

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

NOVEMBER 2019

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,

During my preparations for the next midweek class, it has become increasingly clear to me how important the life of prayer and meditation on God's promises are to the life of discipleship. In the gospel accounts of Jesus' life and message concerning the kingdom of God, it is observed again and again that Jesus would either leave his disciples after some time of intensive ministry, or he would rise very early in the morning while they remained asleep. He would find a deserted place where he could be alone, and there he would pray for extended periods of time. Clearly, when great crowds of people gathered around him to seek healing or greater understanding of what God was up to in their lives, and when he spent entire days teaching and healing, he became fatigued, weary, and in need of renewal. For this, he did not rent a boat and go fishing; he did not leave his responsibilities behind in order to find rest and relaxation in a vacation home, and he did not seek out the latest thrills by participating in water sports, all of which are now common around the Sea of Galilee. Not that any of these things are bad, but for him, there was a better way to spend this free time—time he had to create for himself since he was under no contract that guaranteed four weeks of vacation. Jesus knew better than anyone else that renewal and relief from having been overextended was guaranteed when it came from the Spirit of Life itself. Rest, and the distractions of recreational activities are good for amusement and fun, but not for spiritual renewal in the deepest levels of our souls. God, having created us, knows this so well that God made it a commandment; “Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.”

This applies to both public and private times of communing with the Spirit of God. Regarding the former, there was a time in our country when most places cooperated with the church so as to encourage Sabbath observance. This was not

only beneficial because conflicts in schedules were eliminated, removing the problem of having to choose between worship and other activities of lesser importance, but which, if neglected, can have negative consequences. Youth sports and many occupations are just two such examples. I see two good ways of dealing with this. First, on those Sundays when we are free to come to worship; when something other than a non-essential reason for being away is involved, worship is the alternative commended by discipleship with Christ. In order to commune with Christ's love and presence, the very thing that connects us to God's kingdom, and thereby enables us to participate in the blessings of heaven which are present in him, we need to make ourselves available to him. He was absolutely uncompromising in this regard. “He who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God.” The “blessings of heaven” he taught us to seek above all else; those things that do not rust or which are not stolen by thieves, are the joy we experience when faith, hope, and love are renewed and strengthened in our hearts. Jesus taught his disciples that the kingdom of God was already among them through him. When he lives in us through faith, the spiritual renewal we seek is ours. Moreover, because his presence is made available through the means of grace, the word and sacraments, our presence in worship is required, not to earn grace, but to receive it. The troubling decline in worship participation, for which many of our religious institutions share responsibility because of their focus on issues other than our discipleship with Christ, is evident in the fact that other pursuits have taken the place of sources for purpose and meaning in life. In ancient Israel, the prophets called this “idolatry,” and Jerimiah used the image of a tree planted where there is no source of water to describe what happens to a person who is not nourished with the grace of God. It eventually withers and dies for lack of the water of life. Jesus told the woman at the well that he supplies the water of life that gushes up to eternal life.

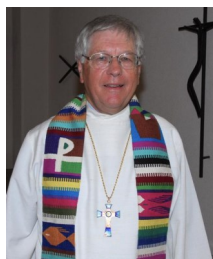
Whether we are present in worship or not, deeply meaningful spiritual renewal can also be found in time set aside for prayer and meditation on God's promises. This, as

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mentioned above, Jesus practiced on a daily basis even though he was present in synagogue on every Sabbath day. If you wish to experience the blessings of contemplative prayer, this is most rewarding. However, it does take discipline and practice over an extended period of time. But this is not the only way to spend time with God. Prayers from the heart, as opposed to reciting rote prayers that may or may not have anything to do with how you are feeling, even if we can't find the words, are a way of connecting with the Holy Spirit. Many of the psalms were composed for this reason (Psalm 51 is a great example). Also of great potential help is finding a Psalm or a verse that expresses a promise from God ("I am with you always..." Matt.28: 28) that addresses what you are feeling at the time, and meditating on that such that your heart can literally absorb it and make it your own personal word from God. Experiencing the joy of the presence of God's love is deeply renewing, and results in the strength, energy, and vitality we need to follow Christ on the pathway to the assurance of salvation. It helps to deal with and free us of the fears and anxieties caused by the burdens, stresses, and uncertainties of everyday life. Of course, none of this will be of any use if we are not desirous of seeking Christ and his righteousness as the highest good and number one priority of life. In any case, that is what he is, and because we will never perfectly abandon all for him, discipleship is a lifetime experience. The rest and renewal provided by Sabbath time along the way is therefore always necessary.

