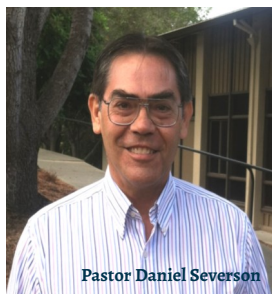


# The Voice of Hope

OCTOBER 2019

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



**D**ear Friends,

One of my favorite one liner's from the Bible came from the mouth of Joseph when he revealed his identity to the brothers. They had

sold him into slavery many years earlier because they were jealous of the favoritism their father Jacob had shown him. In addition, they were not amused when he revealed a dream he had suggesting that one day, they would bow down to him. Well, that day came after Joseph had been elevated to the highest position of power in Egypt. A famine struck the land, prompting his brothers to make the journey from Canaan in the north to Egypt, in order to obtain food. After telling them who it was they were talking to, Joseph, not wanting them to fear retribution on his part, said, “And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.” (Genesis 45: 5)

There are various themes contained within this one verse from which a person could derive more than one edifying and insightful message. For example, the grace Joseph demonstrated to his brothers not only eliminated their fears and guilt over what they had done, it also preserved the family, and thereby set the stage for the next era in Israel's history. Had he not forgiven them, and had they as a result remained alienated from one another, this would have doomed their future prospects of becoming the great nation God had promised to Joseph's great grandfather, Abraham. Love heals. People who have been healed of their past misdeeds can create a new and better future for themselves. However, when the scars caused by sinful behavior persist, the future will look bleak, for it will seem as if there is no way out of the negative consequences caused by the jealousies, the envy, the greed, or the resentments that have driven us to act in self-centered ways. This reminds me of the old cliché, “You have made your bed. Now, you have to live

in it.” The story of Joseph clearly shows that there is a better way. Redemption from past sins is always possible with love. Families and communities who learn this will be blessed. Those who don't will end up living in the darkness of a past that enslaves them to negativity.

Another theme that is present in this story is one that has had a big effect on me, namely, the mystery of God's providence. There will be many times in life when something will go wrong, or even terribly wrong, and we will come to the conclusion that nothing good can come out of it. When our hopes are dashed due to circumstances that we could not have foreseen, or when tragedy strikes and it looks as if the future will be bleak, a whole host of questions may present themselves to us. The classic question is, “Why did God allow this to happen? Is God angry, or does God want to punish me for something?” Some folks even come to the conclusion that they can no longer believe in God. The single most common argument for atheism is centered on the problem of human suffering, especially when children are involved.

Joseph could well have fallen victim to this way of thinking given the wrongs he suffered. Granted, as a child he was overly narcissistic and self-absorbed. What did he expect of his brothers when he told them that they would bow down to him? Acceptance? This would not be the last time that sibling rivalry, caused by parental favoritism, led to broken relationships. In any case, Joseph suffered a series of major problems, any one of which could have broken even an emotionally stable person. Sold into slavery in a foreign land where he would no longer see his family; accused of trying to rape a woman after rejecting her advances; ending up in a dark prison with no prospect for release—all of these things could have caused despair and the desire to commit suicide. However, Joseph never came to the conclusion that God meant him any harm. The people who did these things meant harm, but not God. It's safe to say that if Joseph even asked himself the question, “Why is God allowing this to happen?” he did not conclude that it was a punishment or an expression of ill-will. Rather, in order to cope, Joseph

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

continued to trust God knowing that if he was not to fall victim to despair, it would be because God was with him. His trust in God's goodness and love in the midst of things he could not understand not only saved him from giving in to despair, it enabled him to remain calm, positive, and composed. Moreover, he anticipated that at some point, God would reveal that all along, a greater purpose was unfolding through which he would be blessed.

Eventually, that purpose was revealed. Pharaoh needed him to interpret some troubling dreams and because Joseph used his ability to do so, his whole life story was turned around. This taught him an important lesson. What his brothers did may have been done in malice, but God can and does work out God's purposes through our choices whether they are meant to cause harm or good.

