

# The Voice of Hope

JULY 2020

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



Pastor Daniel Severson

**D**ear Friends in Christ,

Again, I hope you are all doing well. I am back in the office on a regular basis, usually from around 6:00 am

to 12:00 or 1:00 pm. on Monday through Thursday.

Please feel free to contact me for any reason if you wish to do so. I keep myself busy planning the services and writing the sermons for our online services, writing and recording lectures on “The History of Ancient Israel,” and doing my best to keep in contact with those who need pastoral care. As you probably know, we have had two of our people pass on recently: Bill Klemens, and Ruth Lillo. Please keep these families in your prayers. There have been some other health problems as well, and the fact that so many things have been postponed due to the Coronavirus outbreak has made it difficult for these folks to get the help they need. However, like all of us, we rely on our faith in God, receive strength and hope from the presence of Christ, and then do the best we can.

Speaking of the Coronavirus, David Phillips did a wonderful presentation on that some time ago during our online Café Hope Zoom meetings on Sundays at 11:00 am. He is going to repeat that on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at the same time and place so please join us for an enlightening short lecture with visual aids on that day. Otherwise, we continue to meet every Sunday through Zoom. Also, we will continue to post the Sunday service and bible study lectures each week. It was a pleasure to meet with the Men’s Breakfast/ Bible study for three sessions (minus the breakfast)

before summer break and I can assure you that this will continue as long as necessary. I hope you are enjoying these. Judy, Skip, and Margo are doing a great job recording, posting, and sending out emails each week. Many thanks to all of them for their commitment to this ministry.

Also, the Executive Committee—Don Hermansen, President, Karen Reed, Vice President, Judy Jeschke, Council and Interim Church Secretary, Margo Kannenberg, Treasurer, and yours truly meet weekly through Zoom to plan and discuss issues related to how we can keep our ministry strong and going during this difficult time. We have also begun discussions on when it might be possible to start in house services again. Guided by our concern for the safety of everyone, and the information provided by state and local authorities regarding the medical risks of spreading the virus, we are doing our best to try and plan for the future. Given the situation of continued community spread and the vulnerability of our members, we are being admittedly conservative in terms of our planning. However, there are some options now under consideration such as the possibility of an outdoor prayer service. Judy is opening the office two days a week from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Masks will be required and we encourage everyone who comes to keep their social distance. Again, safety is our primary concern. Nevertheless, I have a big office and should anyone desire to come in for any reason, please call the church office and I will make an appointment. Frankly, I am getting tired of the isolation so feel free to come in. I always have coffee made in the choir room—well, most of the time.

In the meantime, I continue to encourage you to take

## CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

care of your spiritual health. The question is not, “Have you done enough to make God happy with your efforts?” The question is “Are you aware of the lengths to which our God has gone to save us from sin and death?” This is how faith grows in our hearts. The answer to this question is not isolated from the activities and perspectives we have on life as it is in the present. No doubt, you are all aware of how conflicted our culture is at the present time, and the pain and anger this has caused. Christians are called to do what they can in situations such as this. For those of us who do not occupy positions of power, that may not seem like a lot. However, even donations to organizations which feed the hungry and provide school supplies to families who can’t afford them: places such as Samaritan House which is doing so much these days, and Second Harvest Food Bank—when you feed the “least of these” you feed Christ himself, who identified with the poor from the day he was born. Moreover, we can also make positive contributions to healing the cultural conflicts in our society by simply being a positive presence in our community.

Kirsten and I go for regular walks and bike rides near Lake Chabot where people from all races and backgrounds can be found on any given day. Even a friendly greeting can have a positive effect on the alienation people are feeling. In other words, if many people were to do even a small amount; add it up and it would make a big difference. Until we can begin to meet again in our beautiful sanctuary, I look forward to seeing you in cyberspace.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan



### *A Message from your Council President*

Like nothing else in my lifetime, the global pandemic has affected the entire world. It seems there is no aspect of our

lives that has gone untouched. Every day, I hear of something else that is changed because of the coronavirus. To add confusion to the ongoing discomfort that we all feel, guidelines, recommendations, rules, and restrictions issued by authorities are sometimes conflicting ... and always changing. The executive committee of the church council (Karen Reed, Margo Kannenberg, Judy Jeschke, and Don Hermansen) continue to meet weekly with Pastor Dan Severson. We thought it would be a good idea to send out a letter to members of the congregation. After the letter was drafted, we put our heads together to edit it. We were ready to send it out, and then the guidelines changed (again). As a result, we held off on sending the letter.

Naturally, we are all eager to come together again as a (church) family. Nothing would make all of us happier. The latest guidelines from the San Mateo County Director of Public Health are numerous but must be followed for the safety of all. By the time this issue of the Voice of Hope reaches you, the guidelines no doubt will have been updated once again ... and again. Some of the restrictions contradict what I see as the core of our Lutheran identity. Singing is discouraged. Singing spreads the virus much further than ordinary talking. By the same measure, responsive reading and group recitations (the Confession of Faith and the Lord’s Prayer are examples) are discouraged. Eating or drinking on the church campus is not allowed; I have yet to figure out how that affects communion without making it “virtual.” No after-worship social time is allowed. (Perhaps we should continue a form of Café Hope via Zoom?) Hand shaking and hugging are not allowed; these fulfill basic human needs for con-



necting.

