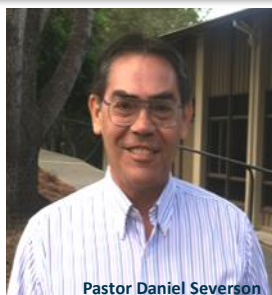


The Voice of Hope

MAY 2020

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all doing well. Kirsten and I miss seeing all of you on Sunday morning, and I miss the midweek and Sunday morning Bible study class when I also have the opportunity to interact with all of the attendees. I sincerely hope you are taking advantage of the services we are posting on the website. They are most assuredly not like being here, but they do offer you some time for hearing good hymns, the gospel text, and the sermon for the day. This week (April 21), I plan on trying to post in video form some of the written lectures I sent out to those who have attended the class in the past. They are not long and my goal is to give you a snapshot picture of the main characters in the biblical story. If you want copies of the written lectures, now would be a good time to ask. Just send me an email and I will respond as soon as possible.

I thought I would share some thoughts with you regarding this pandemic and how to look at this and disasters like it from a biblical point of view. Unfortunately, while I had hoped that this crisis would bring our country together in a way we haven't seen for some time, this hope was dashed as we all witnessed another political blame game break out. Well, given the story of the introduction of sin into the world through the narrative of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, I suppose we should not be surprised. When confronted with the facts of what they had done, they too responded by blaming others for their

mistakes. So, observation number one is simply this; when things go terribly wrong, rather than putting our differences aside, we blame one another. Unfortunately, this says more about us than it does about what is actually going on. However, I remain hopeful that over time, we will work this out. While mistakes will no doubt be made, nevertheless, there has yet to be a time when the United States has not ultimately prevailed. I suspect it will take a lot of patience. But learning patience is definitely a good thing.

The Bible is filled with stories of unexpected problems that led to the unfolding fulfillment of God's promises. A famine resulted in Jacob's family settling in Egypt where they prospered, multiplied, and became numerous as twelve tribes. An attempt to kill all the Hebrew male babies led to Moses being raised in the court of Pharaoh which is one of the reasons he was chosen to free God's people. The failure of King Saul as the first king of Israel led to the anointing of King David, the establishment of Jerusalem as the holiest city on earth to this day, and the unification of the twelve tribes. But as we all know, King David, as impressive a leader as he was, had a problem controlling his lust. That led to committing adultery, and murder. Nevertheless, the son born to David and Bathsheba, Solomon, ushered in the golden age in Israel's history. So, whether we are talking about a natural disaster, or the personal failings of people who were given great responsibilities, God's providence in fulfilling divine promises always prevails. How that happens can never be predicted in advance. However, the clear message is that God is ultimately in control of the future and the only way to become a benefactor of

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

God's purposes is to trust God. We don't know what kind of changes may come about because of this pandemic. However, we do know that we can trust God—not necessarily to keep us isolated from the negative consequences of this—but to insure that his purposes are fulfilled.

On Sunday, April 26th, the text was the appearance of the resurrected Christ on the Road to Emmaus. I used that text to try and describe another and far more profound way of describing what has changed regarding the present and future because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Entitled "A New Age Has Now Begun," I wanted to convey the fact that, because Jesus had overcome sin, evil, and death, their rule in the world is effectively over. The enemies of God's rule are like an army that has been so decimated that any resistance they continue to engage in is nothing more than a despairing attempt to go out fighting, even though they know the war is over. Those who live in fellowship with Jesus Christ through faith are living victoriously, even in their suffering and death because Christ has already determined the outcome, and he shares with us the faith, hope, and love that preserves our spirits in the midst of an attack. The vision of the book of Revelation, where the New Jerusalem is descending from Heaven to earth so that God's home is now with us, and the wiping away of every tear; this metaphorical way of describing the future conveys a message that has already been fulfilled. Sin, evil, and death are no more than a last gasp because Jesus has eliminated the power of all of them. Therefore, we can live in the assurance of that victory even now, for Christ is with us "...even to the close of the age."

