

The Voice of Hope

APRIL 2020

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Castro Valley where Kirsten and I are holed up doing what we can to work, exercise, and entertain ourselves

with silly movies. Actually, the only recent movie we saw worth recommending is 1917; a World War I drama that demonstrates the fact that what people go through can always be worse, as bad as this pandemic is.

I want to remind everyone that I am posting the Sunday sermon on the website with the help of Skip Dahl, who records it, and Judy Jeschke, who posts it. Also, your Executive Committee is meeting by conference call every Sunday morning at 11:00 am to plan and figure out the best way to deal with ongoing church business. We will soon be using a call service that allows us to record two minute messages and send them to everyone on our call list. The old phone tree is currently on the blink and probably needs to retire. We will make sure everyone knows when we can begin to hold services again, and what the plans for Holy Week services become. If we can't gather for Good Friday and Easter, we will post messages and more if possible.

As we continue to be under a “shelter in place” order, I hope you are all doing okay and have the help you need to get groceries, prescriptions, and other necessities. I have been calling many of our members to check in. While I have been able to connect with most of the folks I called, some have not answered and because the mailbox has been full, I could not leave a message. If there is anything regarding pastoral care that you need to talk to me about, don't hesitate to call. My cell phone number is 510-894-9550. Please leave a message if I can't pick up when you call. Also, with respect to offerings, if you would like to keep up with your pledge during this time, you can either

mail it in to the church office, and someone will pick these up once a week and make the deposit, or, you can call Margo Kannenberg, our treasurer, and she will help you with direct deposit.

That we would have to experience a world-wide pandemic certainly has come as a shock to everyone. As I have said on numerous occasions, one never knows what will arise as time goes by. However, while I firmly believe that God does not cause such things to happen, (I think the Bible is very clear on this) nevertheless, I am convinced from the witness of scripture that God uses such things to accomplish God's purposes. Currently, one of the things I am doing is writing lectures for the next midweek class on the timeless stories and unforgettable people in the Bible. Both the people of God in the Old Testament, and the Apostles in the New Testament, encountered a myriad of unforeseen challenges, and all of them eventually served God's purposes. For example, a famine is what required Jacob and his sons to relocate to Egypt where they prospered and became a numerous people, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham. It was the constant attacks from enemies that eventually led to the rise of King David and the final unification of the twelve tribes of Israel. In the New Testament, it was the Roman war that drove the early church out of Palestine, and that led to the rapid spread of Christianity. Of course, Paul was already busy spreading the word all over the empire but he too experienced many challenges, and these served the purpose of spreading the gospel.

Where will this lead, and what might the consequences be for our country and world? That's impossible to say now. But I do know that, as Christians, we are called to trust God when it comes to the big picture, and when it comes to our individual lives. There are a number of things we have the opportunity to do at a time like this. Renewal of our faith life through more prayer time and bible reading could have enormously positive benefits for everyone. Good to read for this purpose are the psalms, Ecclesiastes,

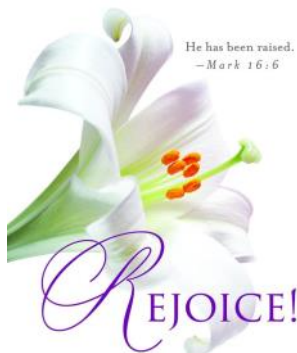
CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

the story of David in I and II Samuel, Exodus, Genesis, the gospels, and for a short but highly enlightening book, Paul's letter to the Galatians. Those of you who belong to the men's group and the book club might start reading the book "In the Footsteps of Jesus." I would also highly recommend this book to everyone else. The author is Jean-Pierre Isbouts. This is the best book on the life and times of Jesus that I have read.

Apart from this, service to our neighbors in need is also considered a spiritual discipline. As the unemployment rate rises, and as Congress can't seem to even put aside partisan concerns to help those in need during a crises, the charitable agencies are experiencing a great need for funds. I realize that it would not be a good idea for most of you to volunteer. However, financial contributions would be much appreciated by places such as Samaritan House, CALL Primrose, and 2nd Harvest Food Bank. In any case, I hope you will take advantage of any extra time you may have to focus on your faith. When we can't gather for worship, this becomes particularly important. And, if you are concerned about any of our members, give them a call. Knowing that someone cares is very important for all of us.

