

The Voice of Hope

MARCH 2020

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,

We have had quite a time dealing with staff issues here at Hope. First, a beloved organist had to resign suddenly due to having been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Our office manager also resigned and we were fortunate to have Judy Jeschke fill-in for the time it took to find Carmel to take the position. We were also fortunate to find Vaughn, a very accomplished musician, to fill the organist position. We also found out that Shirley, our long time musical director, was ill and could not return for the foreseeable future. And then, shortly after that, more bad news came our way. Vaughn had a serious heart attack and would not be able to return for a considerable length of time. This happened shortly before the Christmas season when music is so important to our celebrations. Fortunately again, Carmel found a young man named Duane who was not only very good at playing the organ, he was available for almost every Sunday we needed someone. After Christmas, good news came our way again. Vaughn had recovered and Jan Gunderson, a very accomplished choir director, took the job of directing our choir and we had anthems once again at our services; something I missed very much. Unfortunately, we still need someone to direct the bell choir. There is someone who is considering that but we don't know at the writing of this letter whether or not this will work out.

At this point, it seemed as though all our staff problems had been resolved and we could breathe a sigh of relief. Unfortunately, this was not to be. Our beloved Visitation Pastor, Paul Michaelson, a man I was so grateful to for agreeing to preside at my installation even though the venerable Mark Holmerud, bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod, refused to sign the call due to his unbending determination to enforce the rule that interim pastors cannot

be considered for the position under any circumstances, even if there is a good reason to do so; Paul was arrested for making threats to our neighbor, Holy Trinity. Speaking of the bishop, this kind of strict legalism is not in keeping with how the church of Christ should operate. One might remind him of the many incidents when Jesus violated the Sabbath law, once simply because his disciples were hungry. In any case, Paul was an inspirational support for me and the entire congregation at that time. He even tried to get a few of our colleagues to attend the installation.

Unfortunately, they were spooked by the bishop's irrational decision and refused to participate in a sister congregation's celebration of calling the pastor that not only fit their profile, needs and desires, but one who did not have to encounter the shock of downsizing due to the cost of living. It's not as if Hope refused to comply with the call process. Unfortunately, the synod either couldn't or didn't send the call committee candidates who were appropriate for our profile, or willing to move here. Paul, after spending almost his entire career serving as an interim pastor, understood this. He called pastors from other synods where interim pastors were allowed to remain as the called pastor. He sought advice from people he knew. And, he supported my ministry here throughout it all. Without Pastor Paul's help and support, I would not be here.

That Pastor Paul's threats to Holy Trinity were entirely outside the realm of what anyone here would have considered possible is clear. Prior to his unfortunate fall from ten feet up while on a ladder by himself, Paul was one of the most energetic and happy people I knew from among those of his age. He pursued his ministry responsibilities while at the same time envisioning new possibilities. He was particularly concerned for those seniors who lived alone and who possibly felt isolated. He took care of homebound members, all of whom enjoyed his visits, and he was constantly thinking about how to improve the quality of the senior events. So important did we consider his efforts that we made ministry to seniors one of the cornerstones of our vision for the future. Moreover, because I personally was impressed with and supported his efforts, I established a

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

fund in my mother's name to be used for this purpose.

Unfortunately, his fall was severe and resulted in a traumatic brain injury. He needed time to recover. However, I didn't hear from anyone here that they were not willing to give him the time he needed. While we don't know what happened that caused him to issue these threats—threats that are taken very seriously by police due to the violence that has infected our country, several people have helped enormously in getting Paul the help he needs now, both on the medical and the legal side. The rest of us can continue to pray for him, and show our support by sending him cards with words of support and hope. After all, that is what we specialize in here—Hope. We will keep you informed of how he is doing.

This brings with it yet another staff issue. Shall we seek a replacement for Pastor Paul? Or, should we rely on volunteers to keep the senior ministry going? And, we have to think about how to deal with his visitation responsibilities? If we don't find someone to pick up the slack, we will have to change my job description because I will not have the time to teach or write out the lectures for the participants nearly as much as I do now. Planning and executing the midweek classes is a major and time consuming operation. The Bible study on Sunday morning would not be affected, but writing the commentaries would. In other words, we have had to deal with virtually every staff position here at Hope since Doug's disastrous diagnoses and departure except mine. However, that too now is on the agenda.