At this point, we don't know what the specific consequences of this pandemic will be in the world. Will the economy bounce back? Will we fall into a recession or depression? If we open up the economic life of this country, will there be a resurgence of viral infections? If we don't, how long will it take before any hope of economic recovery is dead? These are serious questions that our leaders have to deal with. I

hope they can do so without partisan bickering but rather with the behavior we all learned in kindergarten. However that goes, we can all help out in our own way. Food banks, homeless shelters, and charitable organizations of all kinds desperately need our help. If we are fortunate enough to not have suffered the loss of a job, or an income we need to buy the necessities of life, we can demonstrate that the love of Christ is stronger than any evils to the contrary. Jesus was very clear with respect to what it looks like to live in the victory of his resurrection; "Love one another as I have loved you." Love is the life force that overcame death, and for this reason, the greatest commandment is "Love the Lord your God with your whole being, and your neighbor as yourself."

Take care. Stay well. If you need help, let me or Anne Wilson know about it. We will do what we can to get you the help you need. "And may the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Blessings, Pastor Dan



Preschool Corner

May 2020

Currently Hope's Preschool is still closed because of the COVID-19. We have cancelled Family Night and other exciting activities for the students. Zoom is now the norm for children attending school. Our preschool students are now seeing each other online and learning letters, numbers, shapes, songs and stories.

Please stay safe during this time of shelter in place.

Blessings, Tracy



A Message from your Council President

When I wrote my article for the April issue of the VOICE OF HOPE, we had just entered one of the weirdest times of my life. The only other time I have ever experienced anything like it happened on a weekend in June 1973. I had just graduated from dental school at UCSF. My old car was on its last legs, and I traded it in for a new car. Two events almost collided on that weekend. I was scheduled to take my state board exam at the dental school, and my sister was getting married at Hope. The exam was scheduled in five parts: Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning and afternoon. Two of the five parts involved treating patients. The rehearsal and dinner were Friday evening, and the wedding and reception were Saturday evening. All the events were going to fit together like clockwork ... until my new car broke down on Thursday evening. I spent Friday morning waiting nervously at the dealer while the car was being repaired. The other pieces of the weekend did fit together. Holly and her mom were wedding guests, and they told me later that I looked like a zombie usher. (This was two years before Holly and I got married.) When the last part of the exam ended late Sunday afternoon, my father along with my uncle and cousin (who came from New York for the wedding) helped me move out of about six different lockers spread around the campus. I was totally drained and emotionally spent. I could breathe a little more easily after that, but I was still on edge until two weeks later when I opened a letter from the dental board that started with "Congratulations..."

Now that we are one month into shelter-in-place, I wake up in the morning with a different thought each day, as though I'm living someone else's life. Once again, I'm more tired than I should be and on an emotional roller coaster. I cannot go

into the office, and it's difficult to treat patients remotely. Dental offices are considered non-essential businesses unless there is urgent or emergency treatment needed. It's fortunate that very few of our patients have had to call. I have been able to take care of a few patients and talked with others who decided they can wait. As of this date, one week after Easter, there are still no firm guidelines regarding when and how we can return to work. Meanwhile, we are clearing our schedule week by week. My routine has been completely interrupted, and that is true in other parts of my life. We scheduled an executive committee meeting with Pastor Dan the day after Easter. As I was getting ready, I was calculating how much time it would take me to get up to church. After a while, it dawned on me that I didn't have to go anywhere, just to the computer for a Zoom meeting.

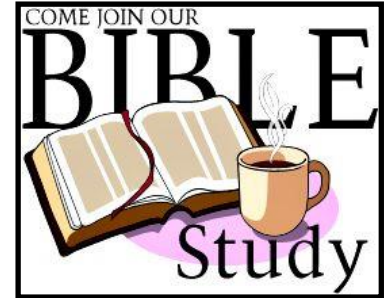
I know that I am not in this alone. Everyone, every inhabitant of this planet, is affected by this pandemic. I do not know of anything else that has had such a widely felt effect. Prayer is our lifeline to God, and I must remind myself to stay in touch with Him. He assures us that He takes care of his children (us). That said, it is our responsibility to look after each other. Stay in touch with your Hope family. Make a phone call or send an email, a text, or even a card or note. Watch or listen to Sunday worship each week by following the link on our website. It can be accessed whenever you like. In response to basic life needs in our community, the church council voted to accelerate our annual benevolence contributions to local charities that provide food and shelter for people in our community. There are so many worthy charities, some of them linked to the ELCA, but charities serving those among us are where we chose to contribute. We also wanted to suggest that members of the family of Hope might want to contribute in a similar way. As I have heard it said, we will get through all this, but we don't know how life will be changed. There could be benefits to us and improvements to our lives as a result of our pandemic experience.

