

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

FEBRUARY 2020

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,

A big “Thank You” goes out to all of you for your generous giving this past year. We did much better than anticipated thanks to both the regular giving, and the fantastic response to our challenge amount. I am also very grateful to everyone who is contributing time and talent, and all those who participate in one or more of the programs we have at Hope. It is my humble opinion that our ministry at Hope is doing very well thanks to an active, generous, and energetic membership. I look forward to another great year here at Hope.

In my sermon on the subject of the Persian Astrologers who followed the bright star to the place where Jesus was born, and there offered gifts of precious gold and spices; and more importantly, offered their worship and adoration, I suggested that the star is like scripture. Just as the light of this star led these Gentiles to the place where they could find the assurance of God’s Love, and the promise of salvation in the gift of Christ, the scriptures do this very same thing for us. The Bible is a collection of books written by people who were witnesses to salvation history. Each book conveys information, wisdom, and deep insight into what God has been, and continues to be up to in the world with respect to the fulfillment of divine promises. It is through these promises that the Holy Spirit inspires the gift of faith in our hearts so that we too may experience the ongoing work of God to save us from slavery to the misery of sin.

Saint Augustine wrote and preached a lot about what human beings love, desire, and strive for. His belief was that this is the primary motivation in our lives. We expend much of our energy on striving for and acquiring the goals and things we are attached to because we see them as the keys to a happy and meaningful life. Moreover, as he was fully aware from his own life, this will be more than one thing at the same

time. For example, as a young adult, I wanted to have a meaningful career; I wanted to get married and have children; I wanted to have the financial resources to buy a house with a yard in a place that was warmer than North Dakota (hopefully, a lot warmer); and I wanted to be able to travel to places of historical significance both at home and abroad. Achieving these goals motivated me to go to school, seek a relationship with a particular blond beauty I met, and expend my energy and time doing what was necessary to reach this promised land. This is all good. I was very fortunate. I reached the promised land without too much grief or difficulty along the way—certainly not as much as the Israelites experienced as they traveled through the wilderness on their way to what has become known as The Holy Land. However, there were some bumps along the way, and because the Israelites were of particular interest to me, I learned something from them about the reason for these bumps, obstacles, or crosses.

The trials and difficulties the Hebrews faced on their journey were all about something we are called to love more than anything else. I’m not setting up an either/or situation here. It’s not a matter of loving and striving for the good things this world has to offer, or giving all this up for something higher. Rather, it’s a matter of primary and secondary goods. We all have priorities in life. Some things are more important than others. That doesn’t mean we ignore the lesser priorities. It means that we don’t exchange the lesser for the greater. This is why our friend brother Martin gave up the monastery. He discovered that we don’t have to sacrifice family, career, possessions, or the other things that make life good in order to have a right relationship with God. So, he got married “...to make the devil cry and the angels laugh...” because he realized he could continue to love God above all things while also loving his wife and children.

The obstacles experienced by the Hebrews on their journey, and the difficulties, the losses, the fears, and crosses I or anyone else may bare on this journey to acquiring what we desire and love have a way of reminding us that we were

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

made for something more than anything we can acquire that falls in the category of the good things of the world. To use a metaphor, our wings have not been clipped. A bird that has a good set of wings will not ever be happy; it will never become what it was made to become until it learns to fly. While its nest is important, it was not made to stay in the nest. We too have wings—spiritual wings. We were made for something more than what is commonly referred to as “the good life.” The Hebrews referred to the difficulties they faced as “tests” from God. These “tests” were God’s way of reminding them that they would never become what they were made to be: they would never learn to fly until they put their ultimate faith and trust in God. In order to survive these tests, they had to trust and love God above all else. When we love and trust God, we are lifted up—infused with the faith, hope, and love that is eternal. God’s presence in Christ heals, forgives, loves, and assures us of the fact that we have an eternal destiny. Our ultimate journey is not the one that leads to the good things I sought as a young adult, as wonderful and enriching as they are. These are appetizers—to use another metaphor. The ultimate good we were made for is to become children of God, and because we can become so absorbed in the lesser goods that we forget the greater good, God sends crosses. Bearing those crosses will lead us to him because without him, we would never achieve the satisfaction, the peace, the joy, and the blessedness that comes from knowing God’s Love and Mercy, and the promise of salvation.

So yes, I feel blessed with the nest God has provided. But I feel much more blessed having learned and experienced the life that is beyond the nest—the life that is created by faith and love for God. The star guided the wise men to the place where they learned that they had a greater destiny. Scripture does that for us. So why don’t you join me as we gather around the manger of Christ—the Bible, and learn what it means to have wings.

Blessings to all in the New Year,

Pastor Dan



Shirley Fitzgerald’s new address:

1150 Monticello Road
Napa, CA 94558



*Message from
our
Council President*

Some months it’s easy to come up with a topic that I want to write about. This has not been one of those months. I have struggled to think of something appropriate for a church newsletter. Then I thought of how much I feel that I am part of a family here at Hope. We care about and for each other, we work with each other, and sometimes we disagree with each other. You may already know that I’ve been around Hope for a long time, and I’ve known some of you almost that long. It’s easy to fall back into reminiscing mode, but, as good as that may feel, it isn’t often very productive. I’m writing this just after our congregational semi-annual meeting, later in the month than usual. Inspiration has not come easily. My job and other distractions kept me from preparing for the meeting as fully as I would have liked, and I am thankful for all the people I asked at the last minute to help at the meeting.