As I said above, in the meantime, I will give each sermon my best shot at conveying the gospel message of God's love and our need for divine mercy and forgiveness. My hope is that we will be together again very soon. My fear is that this virus could spread for an extended period of time. But whatever happens, lift your hearts to the Lord. His presence is love and life, poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. May God's Spirit of life and love bring you peace, joy, and the assurance of God's victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings, Pastor Dan



From our Choir Director

To the people of Hope -

What a frightening and uncertain time it is. Normally the choir would be preparing music for the last Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. Whether we can meet on Easter is an unknown, as each day brings mounting numbers of the virus. I do know that when we finally come together we will sing the most joyous, grateful "Alleluias" you have ever heard! I miss the fellowship of our choir rehearsals - the concentration learning a new anthem - the cheerful banter as we joke about our mistakes, and the satisfaction when we sing a phrase just right! I am so lucky to be "sheltering" with my husband, Peter, who keeps me laughing. He is growing a beard so I have someone different to look at all day! We strive to accomplish one task each day. Our best so far is painting our inner hallway, and we have another bedroom to paint on the list. I am cooking some new recipes, (as long as I can find the ingredients in the store). We also enjoy a long walk every day. Here is a wish that you all are staying healthy and upbeat, until we meet again.

—Jan Gunderson

Preschool Corner



It's a sad time for our world. Our preschool along with other schools are closed due to the COVID-19.

Please be safe during this time. Our prayers are with you and your families.

Blessing, Tracy



A Message from your Council President

We are certainly living in uncertain times. We are

going through unprecedented events, and, at this point anyway, we don't know when we will be able to return to normal. Will life be normal again or will there be a new normal? Certainly, some aspects of our lives will be different. I have had to close my office for two weeks. Then we heard it would be for three weeks and then maybe longer. Even without talking about this with others (because I'm not supposed to be around other people), I read what I can to stay informed. Rumors erupt, and they are not helpful.

When the threat of COVID-19 became real, and as restrictions were becoming more stringent, Pastor Dan and the executive committee met before worship on Sunday, March 15th, to decide how to proceed. It had been a busy week for all of us, and we had little chance until then to address this. We decided to proceed with worship since worshippers would be arriving soon. The choir had rehearsed with our choir director Jan and was ready to sing, and our organist Vaughn had practiced his pieces. We had a hardy group of just over 40 members at worship. There was lots of space to spread out in the sanctuary, and it felt good to be together for what may be the last time in a while. We were careful. Pastor Dan led us in a Service of the Word with no communion. There was also no passing of the peace, no handshaking, and no handling of offering plates. Although Sandi Kane had decorated the Cafe Hope tables for St. Patrick's Day and had individually packaged snacks available, she was graciously willing to go along with canceling Café Hope. We decided that coffee would be all that we should have. We decided to move ahead cautiously, not wanting to be responsible for anyone among us becoming ill. We also did not want to approach the situation cavalierly.

Our church council met as scheduled after worship. We met in Nielsen Hall which is more spacious than the education building, and we spread the tables and seats out so that we could all have our own buffer space, honoring the new concept of social distancing. It was later that restrictions on meeting together became more strin-

gent. Bible studies, classes, committee meetings, choir practices, and shared meals have all been canceled until we get word that we may come together in person again.

It is amazing how many aspects of our lives this pandemic affects. School has been canceled for my grandchildren. It is certainly unsettling for all children when they cannot maintain their routine, and this may go on through the end of the semester. Because of the danger of children transmitting the disease to older people, even without showing symptoms, grandparents are encouraged to stay away from their grandchildren in spite of often being called upon as backup babysitters. College students are moving home from residence halls and taking courses online. People in care facilities may not have visitors. My wife was scheduled for jury duty, instructed to report to the jury assembly room that holds over 200 people. Now court administrators will have to figure out how to balance the restrictions of not gathering in groups of ten or more with a defendant's right to a speedy trial. A new dentist I know was scheduled to take his licensing exams, but they have been canceled because they are given in large group settings. His working career has been put on hold. The shelter-at-home situation we are experiencing may extend past Easter. We may not be able to hold traditional Easter services. I already miss the trumpets! High school and college graduations are being cancelled or postponed. Administrators are scrambling to come up with alternative events or observations or celebrations. There are countless other examples of disruptions to everyday life.

