
Sept 1	Matthias the Apostle	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Sept 8	Peter and Tabitha	Acts 9:36-43
Sept 15	Peter's Dream / The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin	Acts 11:1-18/Luke 15:1-10
Sept 22	Two Masters	Luke 16:1-13
Sept 29	Parable of the Rich Man	Luke 16:19-31

## Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
Sept 1	Karen Reed	Skip Dahl Esther Ekong	Marlys Jungroth	Deb Stucke
Sept 8	Don Hermansen	Helena and John Dummler	Margo Kannenberg	Monika Hastings
Sept 15	Margo Kannenberg	Bill Fischer Hank Harper	Kirsten Severson	Sandi Kane and Hank Harper
Sept 22	Hank Harper	Marilyn and Phil Gaal	Lois Nieman	Judy Jeschke
Sept 29	Sandi Kane	Linda Harvey Monika Hastings	Martha Welch	Deb Stucke

# 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

Back to School Night at 6:30 pm will be on Sept. 4. The first day of school will be on Sept. 5 and on Preschool Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 2nd at 8:45 am.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday September 8th, we will begin a study of the gospel according to Luke. The study meets from 11:45—12:30 in the Electrical Building.

## ELMS

The date for worship at The Elms this month is Wednesday, September 18th. 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, September 5, at 7:00 pm.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, Oct 23 at 10:00 am in Choir Room.

## QUILTERS

Quilters continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Come and sew!!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

We are inviting you to join us in our Women's Bible Study Leaders on September 9 at 10:00 am. It is usually on the 2nd Monday of the month.

## PASTOR DAN'S MID WEEK CLASS

To follow up on the class on "The Bible and our Founding Documents," we will look at how the subject of politics has been treated in Lutheran tradition. This class will meet on the first three Wednesdays in September, after which we will take a three (3) week break. The next topic will be announced shortly.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST —September 21st

Everyone is invited to join us in our Men's Breakfast every 1st and 3rd Saturdays starting in September 21st at 7:30 am in Nielsen Hall.

Pastor Dan

## BOOK CLUB—September 5th

Our next book is "The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 5 at 1:00 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

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September 2019



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



## Hope Lutheran Church

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**Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM**

**Sunday School at 11:00 AM**