Don Hermansen

Midweek Bible Studies

LECTURES FOR THE MIDWEEK CLASS ON THE TIMELESS STORIES FROM THE BIBLE
ARE NOW AVAILABLE

- I) Who's Who in the Study of Israel; The People and Stories from Genesis to Revelation
- II) Chapter Two: An Example of the Discipline of Biblical Theology
- III) The Archaeological Study of the Bible
- IV) The Formation of the Biblical Text: Textual Analysis of the Bible
- V) The Patriarchal Period: Abraham and Sarah
- VI) The Patriarchal Period: From Jacob through Joseph
- VII) The Exodus: From Moses to Joshua



These essays on biblical history include literary and archaeological evidence with respect to the history of ancient Israel. However, our main focus is on the stories as narrated in the biblical text itself, and what they mean. Please look for the video presentations on the website and give us a thumbs up. If you want to receive the written lectures, please send me an email and I will respond as soon as possible.

Pr. Dan

PS. When the “shelter in place” order is over, we will resume our meetings on Wednesdays at 1:00 in the youth room.



From the Desk of our Treasurer

Treasurer's Report: 1st Quarter 2020

Here are the 2020 financials for the church, effective March 31, 2020. The impact of our Shelter in Place order is not reflected in these numbers, but a much lower income is forecast for April and in future months.

Church Income	\$131,561
(includes \$26,124 in memorials)	
Church Expenses	\$115,343
Church Net Income	\$16,218
Church Net Operating Income	-\$9,906
(excludes memorials)	
Preschool Net Profit	\$15,927
Net Surplus	\$32,145
Net Surplus with Church Net Operating Income:	\$6,021

Income and Expenses include \$20,000 of non-budgeted benevolences, based on last year's profits, which were distributed to several charities that most definitely need help currently: They include: Samaritan House, CALL Primrose, Home and Hope, Hillsdale Peace Pantry and CORA.

We were able to secure some money as part of the Government's Stimulus Package for small businesses - their Payroll Protection Plan. This money will help us in the months ahead, with reduced church and Easter income, and the lack of Preschool Tuition, starting in April, but it **WILL NOT COVER all of the expected income shortfall.**

We will keep you apprised of our financial situation and we pray that many of you will be able to help us with our expected shortfalls.

Margo Kannenberg

COVID-19 RESPONSE

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10).

For many of us, this is a time of uncertainty and financial hardship. However, for those of you who are in a position to do more, the needs are great.

We ask our members to please remember Hope in your regular giving. Our ministry continues, and it relies on your weekly offerings. You can participate through automatic monthly giving or mail. We are also working with our bank to enable online giving. (Coming Soon!)

In our community and across the United States, unemployment has soared. We are already seeing rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation and health care. Here are some of the organizations that can use your financial support at this time.



This April, we've seen a dramatic surge in demand for our services - 550 NEW people each week - and we know the numbers will continue to grow as COVID-19 spreads and many folks go longer and longer without a paycheck.

We need your help. If you are healthy and not part of an at-risk group, we would love for you to volunteer in our food program. If you can't volunteer, please make a donation so that we can continue to meet the rapidly increasing need for our services.

www.samaritanhousesanmateo.org/



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Your gifts to the ELCA's [COVID-19 Response Fund](https://www.elca.org) will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need. www.elca.org

**HOME
& HOPE**

INTERFAITH AND COMMUNITY
SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

With the Shelter-in-Place in effect throughout San Mateo County, Home and Hope is no longer able to shelter families at our member churches. We are seeking donations

to cover the costs of hosting families in our program in area hotels. www.homeandhope.net



To maximize the safety of all, CALL Primrose is NOT accepting donations of food or other items at this time. We are however, serving more people each day because **our clients are likely to be disproportionately affected by this global pandemic.**

Please DONATE NOW and help us make sure our clients fighting the pressures of poverty have what they need at this difficult time. www.callprimrose.org

Here are some other ways you can make a difference

- **Deliver Meals:** Vulnerable seniors are at greatest risk amid COVID-19. Let's help keep them safe and cared for. Contact your local Meals on Wheels organization, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org.
- **Wellness Checks:** Check on older neighbors with a call, text, or talk through the door.
- **Donate Blood:** Healthy, eligible donors are urged to come out and give to ensure there's lifesaving blood on the shelves for those who need it most. Visit the Red Cross: www.redcrossblood.org.