Lest you think this is all, I need to inform you that Carmel, our office manager, has received an opportunity to teach at a school in San Francisco which, for her, is important because it gives her credits toward her PhD degree. What this will mean for the office manager position is not yet clear but here again, I will keep you informed.

Finally, let me assure you that there is no need to worry about the future of Hope. We live by faith in a Savior whose ways are not readily understandable. But what is understandable is that he is with us always, that we can trust him without fear of any kind, and that his purposes for us will proceed to fulfillment no matter what. Here is an appropriate verse for us. It comes from Romans 15:13.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor Dan



*Message from
our
Council President*

When I was in high school, I took biology during my sophomore year. It was a full year class, and the competition (for grades) was pretty intense. Although I loved the class, the teacher was not my favorite. I'm sure I got a good foundation in biology from that class because I went on to major in biology in college. Oddly, the part of the class that I remember best was what made me the most uncomfortable. When the teacher presented the segment on evolution, he got around to the topic of creation vs. evolution. Having learned the creation story since I was small and having seen the evidence of evolution in plants and animals, I really felt conflicted when these two concepts were presented as an either-or. I struggled with having to accept that they were mutually exclusive. I did not think to ask another person, such as the pastor, for help in reconciling these two approaches to the beginning of life. I felt that accepting evolution and disallowing creation was an assault on my faith, undermining the certainty that I thought I had. I had just been confirmed, and this shook me.

After graduating from high school, I enrolled at California Lutheran College (it's now a university). I lived in the dormitory and made friends with roommates, classmates, and others on campus. We were a small community in those days. As much as I wanted to be immersed in my Lutheran-ness, other religions/denominations were represented as well as no belief. I remember one incident that happened during my first or second year. Although I do not remember the setting or the circumstances, I was questioned by two older students who asked me why I was a Christian. I could not give any good reason other than I believed what I learned from the Bible by faith. My answer did not seem adequate (to me) in terms of “scientific proof,” but I guess it was good enough for them.

As strongly as I was leaning towards wanting to go to dental school, I went with two friends to a meeting of the pre-seminary (seminary) club. At the time, I was ambivalent about what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and attending seminary seemed like a viable option to lead me there. The meeting was held at my religion professor's house in town. (A few years earlier, that same professor was pastor of my grandparents' church in Brooklyn, and as a child, I remembered him.) But science was a stronger draw, especially when I got into chemistry, physics, and upper division biology courses.

There was one other situation that really rocked my faith. I belonged to a group of students that met for self-led Bible study and prayer. We went one weekend to an event put on by Campus Crusade for Christ, an evangelical organization that targeted college students. They produced a small tract entitled, "Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?" The question was used as a conversation opener to put people on the spot. If you did not know these laws, maybe you were not a (true) Christian. It made me start to question my own faith. I did not fit into their mold nor did I like that approach.

I still don't have all the answers, but attending church, listening to sermons, reading and studying the Bible, praying, and talking with other Christians have all helped strengthen my faith and allow me to feel more certain in what I believe. As I put these thoughts onto paper, I'm not sure that I have adequately conveyed how my faith has remained true in spite of these challenges.

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Friday, May 1st to Sunday May 3rd, 2020 – Fresno

Our congregation is entitled to two delegates to the annual assembly of our Sierra Pacific Synod. To promote diversity, people of different backgrounds, different ages, and different genders are encouraged to participate. I have volunteered to represent Hope as one of the delegates. If there is anyone (especially if you are different from me) who is interested in attending, please let Pastor Dan or me know. Sessions at the assembly provide a variety of interesting and inspirational moments. This year, the assembly will be electing a new bishop, and that always proves to be an engaging process.

Don Hermansen



*From our Choir
Director*

Gunderson Choir Director

To the people of Hope - thank you for the warm welcome to your family. I look forward to getting acquainted with more of you in the future. I actually have a history with this church and the two former Choir Directors. I was the former Music Director of *Peninsula Cantare* at Cañada College and Alex Bootzin was my accompanist. Shirley Fitzgerald sang in this choir. I even came and joined the Hope choir for Christmas Eve a few times. Shirley also sang in my Women's group, Peninsula Choraliers. Marlys is also a member of this group, and kept me up to date on Shirley's health issues last fall, so I was aware of the situation. Last July I ended my position of Organist/Choir Director at the First Baptist Church of Palo Alto when the church closed. The small congregation could not be sustained any longer. After 18 years there, I was not quite ready to jump into another job, but mentioned to Marlys that I would be willing to help out for Christmas. After working with the choir for a few weeks in December, the position was offered to me and it seemed like a good fit for all of us. The church is blessed to have a choir of committed and talented singers, and we will strive to continue the musical excellence that has been established through the years.