May the word of Christ dwell in you richly, *Pastor Dan*

*Pastor
Paul's Notes*



Senior Ministry

Seniors activities in November

Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 12:30—2:00 pm. Meet in Nielsen hall, bring lunch.

Our program will be David Phillips' presentation on "Cruising Alaska on the MS SWELL" (David and Mary's recent trip to places not usually seen there)

All are welcome!

Thursday, November 14, Lunch-Outing, Poplar Creek restaurant "Tap Inn"; San Mateo.

Meet there at 1:00 pm. Or car-pool from church at 12:30.

Please sign up in Nielsen hall so we have an accurate count.

Thanks Offering

November 24, 2019

In gratitude for all God has given us

We will give for relief of hunger in our community

Please prayerfully consider your 2019 annual gift. This year our Thanks offering will be distributed by Hope Lutheran Church Women (HLCW) to this organization for relief of hunger in our community:

Second Harvest Food Bank

Mission: Providing food to people in need in our community. www.shfb.org

Please make your check payable to "HLCW Thanks offering". You may bring your thanks offering to worship service on Sunday, November 24, 2019, or mail it to the church office to the attention of HLCW Thanks Offering.

Thank you for helping to provide for those in need in our community.

Else Welch

Else has moved to Santa Rosa and in a senior living community. Her new address and phone: 2375 Range Ave. #33, Santa Rosa 95403; (707) 5450-0285. She is doing well and making a good adjustment to new surroundings. Please feel free to call and say "hello."



*Message from
our
Council President*

In mid-October, I spent several days in Thousand Oaks attending the annual convocation of California Lutheran University along with homecoming weekend and my 50th college reunion. In my role as a convocator for Cal Lutheran representing the Sierra Pacific Synod, I participated in two days of meetings and presentations with other convocators, half of whom are lay Lutherans and half of whom are Lutheran clergy. Now that the ELCA is in full communion with some other protestant denominations, we have welcomed an Episcopal priest and a Methodist minister to the convocation. Traditionally, convocators come from six states in the southwest US. Because Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley has merged with Cal Lutheran to become its school of religion and because PLTS is the only ELCA seminary west of the Mississippi, we now have convocators who represent five states in the Pacific Northwest.

My daughter Julie and her family live in Newbury Park (a section of Thousand Oaks) so I was able to spend some time with them as well. After I watched my grandkids play soccer, Julie brought her family over to Cal Lutheran for the homecoming festival, and we met up with my niece Kristen and her family there. It's hard to beat spending time with your grandchildren, but the high point of the weekend for me was my 50th reunion. Our class of 1969 enrolled at Cal Lutheran (it was a college then, and we called it CLC) in 1965, just one year after the first class graduated and three years after instruction began. We were pioneers and didn't realize it. Classes were held in converted chicken coops (the campus started life as a chicken farm before it was donated to the church in the 1950s by Richard Pederson, a Norwegian farmer). Some newer buildings were constructed to be used as offices, a library, dormitories, and the cafeteria. During our reunion events, I was able to catch up with old friends and roommates, and even a couple of professors from those days. My classmates all remarked how the school, now a university, had grown up. The library, athletic facilities, and laboratories in those days were all rather meager, but we still learned from many dedicated professors who believed in the school. For the past several years, construction has been on-going. There

are now state-of-the-art laboratories for teaching and research, music practice and recital studios, art studios and a gallery, lecture halls and amphitheaters, and classrooms and conference rooms. More residence halls (we called them dorms) have been built, and students now eat in a "dining commons." Athletic facilities have been added and upgraded so that there are modern gymnasiums, a fitness center, regulation-size pools, baseball fields, and soccer pitches.

Cal Lutheran started out offering just one degree, a Bachelor of Arts in most of the basic fields. Its academic program has grown to offer masters, doctorate, credential, and certificate program in four schools, the School of Management, the Graduate School of Education, the Graduate School of Psychology, and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Undergraduate enrollment is just over 3000, and graduate students number over 1200. Cal Lutheran is the newest of the ELCA's 26 colleges and universities, yet, by enrollment, it is the largest. How it has grown!