For more ways to volunteer in our community, visit:

<https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov/get-involved/covid-19/>




**CALL
PRIMROSE**
 139 Primrose Road
 Burlingame, CA 94010
 650-342-2255
 650-275-7655 Fax

Coordinating Council
Board Members

Patti Black
Cathy
Catherine


March 30, 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 \$1,000.00 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 Boesch
 Executive Director

Thank you Friends!



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

Dear Church Family,

Our heartfelt thanks for your cards, flowers, and prayers as we mourn my sister's sudden passing on Ash Wednesday. She was looking forward to our Service, followed by Pastor Dan's class. Your remembrances and reaching out have been especially comforting as we had to postpone Karin's Memorial Service during these anxious times. We pray that you are staying well and safe.

Imagine our daily lives in a snow globe that has been turned upside down. Here we are awaiting our globe to be up righted when the time is right. I suspect our priorities will be realigned broadly when we are up turned once again.

We miss you,

Kris and Jerry Brooks



The Voice of Hope Birthday listing

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.

Phil Gaal	5/1	Niels Voss	5/11	Louise Fischer	5/16
Lana Saner	5/1	Claire Owens	5/12	David Schoch	5/21
Erica Lin	5/3	Margit Hansen	5/13	Marlys Jungroth	5/22
Barbara Blundell.....	5/8	Doug Kannenberg	5/13	Lisa Green	5/25
Kailen Sallander.....	5/9	Edem Ekong	5/14	Rosemarie Nickel	5/25
Ruth Lillo	5/11	Gisela Han	5/15	Trudy Gamborg	5/26
Bryan Rianda	5/11	Kai-Erik Schroeder	5/15		

Upcoming Events at



Staying Connected to Hope during our Shelter-in-Place

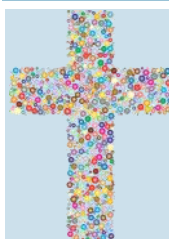
Our Church building may be locked, but Hope Lutheran Church is still running during the county's shelter-in-place order. Here are some ways you can stay updated on what's happening at Hope and when we will commence gatherings and in person Sunday Worship.

- 1) **Subscribe to our Phone Tree**
- 2) **Subscribe to our Email Updates**
- 3) **Watch or listen to our Sermons online**—We post our sermons each week for members to view them at their leisure on Sundays. Visit <http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/worship/sermons/>
- 4) **Watch or Listen to Pastor Dan's Mid-Week Class**—Pastor Dan's newest class with Timeless Stories from the Bible is now available online. Past classes are also available on the hope website. Visit <http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/posts/>
- 5) **"Join us" for a remote gathering**—Watch your email for directions to join our Zoom meetings:
 - Café Hope coffee hour, Sundays at 11am. BYO coffee and Treats!
 - Men's Breakfast, 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 8am
 - Coming Soon... a virtual "Hymn Sing"
- 6) **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.

If you wish to be added to our Phone Tree or email contact list, please email the office (helc@pacbell.net) or call and leave a message (650-349-0100) with your name and the phone number or email address you would like added.

OUR BUILDING REMAINS CLOSED

Due to the ongoing shelter-in-place order for San Mateo County, we will NOT hold on-site services in the month of May. Our office also remains closed, however our staff visits regularly to provide essential services such as collecting contributions and paying our bills. Each week we will return all phone and email messages left in the office.



Worship with us online each Week!

We remain committed to serving our members and friends during our Shelter-In-Place through our online presence.

View or listen to our online service, available every Saturday on our website.

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

MENS' BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is going virtual. Join us for our first Zoom Men's Breakfast on Saturday May 2 at 8am. We will continue our study of the book *In the Footsteps of Jesus*, by Jean-Pierre Isbouts. The link to join the Zoom meeting will be sent by email to all participants.

PASTOR DAN'S MID-WEEK CLASS

Pastor Dan's newest class on Old Testament history is now available for viewing on the Hope Website. Look for a new lesson to be posted each week in May. www.hopelutheransanmateo.org/posts/

JUNE ANNUAL MEETING IS POSTPONED

Due to the ongoing restrictions on large gatherings, your executive committee has decided to postpone our annual meeting, originally scheduled for June 14, 2020. We plan to hold our meeting and elections once we are allowed to gather as a congregation, hopefully sometime this fall.

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

May 2020

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

Voice of Hope Deadline for June: Monday May 18



Hope Lutheran Church

650-349-0100

helc@pacbell.net

www.hopelutheransanmateo.org

www.facebook.com/hopelutheransanmateo

Sunday Worship can be viewed online at

www.hopelutheransanmateo.org/sermons