From the Desk of our Treasurer

Our March Update Report:

- 1) The February report on the 2019 year end financials omitted some key information:
 - The 2019 net profit for the church was \$64,439
 - Along with a Preschool profit of \$34,321, the total net profit for 2019 was \$95,760
- 2) In January, we received a generous memorial gift from the Brauen Trust of \$20,510.

Margo Kannenberg

Preschool Corner

March 2020

We are starting our month off by having Our Annual Spaghetti-Bingo Family Night. Many families have already signed up.

In March, we are celebrating so many exciting days –

Sports Day

Wacky Wednesday

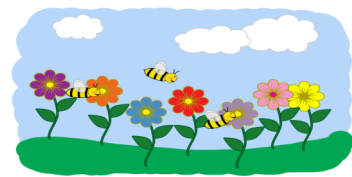
Super Hero Day

Crazy Hair Day

And the class favorite St Patrick's Day with the Leprechaun visiting.

Registration is going well. We have many families returning and new families joining.

The children are preparing for the Easter Sing and a special song for Recognition Sunday Service. Thank you for honoring the children and families with the blessings.



Happy Spring – Blessings, Tracy

January Congregational Meeting Update

A huge thank-you to all who attended our Congregational Meeting on January 26th. If you were unable to attend, here is a brief summary of what was covered in the meeting.

To begin, Hope's Treasurer, Margo Kannenberg, presented an update on our 2019 financials. 2019 was a great year for Hope. For the first time in 10 years, both the church and preschool had a net operating profit. In previous years, we have taken money from memorials in order to cover our operating expenses. We are also fortunate that our final mortgage payment was made in November 2019. Following Margo's presentation, the chair of Hope's Finance Committee, David Schoch, presented the 2020 budget for approval. A key difference in the 2020 budget includes a projected reduction of our budget shortfall (the difference between giving and expenses) of \$32,000. The council has also approved a one-time donation to local charities of \$20,000 in gratitude for the generosity of members this past year. We still are projecting a shortfall for 2020 and will be asking for challenge giving from members as well as taking money from memorials to cover our costs. The budget was approved as presented.

At this meeting, the congregation also elected members to serve on this year's nominating committee. Thank you to Helena Dummler, Mark Grimstvedt, Sandi Kane, Margo Kannenberg, David Phillips, and Heidi Waters, for agreeing to serve on the nominating committee.

We had one item on new business that was discussed. There is a committee of six congregation members that have been meeting to update Hope's Constitution to be consistent with the model constitution provided by the ELCA. Our last constitution update was in 2000, so there are many changes that need to be made. We expect that these changes will be ready for congregation review this spring, and we hope to make Hope's new constitution effective beginning July 1, 2020

Judy Jeschke, Hope Congregation and Council Secretary

Stiches and Ties

HELP Hope Quilters!!

Travels, illness of quilters or family members, volunteering at Hope or in our community. Effectively decrease the attendance at our twice-monthly meetings in Nielsen Hall. We could complete over 100 quilts as in previous years if more persons could make these assembly-line sessions a joyful priority. **Come for an hour's lunch break and/or a few hours or all day between 9am and 3pm. You will be warmly welcomed.**

In the past year Hope has provided the following quilts:

- 10 large and 2 small to Paradise fire victims
- 40 small quilts to Childrens Fund which functions via San Mateo Co social services
- 39 adult size to Lutheran World Relief

Also, quilters personal contributions accounted for a significant portion of the \$1025. Provided to Second Harvest food bank last November.

Homemade treats, hot coffee and comaradari are great. **JOIN US SOON.**

Doris who loves this activity

Thank-you so much for Hope's continued support of the Hillsdale

Peace Pantry. All of the 20 families served by the Hillsdale peace pantry are struggling to make ends meet. In particular there is a family that has 3 children attending Hillsdale. 17 people live in an apartment that, until recently, didn't have a working stove or microwave. Through the peace pantry, Hillsdale was able to get a microwave donated for them as well as provide bi-weekly boxes of food and toiletries. Some of the funds raised through our Souper Bowl Sunday will be given to this family to help them with buy bus passes and other necessities.