Cal Lutheran is much better known around southern California than it is in the Bay Area. That makes sense because of its location. Lutherans in northern California, however, may not know what they are missing if they have not visited the campus or even checked it out online at www.callutheran.edu. If you have a family member who is approaching college years, pay a visit to Cal Lutheran, look it over, and meet the students. Tours can be arranged, and prospective students are guided around the campus by student ambassadors. There is an atmosphere of friendliness on campus that visitors always appreciate. Many people have remarked that seeing the campus in person helped them make the decision to attend Cal Lutheran.

Blessings, Don Hermansen



*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



We have had so many exciting activities during the month of October, starting with Village Host Pizza, Lemos Farm field trip, California Shake Out, and of course our Halloween Costume Party **(so much fun)!!!**

As we begin November, we are hosting a booth at the San Carlos/Belmont Mother's Club Preschool Fair and the San Mateo/Foster City Mother's Club Preschool Fair to advertise our wonderful preschool.

During the month of October and November, we are participating in our Annual See's Candy Fundraiser. If you are interested in supporting the preschool, there are order forms located in the church office. All orders must be turned in by November 17th.

May you enjoy your family, friends and Thanksgiving Blessings. *Happy Thanksgiving Tracy*

Birthdays in November

Ron Henderson	11/1
Bryan Kane	11/5
Martha Welch	11/5
Sig Hartnett	11/9
Nancy Appling	11/10
Emma Worthge	11/13
Sandra Polster	11/14
Callie Ram	11/16
Matthew Stucke	11/22
Ortwine Dockter	11/24



Noah Lin	11/24
Paul Forbes	11/25
Monika Hastings	11/26
Andrea Hayes	11/26
Anne Wilson	11/26
Maxwell Jung	11/28
Thomas Stucke	11/28
Scott Worthge	11/268
Alice Hogben	11/30

November 10, 2019 Stewardship/Goodbye Mortgage Sunday

"There can be no stewardship without stewards" (John Jay Jackson) We hope that all of you have received pledge cards for the 2020 church year and that you have prayerfully considered how you can support the church with your monetary gifts. Please bring or mail in your pledges, by November 10, so that we can begin to prepare a meaningful 2020 budget for the church. If you have not received a pledge card, or need further information, please call the church office at: (650) 349-0100, and we will send one out right away.

Sunday, November 10, also marks another important financial event for the church: On November 1, 2019, our last mortgage payment was made to Thrivent! This reflects a payoff of a \$400,000 loan, assumed on 5/31/2001 - primarily for major upgrades to our facilities.

As we look toward 2020, we are grateful that one major church expense, our mortgage, will be eliminated. However, that will not ease our budget challenges significantly. We need to provide salary increases to our staff, utilities continue to rise, we want to make sure we have adequate funds to support many benevolences, and much much more.

Thank you all for your prayerful consideration and for your support.

Blessings,

Karen Reed, Stewardship and Margo Kannenberg, Treasurer

Special Observances for Worship in November

There are several yearly observances in November each year here at Hope. These include the following:

I) **November 3rd**: – All Saints Sunday.

We remember on this day all those from Hope who have passed on to the Church Triumphant. Since we have fellowship with all people who are “in Christ,” as Paul put it, we also have fellowship with those who have died in Christ. We will remember each one in a special prayer for the occasion, and a candle on the altar.

II) **November 10th**:

This will be a multifaceted celebration. First, this is Stewardship Sunday. It marks the beginning of our yearly pledge drive and we encourage everyone to fill out a pledge, and return it as quickly as possible, so that the budget committee can formulate a realistic and visionary budget for the coming year. Moreover, this is the last month of our mortgage payments. To commemorate this important date, we will have a brief “Retirement of a Mortgage” ceremony during worship. And finally, because Veteran’s Day falls on Monday, November 11th, we will honor our veterans as well.

III) **November 17th**.

Is the second to the last Sunday of Year C in the Lectionary, the year of the gospel of Luke. We commemorate this Sunday before the Sunday of Christ the King by reflecting on what it means to live between the times; the time between the first and second coming of Christ.

IV) **November 24th** –

Is Christ the King Sunday and marks the end of the old year according to the Christian calendar. The meaning of the theme: that a crucified man convicted of treason was in fact the King of all humankind led to massive changes in how people in what became the Christian world conceived of the power and victory of God over sin and evil.

V) **November 27th** –

Is the day before Thanksgiving and we will therefore hold our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service to thank God for all the ways in which God blesses us, even in our suffering. One great way to observe this is to gather for a delicious cherry pie after the service—or apple, pumpkin, lemon, banana cream: whatever you want to bring with you to Nielsen Hall after the service.