For this and other reasons, continuing to trust God whether this seems to make sense or not is always the best way to deal with disappointments, suffering injustice, or heart-breaking experiences. This is not the easy way. In fact, it is the way of the cross. But no matter how much it may seem as if the evil and sin of others is in control, this is not the case. The hidden hand of God's providence is firmly in control of where events will lead. By living in faith and hope in God's redemptive purposes, God will make us instruments of healing and reconciliation.

Pastor Dan

*Pastor Paul's Notes*



**D**OES GETTING OLDER MEAN LESS STRESS?

A recently released Gallup Poll suggests that as people age, they tend to experience less overall stress in their lives. The poll asked respondents from over 140 countries questions about positive and negative experiences they had yesterday (a single day in 2018). It reveals thought-provoking information about which age group of Americans is most stressed, worried or angry. The results suggests that

age makes people less stressed, worried or angry. The research also indicates that RETIREES can very "positively influence the mental health and well-being of younger people," and at the same time improve their own physical and mental health through intergenerational activities...like volunteering.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Senior Ministry*

On Tuesday, October 1, Seniors will meet in Nielsen Hall, 12:30-2 pm. Bring your lunch, beverages, etc. provided. Our guest speaker will be Buffy Martin Tarbox, Communication Manager for the Peninsula Humane Society. She will present (with a few animals!) "The Best Pets for Seniors" and "The Healing Power of Animals." All are welcome!

The "Lunch-Outing" will be Thursday, October 17., gathering at 1 pm at "Mistral's" in Redwood Shores. Car pool from church at 12:30

BE SURE TO SIGN UP IN NIELSEN HALL BY SUNDAY, THE 13<sup>th</sup>

*Treasurer's Report*

**D**ear Members and Friends of Hope,

January - August 2019 Financials

Total church income:	\$257,582
Operating church income:	\$244,822
* without memorials	
Total church expense:	\$284,149
* including mortgage:	
Preschool Jan-Aug profit:	\$9,985

\*Income down by 3.5% over last year's income through August.  
 \*Expenses down by 5.5% over last year's expenses through August  
 \*Budget income shortfall: \$43,601  
 (Budget Income-Operating Income)  
 \*Expenses in line with Budget: \$288,423 budget vs \$284,149 actual

**SPECIAL NOTE:** In mid September, we received a generous gift of \$41,000 from the estate of **Eva Landmann**. Per Eva's wishes, this gift will be specifically used for youth support and/or other special purposes, as opposed to general operating needs.

Blessings, Margo Kannenberg, Treasurer

## Message from our Council President



This month, I will be traveling to Thousand Oaks in Ventura County to attend the annual convocation of California Lutheran University. The convocation is made up of eighty convocators with approximately equal numbers of clergy and laypeople. I was honored to be invited several years ago to serve as a convocator. What the convocators have in common is their interest in Cal Lutheran and in promoting it to prospective students. The convocators serve as conduits in two directions – as ambassadors for Cal Lutheran to churches and their members in the southwest United States and as representatives of those same congregations back to Cal Lutheran. Many convocators are Cal Lutheran graduates themselves or have family members who have attended the university. Convocators have traditionally been members of ELCA congregations, but that has changed recently to reflect our closer ties with other Protestant churches. During the convocation, we hear about all aspects of academics, student life, and development planning at Cal Lutheran. We receive information about the university that we can take back to our home churches as well as other congregations in our synod. Along with business sessions and shared meals, we participate in the Founders Day Convocation, a worship service that features an academic procession and presentation of the Christus Award to a person who has made a significant contribution to the university.

The convocation is scheduled on the two days before Homecoming Weekend. Along with the traditional football game, there are all weekend. These include a picnic in the park, the homecoming festival, the Founders Day Concert, classes without quizzes, a 5K run, campus tours, a pancake breakfast, water polo games, soccer games, and more. Special for me this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of my class which graduated in 1969. Over the years, I have seen classmates at homecoming events, but this event will be a special draw for our class. I hope most of our classmates can attend; I'm looking forward to catching up with them. We enrolled as freshmen just one year after Cal Lutheran's first graduation. We did not realize at the time that we were pioneers. In those days, most of the students were Lutheran, and many of the family names were German or Scandinavian. We had 140 graduates in our class; there are now about 4800 students enrolled in bachelors and masters degree programs.