The list below describes the items that are needed for the boxes provided for the families.

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, etc., boxed cereal. **Hygiene Products:** Shampoo, Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Dental Floss, Deodorant, Multivitamins, feminine hygiene products. **Essential Items:** Socks, Under Shirts, Band-Aids, Zip Lock Bags, \$25 Gifts Cards to Target or Safeway, Bus Passes, Laundry Detergent. Please bring donated items to the Peace Pantry box in the church narthex. Supplies are

picked up and taken to Hillsdale on the third Sunday of each month.

From: *Debra*

Richard Green	3/1
Brandon Blundell	3/3
Soren Voss	3/3
Annika Dummmler	3/4
Patricia Lionberger	3/4
Rachael Stucke	3/4
Pauline Timm	3/5
Jerilyn Struven	3/7
Patricia Duvall	3/11
Eric Grimsby	3/12
Doris Childs	3/16



Jeffrey Struven 3/31

Nancy Kehl	3/20
Paige Holl	3/22
Marcia Coyne	3/24
Jason Jung	3/25
Bengt Sandberg	3/25
Daniel Severson	3/25
Don Hermansen	3/27
Ciera Dahl	3/28
Susan Hoffheins	3/28
Donald Nieman	3/28
Lisa Sallander	3/30

Hillsdale Peace Pantry



Stewardship

Pledge Amount Update

The amount is \$217,460.



Karen

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
March 1	Love Your Enemies	Matthew 5:38-48
March 8	Do Not Worry	Matthew 6:24-34
March 15	Woman at the Well	John 4:5-42
March 22	Pool of Siloam	John 9:1-41
March 29	Lazarus	John 11:1-45

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
March 1	Bill Kannenberg	Sandra Polster and David Schoch	Marlys Jungroth	Sandi Kane and Hank Harper
March 8	Hank Harper	Marlys Jungroth and Linda Harvey	Heidi Waters	Deb Stucke
March 15	Kirsten Severson	Deb and Tom Stucke	Carl Voss	Deb Stucke
March 22	Skip Dahl	Kirsten Severson and Sandi Kane	Martha Welch	Monika Hastings
March 29	Don Hermansen	Skip Dahl and Esther Ekong	Don Hermansen	Judy Jeschke

Upcoming Events

BOOK CLUB

The next Book Club meeting will be on Thursday, March 5, at Fireside Room at 1:00 pm.

STITCHES AND TIES

Quilting is going on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday.

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Preschool Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4.

MENS' BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will be on the March 7th and 21st at 7:30 - 9:00 am.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE -

The next Worship Committee meeting is to be determined.

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 to be determined.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Morning Bible Study is going on every Sunday at the Education Building.

Preschool Sunday, March 29

Please be sure to join us and honor our wonderful Preschool, on Sunday, March 29. As always, they will delight us with their singing. Special Cafe Hope activities have been planned.



Hope Lutheran,

*Thank you so very much for your donation to us and the ministry here in Los Angeles. We appreciate all your prayers, encouragement and support to us greatly. Thank you! We hope Hope is blessed this year and the Lord always continues to work in and through all of you. Thank you so much,
Joseph + Michaela Butty*



Coordinating Council
Board Members

*Patti Black
Peter Caraher
Madelyn Friedman
Cindy Hohle-Duncan
Cherie Wolfe Hamner
Meredith Kooyman
Muriel Lundquist
Nancy Miller
Larry Wright, Jr.*

Executive Director
Terri Boesch

February 17, 2020

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the recent donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 to CALL Primrose. We are so very appreciative of your support which allows us to continue our mission to assist those in need in our community.

Gratefully,

Terri Boesch
Executive Director

Thank you friends!

Changing lives with each
act of giving



The regulations of the Internal Revenue Service require that taxpayers provide written substantiation of charitable donations totaling \$250.00 or more. We certify that no goods or services were provided to you in return for your gift. Please keep this letter for the purpose of substantiating your recent donation to the CALL Primrose Center. You should keep it with your records to use in preparing your 2020 tax return.

CALL Primrose is a non-profit corporation under IRS code 501(c)(3) tax # 47-2131340

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San Mateo, CA 94403

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March 2020



Voice of Hope Deadline for April: Friday, March 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