Please check Hope's website to listen to pre-recorded sermons and see updated messages. Through all of this, we must trust the Lord and remember that He will be with us and will help us through these times. As unprecedented as this is for the entire planet, it will end sooner or later, and life will return to what is familiar. I think what bothers most of us is that this is an evolving situation, and we don't know when we will get our lives back. Only God knows, and I for one feel reassured knowing that.

Don Hermansen





From the Desk of our Treasurer

Giving to Hope

You may be wondering about keeping up with pledges or making monetary gifts while the church is closed. There are two ways you can help Hope with its ongoing expenses:

- 1) **Mail:** You can mail checks to Hope. We will pick them up weekly and deposit them.
- 2) **Direct Deposit:** You can participate in **Vanco**, our simple giving, direct deposit service, You provide your checking account information, an amount, and a frequency of giving, and gifts will automatically be deposited to Hope. This can be an ongoing transaction or you can specify that this be done for a fixed period of time. This information can be mailed to church or you can contact me to set this up. The following information is needed:
 - Name,
 - address,
 - bank account number,
 - bank routing number,
 - amount to be deducted,
 - frequency (monthly or bi- monthly),
 - start date (must be the 1st or the 15th of a month)
 - and optionally an end date.

Margo Kannenberg, (650)574-1390



The Voice of Hope Birthday listing

Kim Schroeder-Siguenza	4/2	Crystal Dahl	4/12	Bob Way	4/25
Bruce Bulkin	4/3	Scott Hogben	4/12	Richard Ekong	4/26
Art Schillberg.....	4/5	Frank Lin	4/16	Kaitlyn Blundell	4/27
Krista Wilson.....	4/6	Barbro Sandberg	4/18	Kris Brooks	4/28
Elaine Dummler	4/8	Wayne Westphal	4/20		
Joan Grimsby	4/8	Barbara Kreslake	4/22		

Hillsdale Peace Pantry



Thank-you so much for Hope's continued support for the Hillsdale Peace Pantry. During these difficult times, Hillsdale is not able to provide care packages for our families. Instead, Second Harvest Food Bank has stepped in to provide food for the families. Hillsdale's hope is to augment this food by giving each family Target gift cards to help them get personal hygiene and other items that are needed. Hope's generous gift of money helped purchase a significant portion of the \$2500 in gift cards that will be delivered to families this week.

In March, Hillsdale staff members donated an additional \$2600, and an email is going out to Hillsdale's parent community to ask for additional help. Hillsdale's goal is to provide \$100 Target gift cards twice a month over the next four months to all of the 25 families (more are on a waiting list).

In lieu of food donations, if you would like to help purchase gift cards for these families you can go to the Hillsdale Foundation Donation page at:

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/HillsdaleFoundation/hhsfPPdonationform-1.html>

Thanks again for your continued support of Hillsdale's Peace Pantry.

Deb Stucke, Hillsdale High School Math Department

If you do not want to have the month and day of your birthday listed on Hope's monthly publication, The Voice of Hope, please call the church office or email Judy at helc@pacbell.net.

Upcoming Events

Join us for Easter Sunday!



How we worship may have changed in the age of Covid-19 and social distancing, but the celebration of the resurrection remains the cornerstone of the Christian Faith!

If we are unable to meet in person, please join us online for our Good Friday and Easter Services.

<http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/worship/sermons/>

Staying Connected to Hope during our time of “Social Separation”.

Our Church Building may be locked, but Hope Lutheran Church is still running during our home shelter. Here are some ways you can stay connected to Hope during this time.