The members of the budget committee worked hard to come up with a realistic budget. There was give and take, but ultimately, we came to an agreement. Fortunately, it has been a good year for Hope. Many people stepped up to the 2019 challenge at the end of the year (normal human nature to wait), and that helped put us over the top. Our treasurer Margo Kannenberg presented the financial statement for 2019, and Dave Schoch, co-chair of the finance and personnel committee, presented the budget for 2020. The numbers were clear and reasonable (either that or totally confusing), resulting in a minimum of questions.

We have another committee, led by council secretary Judy Jeschke, that is working on the update of Hope’s constitution. Church council has gotten a preview of the updated constitution with its myriad of changes that involved additions, deletions, and a reordering of some parts. There are guidelines for constitutional changes from both our Sierra Pacific

Synod and the ELCA that have been incorporated into the new constitution. The proposed constitution is becoming a much more comprehensive document than the current one. Some changes are mandatory, while others are suggested. After church council approves the updated constitution, it will be presented to the congregation. There will then be a period of at least 30 days before we schedule a special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of approving/ratifying the updated constitution. It is our hope that the constitution will be in place to become effective on July 1, 2020.

At our congregational meeting, we elected people to a nominating committee whose purpose is to find congregation members interested in joining the next church council. Thank you to all those who agreed to serve on this committee. If you are contacted, please answer the call to participate in a leadership role on council so that you can help lead the Hope family in its important business of spreading the Good News.

Don Hermansen



*Welcome to our New
Chancel Choir
Director
Janice Gunderson—*

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church has the best

When Canada College cancelled out their Music Department, Peninsula Master Chorale thought they would also disappear with their department! Not so, under the leadership of Janice Gunderson, the chorale group, - renamed **Peninsula Cantare** – became not only outstanding but became an independent, non-profit organization. Quoting Keith Kreitman, “Gunderson is an example of how outstanding conductors are able to infuse their musical spirits into receptive performers”

Janice has been an active musician in the Bay Area, working as an accompanist at CSM and Cañada College. She was the Organist/Choir Director at the First Baptist Church in San Carlos for 18 years, and since 2007 has been the Organist/ Choir Director at the the First Baptist Church in Palo Alto, until it closed in July 2019. Janice also directs the Peninsula Choraliers, a Women's ensemble, and Sine Nomine, an a capella chamber choir.

Senior Ministry

Senior will gather on Tuesday, Feb 4, in Nielsen Hall, 12:30 – 2:00 pm. We will have a presentation by the San Mateo Police Department on “BEING SAFE AT HOME”. Please do not forget to bring lunch. See you there ...

Valentine's Luncheon

Sunday, Feb 9, 2020 – during Café Hope

Please save the date and join us Sunday, Feb 9, 2020, during Café Hope, for our Valentine's luncheon, sponsored by the Evangelism Committee. There will be great food, and Valentine goodies. We also have a very special guest musician—Alex Bootzin — who will serenade us during our luncheon. Alex has promised to bring his collection of love songs in honor of our special day. No need to sign up – just bring an appetite and a heart full of love! If you have any questions, please contact Sandi Kane/Evangelism

Committee. Tel: 415-902-0958.

Preschool Corner

February 2020

We are back after our Christmas break and ready to conquer the second half of school.

During January, we engaged in many different science activities, such as sink and float, magnets, a vinegar and baking soda experiment, and the importance of water. The children were excited to see the reactions of these experiments. They also enjoyed pajama day with hot chocolate and donut. (So did the teachers!)

February will be a busy month; we are celebrating Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Presidents Day and Dental month.

Registration is now open for the 2020-2021 school year. Our hope is to get new students as well as keep the ones we have. Please keep marketing our school.

Have a good month and spread the love.



Blessings, Tracy

From the Desk of our Treasurer

Dear Members and Friends of Hope,

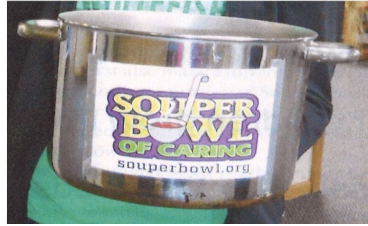
We have ended 2019 with very strong financials. All of you have expressed your love and care for Hope through your financial gifts and a great deal of thanks and gratitude goes out to you.