VI) **December 1st** –

Is the first Sunday in Advent, the beginning of a new year as we await the coming of Christ at Christmas, and at the end of time, and therefore also the beginning of a new lectionary year: Year A, the year of the gospel of Matthew. Matthew emphasizes Jesus identity as “The Jewish Messiah” and therefore makes clear connections between the Hebrew and Christian scriptures such that we can see how Jesus fulfills the promises of the Law and the Prophets.

Please join us as we celebrate and experience the grace of God in Jesus Christ each and every Sunday, and on some weekdays as well. A feast of God’s mercy, forgiveness and love awaits each time we gather around word and sacrament, and to sing our praises to God for the salvation he has accomplished for us.

Blessings to all, *Pastor Dan*

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
Nov 3	Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10
Nov 10	The Sadducees’ Question	Luke 20:27-38
Nov 17	God’s Love is Forever	Luke 21:5-19
Nov 24	The Day Jesus Died	Luke 23:33-43

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
Nov 3	Margo Kannenberg	Robert and Dustynne Mendes	Nick Holl	Sandi Kane and Hank Harper
Nov 10	Sandi Kane	Nancy Kehl, Jerry Milner and Prasad Angamma	Skip Dahl	Judy Jeschke
Nov 17	Don Hermansen	Mary and David Phillips	Vickie Hansen	Monika Hastings
Nov 24	Skip Dahl	Sandra Polster and David Schoch	Hank Harper	Deb Stucke

Upcoming Events

HILLSDALE PEACE PANTRY

The next collection day at Hope is Sunday, November 17.

BOOK CLUB—Nov 7

Our next book is “The Cost of Discipleship” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 7 at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

MEN’S BREAKFAST —Nov 2nd

Everyone is invited to join us in our Men’s Breakfast every 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Our next meeting will be on November 2 at 7:30 am in Nielsen Hall.

CHOIR PRACTICE—Every Thursday

Choir practice will be every Thursday at 7:00 pm.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE —Dec 4th

Worship Committee meeting is moved to Dec 4th.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE --Nov 12th

Education Committee meeting will be on November 12th.

THE ELMS

It will be on November 20 at 10:30.

PASTOR DAN’S MID WEEK CLASS

From our outlined topic in the Voice of Hope; our “Basic Questions of Faith” will be addressed such as “The knowledge of God’s existence”, “Why God allows evil”, “Miracles”, “Christianity and other religions” and much more. Class meets on each Wednesday from 1:00—2:00 in the Youth Room.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our study continues on Luke.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Nov 7th

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

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

The Youth and Education committees will be sending care packages to our college youth again this year. Please send the name and addresses of any students who will be in college this year to the church office, either by email or by calling the office at 349-0100. We want to make sure everyone is included.

Included in the prayer lists we print every Sunday in the bulletin are all the people connected to Hope in any way who are serving in the military. Please let us know of any persons who need to be added or who are no longer serving so that we have an accurate and up to date list. Again, you can either email or call the office at 349-0100.

HOME & HOPE FAMILIES COMING November 3-10

Sign-ups are available in Nielsen Hall, for our next Hosting week. Please think prayerfully about helping out with hosting or an overnight, or bringing part of the meal. We cover Sunday, Friday, and Saturday, plus overnights Tuesday and one on Thursday. Belmont Congregational Church graciously volunteers Monday and Wed., while St. Ambrose Episcopal helps with Tuesday and Thursday. We are TEAM HOPE and it takes many hands to keep us running. At this time we have 4 families, eager to enjoy our facilities and hospitality. Let’s serve them well!!

Questions can be directed to Kris or Jerry Brooks, and Helena Dummmler.

CLEAN—UP AT HOPE

Saturday, November 16, 2019

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

It’s time to give our church a thorough autumn cleaning. Dust happens. Stuff accumulates. Windows fog. Leaves fall. And on and on. Please join us on the morning of Saturday, November 16th to help make our church spic ‘n’ span. Nick Holl will be cooking a hearty firehouse lunch for us to enjoy after we have finished our tasks. If all the jobs are taken, at least come for the fellowship.

Blessings, *Don*

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November 2019



Voice of Hope Deadline for December edition: Friday, November 15



Hope Lutheran Church

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helc@pacbell.net

www.hopelutheransanmateo.org

www.facebook.com/hopelutheransanmateo

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday School at 11:00 AM