- 1) **Watch or listen to our Sermons online**—We have begun posting our sermons each week on Fridays, to allow members to view them at their leisure on Sundays. Visit <http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/worship/sermons/>
- 2) **Listen to Pastor Dan’s Mid-Week Class**—Past classes are available on the hope website. Additionally, Pastor Dan will be starting a new class this month titled “*Who’s Who in the History of Israel*”. Visit <http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/posts/>
- 3) **“Join us” for a remote gathering**—Your executive team is discussing a trial online meeting for gatherings such as Men’s Breakfast. If you would like to help coordinate this or other online meetings, contact Don, Karen, Judy, Margo, or Dan.
- 4) **Call if you need assistance**—Need help with groceries, errands, or anything else? Contact Pastor Dan (510-894-9550) or Anne Wilson (650-571-6530) and they will assist you.

PASTOR DAN’S MID-WEEK CLASS

Pastor Dan will begin a new, online mid-week class in April. The topic of this class will be “*Who’s Who in the History of Israel: Unforgettable People and Timeless Stories from Genesis to Revelation*”. We will explore the scripture and other ancient texts, and examine archaeological findings that shed light on the history of Israel and Judah through the first Century AD. Watch your email for information on when this class will begin.

MENS’ BREAKFAST

The Men’s Breakfast will not be held on April 4 due to the current shelter in place orders. However, should the need to maintain social distance continue beyond April 7, we hope to set up an online meeting for Men’s Breakfast. Watch your email for more information.



Sierra Pacific Synod
committed to being re-formed

The SYNOD
ASSEMBLY

originally scheduled for Friday, May 1st to Sunday May 3rd, 2020 has been postponed until later in the year. Don will update the congregation once the new date has been set.



February 25, 2020

Board of Directors

President: Mike Aycock
Vice President: Susan Hill

Treasurer: Susan Kitchum

Secretary: Janie Abby

Members

- Duncan Pearlley, Sophie W. Cole, Bill Taylor, P. Roger, Ricardo Hernandez, Ronald Grizzle, Philip L. Gregory, Valerie Helwig-Legas, Michelle Jackson, Lisa Thomas-Jarvis, Jeff Jackson, Mary Kelly, Susan Kitchum, Susan Riggart, Cliff Riggart, Nancy Salas, MD, Greg Smith, Tony Tait, Margaret Taylor

Chief Executive Officer: Bart A. Charlow

Advisory Council

Council Chair: Patty Hain

Members

- James del Brocador, Bob Grizzle, Joan Gosman, Bob H. Hignard, Sr., William S. Freeman, Tom Fivella, Susan Hamilton-Gentile, Sam Grassilli, Sara Hines, Vicki Marshall, Alexander M. Janaris, MD, Judi Jones, PhD, Joe Jones, Thea Johnson

Daniel Severson
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
600 42nd Ave
San Mateo, CA 94403-5034

Dear Pastor Severson and the Hope Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you for your gift of \$8,000.00, received February 20, 2020. We are so happy to have your support of Samaritan House throughout the years. This support has helped and continues to help us fight poverty and lift lives!

This gift brings essential services—a safe place to sleep, groceries and hot meals, health care, and financial stability—all with a welcoming smile from our trained staff and volunteers and all for free.

Roberta, a client, says it best:

"Samaritan House is an entity that is life changing, it was here for me to reach out to when there was nowhere else to go, and it's saved my life in more ways than one."

It is through your generosity that we are able to help people like Roberta with responsive programs to get them back on their feet. Whether it be a warm meal, an important doctor appointment, or new shoes and clothing for a growing child, your gift makes a huge difference! Thank you for welcoming each and every neighbor who needs you into a warmer, happier, healthier year.

With gratitude,

Bart A. Charlow, LWFT
Chief Executive Officer

Your donation may be deducted from this federal return allowed by law. No goods or services were received by you or any member of your household or business for this gift. Please retain this letter as a receipt of your donation. Our Federal IRS Tax Exemption Number is 23-7412272.

Administrative Office • 4031 Pacific Boulevard • San Mateo, CA 94403 • (650) 341-1051 • Fax: (650) 371-0526

FOOD • SHELTER

HOPE IN THE COMMUNITY

Those of you who attended our January Congregation Meeting may recall that Hope's 2020 budget included \$20,000 to go to local organizations serving those in need. In February, the Council approved the release of \$12,000. Due to the overwhelming need in our community from the Covid-19 pandemic, the council approved release of the remaining \$8000 on March 30th. These donations will be divided between Samaritan House, Call Primrose, the Hillsdale Peace Pantry, Home & Hope, and CORA.