Our matching challenge initiative in December was very successful, bringing total for the challenge fund of \$51,921. Here is a summary below:

January - December 2019 Financials

Total church income:	\$ 482,363
Operating church income: (without memorials and reserved income) :	\$ 424,828
Operating church expenses, including mortgage:	\$ 413,958
Church operating profit:	\$ 10,870
Income was up by 7.9% over last year	
Expenses down by 5.5% over last year	
Operating Income budget shortfall:	\$ 7,806
Operating Expenses below budget:	\$ 18,676
Preschool 2019 year profit:	\$ 34,321

Margo Kannenberg



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 2, 2020 (During Café Hope)

Souper Bowl of Caring is youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Superbowl football game. Last year, there were 4,880 participating groups (Hope was one of those groups). These groups collected over 9 million dollars in cash and food items. 100% of the donations Hope receives go to local charities in our area. Last year, we supported Call Primrose and Samaritan House, and donated \$150.00 to each charity.

This year, hope is again registered. Please join us in Nielsen Hall during Café Hope for a luncheon of soups and salads. There will also be EMPTY soup pots—one for each of the two Super Bowl teams. The pots, this year, will be marked “The Kansas City Chiefs” and “THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ers!!!! Yes—we are in the Super Bowl. Funds raised will go to one charity—a new one that Hope has been supporting since last fall—Hillsdale Peace Pantry. Hillsdale high School recognizes more than ever a dramatic rise in cost of living in our community. The cost of rent coupled with the high cost of living in San Mateo has put significant financial pressure on many of our Hillsdale students and families.

You can bring a cash donation (checks/cash) - and “vote” for your favorite team (I’m thinking one pot may be substantially fuller than the other this year—I’m just saying!!). You can also donate non-perishable food items—like peanut butter, jelly, pasta, rice, canned goods (meat, fruit, beans), pasta sauce, dried beans, soups, etc.

Max Prasad	2/3
Herta Von Rautenkrans	2/6
Judith Jeschke	2/9
Jeanne Helland	2/10
Jessica Stucke	2/13



Judy Neumann	2/15
David Philipps	2/15
Joanne Smith	2/21
Charlotte Hess	2/24
Lesley Johnson	2/25
Eric Hoover	2/27

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
Feb 2	The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-12
Feb 9	Salt and Light	Matthew 5:13-20
Feb 16	Jesus Teaches about Anger	Matthew 5:21-37
Feb 23	The Transfiguration	Matthew 17:1-13

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
Feb 2	Margo Kannenberg	Jerry Milner and Lucie Hirmina	Hank Harper	Monika Hastings
Feb 9	Sandi Kane	Robert and Dustynne Mendes	Marilyn Johnson	Deb Stucke
Feb 16	Bill Kannenberg	Nancy Kehl and Monika Hastings	Margo Kannenberg	Sandi Kane and Hank Harper
Feb 23	Kirsten Severson	David and Mary Philipps	Bill Hroziencik	Judy Jeschke

Upcoming Events

BOOK CLUB

The next Book Club meeting will be on Feb. 6th at Fireside Room at 1:00 pm.

STITCHES AND TIES

Stitches and Ties is on Feb 11th and 25th at 9:00 am.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE -

The next Worship Committee meeting is on Wednesday, February 12th at 10:00 am.

PASTOR DAN'S MID WEEK CLASS

Midweek Class is going on every Wednesday at 1:00 pm

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE -

The next Evangelism Committee meeting is on February 4th at 7:00 pm.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning Bible Study is going the Education Building.



December 12, 2019

Board of Directors

- President**
Mike Aydelott
- Vice President**
Davina Hurt
- Treasurer**
Susan Ketcham
- Secretary**
Laurie May
- Members**
Duncan Beardsley
Sophie W. Cole, MD
Laurence P. Dugoni
Nicole Fernandez
Ronald Granville
Philip L. Gregory
Valentina Helo-Villegas
Michael Jackson
Lisa Toyama Jarboe
Jeff Lucchesi
Maria Nadel
Lana Morin Pierce
Susan Ringo
Cliff Robbins
Massy Safai, MD
Ravi Sinha
Faye Star
Margaret Taylor

Chief Executive Officer
Bart A. Charlow

Advisory Council

- Council Chair**
Patty Hsiu
- Members**
Lucretia-del Broussard
Tish Busselle
Joan Cassman
Bob Fitzgerald, Sr.
William S. Freeman
Pam Frisella
Neela Benjamin Gentile
Bob Grassilli
Bill Kenney
Mollie Marshall
Alexander Moldanado, MD
Judi Powell, PhD

Pastor Daniel Severson, Social Concerns
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
600 42nd Ave
San Mateo, California 94403-5034

Dear Pastor Dan,

Thank you for the Church's gift of \$1,000.00 on December 9, 2019 to support Samaritan House's free support services. Your donation enables us to welcome our neighbors in need—individuals, families, children, and the elderly—and provide access to shelter, groceries, hot meals, healthcare, and much more. Your generosity is helping those in need find opportunity and reach stability.

Each donor, volunteer, and staff member fuels the work of Samaritan House as San Mateo's leading nonprofit focused on providing safety-net services to more than 14,000 clients each year. Neighbor to neighbor, your gift is help, health, and hope.

On behalf of our staff, board, and our clients, thank you for all you do. Together, we have the power to transform the stories of our neighbors for the better.

With gratitude,

Bart A. Charlow, LMFT
Chief Executive Officer

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

February 2020



Voice of Hope Deadline for March: Friday, February 14



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