Over the years, Cal Lutheran has grown up to become a regional university that is more well-known around southern California than here. As such, it serves a wider range of students from all backgrounds that it originally did. Reflecting current demographics, there are more Catholic students than Lutherans, and other Christian denominations and non-Christian religions are represented in the student body and among the faculty. Despite this, the convocators chose to keep Lutheran as the university's middle name, emphasizing the Lutheran heritage of education.

A bonus for me when I attend the convocation is that I get to spend time with my daughter Julie and her four children. I'll be watching their soccer, softball, and T-ball games when I am not at Homecoming activities. Julie graduated from Cal Lutheran in 2000 and still works at a biotech pharmaceutical company in Thousand Oaks 19 years later. Living in the same town, she has stayed connected with Cal Lutheran and the friends she made there. She has some nice Cal Lutheran connections among her kids' teachers and coaches and neighbors. As my grandchildren grow older, I hope they will have a chance to attend Cal Lutheran. Blessings, Don Hermansen

## Matthew Stucke



... graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Neurobiology, Neurology and Behavior. He is working in a physical therapy office for a year before returning to school to get a degree in Physical Therapy. ....

**waytogo** Matt!





Dear Members of HOPE,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of 70! Thanks to your support, the Children's Fund will serve more 4,500 low-income and foster children, infants to age 18, in San Mateo County this year.

Blessings, County of San Mateo

Hello to my friends at Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you for coming to my retirement party. It was truly wonderful to have those of you who could make it, right there at a table next to me. Thank you, too, to those who couldn't make it, but sent cards, regards, and communications of various kinds. It was great to see and hear from all of you, and I feel that we are forever connected. As I said in my comments at the end, we went through many things together over the course of sixteen years, and you will always be family. Everett and Heather remember their many friends and activities at Hope as a joyful and foundational part of their lives!

May your days be filled with God's blessings, Alex

## Birthdays in October

Shirley Klemens	10/1
Brian Fong	10/3
Joan Cleven	10/6
Samuel Jung	10/9
Kristen Pang	10/9
Nathan Amarandos	10/10
Linda Harvey	10/20
Mark Grimstvedt	10/11
Shirley Davanis	10/14
Caitlyn Holl	10/19



Henry Lin	10/20
Marilyn Gaal	10/21
David Hayes	10/22
Shaina Prasad	10/22
Elizabeth Dummler	10/23
Judith Hartnett	10/23
Kari Dahl	10/24
Norma Henderson	10/26
Riley Sallander	10/27
Julia Henderson	10/30

## November 10, 2019

### Stewardship Sunday

There can be no stewardship without stewards ... (John Jay Jackson)... What are Hope's Stewards about to achieve? Soon and

very soon, as early as November, our mortgage is about to be **PAID OFF** ... What better Sunday to celebrate a successful financial achievement for HOPE ... than on a Stewardship Sunday! We ask you then to join us for without your persevering support, we the stewards would not be able to reach our goal ... Therefore, your presence is very important to us on this great occasion of Stewardship/Goodbye mortgage SUNDAY, Nov. 10.

Moving forward, let us continue to reflect how we can pursue to help our HOPE church and each other in the coming 2020 year! Sustain our Stewardship with your presence on this day...

Karen Reed, Stewardship, and Margo Kannenberg, Treasurer

# Samaritan House BBQ



Picture from left to right: Bill Kannenberg, Skip Dahl, Marlys Jungroth, Ann Wilson, Monica Hastings, Bill Hastings, Ellen Leaf, and Hank Harper. We missed you at the Samaritan House BBQ! We hope to see you there next time!



## 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!

## Memorial Service for Douglas Franks



It will be on November 9, 2019 at 4:00 pm at all Saints' Episcopal Church. Address is 555 Waverley, Palo Alto, CA

## Preschool Corner

Preschool has returned with lots of noise, movement and the fun is back. The children are adjusting to life as preschoolers and settling into a routine.