Thank-you to our friends and members for their generosity in 2019, and for making these donations possible.



February 14, 2020

Eric Ackerman
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
600 W 42nd Ave
San Mateo, CA 94403-5034

Hi Pastor Ackerman,

Thank you for your donation to Second Harvest provide much needed food for more than a quarter of our neighbors like Natasha:

"I was so grateful to have somewhere to turn to have to worry about how to feed my kids made. Thank you for giving to Second Harvest. It means so much."

Thank you for building that community. Your support is a need in Silicon Valley, ensuring neighbors always have food.

In partnership,

[Signature]

Leslie Bacho
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Your investment is in good hands: 95% of all contributions go toward programs that feed people.

Donation Summary

Donor: Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
Date: January 28, 2020
Amount: \$500.00
Food Drive Credit: Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are pleased to confirm that you received no goods or services for your contribution and that your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is a 501(c)(3) corporation; our federal tax identification number is 94-2614101. Please keep this letter for your tax records.



Currier Center
750 Currier Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
408-266-8866

Cypress Center
400 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134
408-266-8866

Bing Center
1051 Bing Street
San Carlos, CA 94070
650-610-0800

shil.org



March 17, 2020

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

Contributing Church
Board Members

- Paul Block
- John Cannon
- Melahn Bradman
- Christy Fields-Grossman
- Clare Wolfe
- Meredith Kayman
- Maria Rodriguez
- Sammy Miller
- Larry Wright, Jr.

Executive Director
Terri Bensch

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the recent Safeway gift card donation in the amount of \$20.00 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, especially now during these difficult and uncertain times.

Gratefully,

Terri Bensch
Terri Bensch
Executive Director

Thank you!

Changing lives with each act of giving



The regulations of the Internal Revenue substantiation of charitable donations while services were provided to you in return for substantiating your recent donation to the Call Primrose is a non-profit corporation.

CALL Primrose is a non-profit corporation.



March 4, 2020

Participating Congregations

- Burlingame United Methodist Church
- Christ Church Portola Valley
- Church of the Epiphany
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- College Heights Church
- Congregation Beth Am
- Congregation Beth Jacob
- Congregation Kol Emeth
- Congregational Church, Belmont
- Congregational Church, San Mateo
- Crystal Springs United Methodist
- Episcopal Church of St. Matthew Burlingame
- First Presbyterian Church, San Mateo
- Hillsdale United Methodist Church
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Mary Journeys
- Palo Alto Buddhist Temple
- Peninsula Temple Beth El
- Peninsula Temple Shalom
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
- St. Bede's Episcopal Church
- St. Charles Catholic Church
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Transfiguration Episcopal Church
- Trinity Parish Episcopal Church
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Unitarian Universalists, San Mateo

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
600 W. 42nd Ave
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 349-0100

Dear Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your support of Home & Hope. Your check donation for \$1,500.00 was received on February 17, 2020. Your willingness to help displaced families in our community weather the crises in their lives makes all the difference for them.

With your support we provided 50 families last year with a place to live, learn, and feel safe. Your donation helps provide a safe haven for homeless families to regain long-term self-sufficiency. In California, over 22,000 families are experiencing homelessness and about half of California's children are living in or near poverty, often at risk of losing their homes.

Home & Hope provides essential services to families in crisis, including meals, a safe place to sleep, case management, and a path to long-term self-sufficiency. We invite you to tour our facility so you can meet our staff and see our homey day center. Ashley Burns, our Program Manager, is always available to set up a visit or to answer any questions you may have. Don't hesitate to call her at 650-652-1103, or email her at ashley.burns@homeandhope.net.

To stay in touch, please sign up for our emails and newsletter at www.homeandhope.net.

Warmly,
Princess Futrell
Princess Futrell
Executive Director

Thank you for your kind donation!!

P.S. We depend on volunteers to help us. If you would like to share your time, just let Ashley know, and she will ask one of our volunteer coordinators to get in touch. We would be delighted to see you soon.

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Tax ID #94-3356735

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

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April 2020

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

Voice of Hope Deadline for May: Friday, April 17



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