We have many exciting events for the month of October:

Lemos Farm Field Trip  
Great California Shakeout

Village Host Pizza Night Fundraiser  
Halloween Costume Party



We will be having our annual See's Candy Holiday fundraiser soon. If any church members are interested, the preschool would appreciate your order. Forms will be available shortly in the church office.

Blessings, Tracy

## *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.

Date	Lesson	Bible Text
Oct 6	A Seed of Faith	Luke 17:5-10
Oct 13	Ten Men Healed	Luke 17:11-19
Oct 20	Jacob Wrestles	Genesis 32:22-31
Oct 27	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Luke 18:9-14

## *Ministry Assistants*

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
Oct 6	Don Hermansen	Erika and Mark Grimstvedt	George Amarandos	Deb Stucke
Oct 13	Kirsten Severson	Don Hermansen and Eric Hoover	TBD	Judy Jeschke
Oct 20	Bill Kannenberg	Bill and Margo Kannenberg	Sandi Kane	Monika Hastings
Oct 27	Hank Harper	Marlys Jungroth and Bill Hroziencik	Bill Hroziencik	Sandi Kane and 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.

## BOOK CLUB—October 10

Our next book is “The Cost of Discipleship” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 10 at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. - Pastor Dan

## MEN’S BREAKFAST —October 5

Everyone is invited to join us in our Men’s Breakfast every 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Our next meeting will be on October 5 at 7:30 am in Nielsen Hall. Pastor Dan will be back for the Men’s Breakfast meeting.

## CHOIR PRACTICE—October 17

Choir practice will resume starting October 17.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE —October 23

Worship Committee meeting will be on October 23 at 10:00 am.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE --October 10

Education Committee meeting will be on October 8th at 6:00 pm.

## WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

We are inviting you to join us in our Women’s Bible Study Leaders on October 14 at 10:00 am. It is usually on the 2nd Monday of the month.

## PASTOR DAN’S MID WEEK CLASS

Midweek Class on Spiritual and Theological Subjects: October 23 to November 20. Refer to our insert!

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Refer to our insert!

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE — October 10

Evangelism Committee meeting will be on October 10 at 7:00 pm.

*Welcome our Home and Hope Families Soon*

With the onset of Fall and thinking of family gatherings, we also have the opportunity to host our Home and Hope families, November 3- 10, 2019. This is our last Hosting for this year, with 2020 right around the corner. Please check your calendars and see where you can help support this special outreach in our community. Our greatest need continues to be Evening and Overnight hosts. Sign ups available soon.

## *Stitches and Ties*



We wish to name those of us in the photo in the September Voice: Around the table were Erica, Jerilyn, Marilyn, Doris, Joan, Angamma, And Marlys. Missing from the photo, which was taken by Elaine, Were Else, Louise, Marlene, May, Shirley, Fances (May’s friend) and Chris from Holy Trinity.

WITH YOUR HELP we will prepare the annual average contribution of at least 50 quilts for Lutheran World Relief...

WITH YOUR HELP local charities will also receive Hope’s quilts to be distributed to our neighbors in need. All phases of quilt construction provide satisfaction. We will cheer to welcome YOUR HANDS doing God’s work and enjoying the process. Bring a bag lunch if you will be with us between 12 and 1:00. Meetings occur 9 to 3 on 2 Tuesdays each month through October. The LWR quilts Will be taken to the in-gathering of quilts and kits on October 19. WITH YOUR HELP more families will treasure a quilt assembled by loving hands including YOURS! Blessings, Doris

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October 2019



**Voice of Hope Deadline for November edition: Friday, October 18**



## Hope Lutheran Church

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[www.hopelutheransanmateo.org](http://www.hopelutheransanmateo.org)

[www.facebook.com/hopelutheransanmateo](http://www.facebook.com/hopelutheransanmateo)

**Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM**

**Sunday School at 11:00 AM**