If I start moaning to myself about these restrictions, I need to remember that we are all in this together. What each of us does as individuals contributes to the greater good. That is what personal responsibility dictates. All of us have been patient in this respect, but patience for many of us is being tested. Surely, this will not last forever. Slowly, the restrictions will be loosened, maybe not all the way back to how it used to be, but loosened nevertheless. Perhaps we will understand that some of the restrictions that stay in place will be beneficial and improve our everyday life. Avoiding germs is not all bad.

Please note the May financial results in this issue. We are close to holding our own but must be aware that the work of the church continues. Despite minor savings to our expenses, we must keep our eye on the goal of maintaining a healthy financial position. Stay safe and be well.

Don Hermansen



### *From our Choir Director*

**G**reetings Hope Family! Our online services are a way of maintaining connections with each other. Several musicians in your congregation have contributed to our services, and we are grateful to all of them. Thanks to Hank, Marlys, Lucie, Vicki, Ted, and Gloriann for singing the hymns and adding special music. Even though we are few in number, it is reassuring to sing hymns of praise in these uncertain times. Vaughn and I have worked together in preparing the music. If any other members would like to offer special music this summer, please contact me at [gundersonjp@yahoo.com](mailto:gundersonjp@yahoo.com) or 593-4287.

Janice Gunderson

### *An Update from your Council Executive Committee*

Dear Members and Friends of Hope,

The executive committee of Hope's church council has

been meeting weekly with Pastor Dan since the statewide shelter-in-place order was issued in March. We are working together to guide our congregation as we navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Hope, and are closely following the many guidelines, rules, and directives that have been issued and relate to our worship.

As you may be aware, the state of California and San Mateo County granted permission for churches to resume in-person worship starting June 1, 2020. Due to the continued spread of COVID-19 in California and concern for vulnerable populations, our Synod has urged us to not open our doors before July 31, and it is likely that they will extend this request into the fall. We have also received a strongly worded letter from the San Mateo County Health Officer urging us to postpone gathering for worship services.

It is our hope that we will resume in-person worship in some form in the near future. Our reopening plans will be a result of careful consideration of CDC, state, county, and synod guidelines and restrictions, as well as what we feel is best for members of Hope. Our plans may need to change, if the landscape of the pandemic and subsequent restrictions change in unforeseen ways. We all want to return to worship at Hope, but we want to make sure we can do so safely. We will continue to keep you updated through our weekly email blasts and phone messages of any reopening plans.

Please know that we will continue to offer an online worship experience for our members and friends for now and after we resume worship in person. Our worship services are archived on our

*Executive Committee message continues on page 5*



### Hope Joins Amazon Smile

Are you an Amazon shopper? Do you have friends that order through Amazon? Now, when you shop online at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), and select Hope as your charity, Amazon will donate to the church!

Shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) is the same experience as shopping at [amazon.com](https://amazon.com). The only difference is that you can select Hope as your charity! Here is all you need to do:

Enter this link in your internet browser to go directly to Hope's Smile page and select Hope as your charity.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6028241>

Continue to shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) for your purchases, and Amazon will remember that you have selected Hope as your charity.

Not all purchases qualify for donations from Amazon, but with this simple initiative we will receive a quarterly donation from Amazon.

Please share the link above with all your family and friends that would like to help support our church.

*Margo Kannenberg*



### From the Desk of our Treasurer



#### Treasurer's Report: May 2020

The May financials for the church are as follows:

Church Income .....	\$32,394
(Includes memorial income \$1025)	
Church Expenses .....	\$25,071
Church Net Income .....	\$7,323
Preschool Net Income .....	-\$8,881
May Net Deficit.....	-\$1,558

*Margo Kannenberg*



### Bring on the Backpacks!

Once again, Hope will be participating in Samaritan House's Back to School/backpack drive. This year Samaritan House will only be able to accept monetary donations due to Covid-19. Anyone who wishes to donate to this can send a check to Hope Lutheran and make sure that Backpack Drive is written on the check. The deadline to donate is Monday July 28.

Anne Wilson, Social Concerns chair

## Stewardship: Building Generosity

**A**s chair of Stewardship, Vice-President of council and a member of the Executive Committee, I have been extremely interested in how to expand our definition of Stewardship at Hope. The following article was brought to my attention as to how we can make generosity second nature in our church. I was pleased to find out we are already incorporating many of the ways at Hope.

### 7 Indispensable Ways to Build Generosity (into the DNA of your church)

1. Model generosity throughout church leadership
2. Practice corporate generosity
3. Preach on generosity of both giving and spirit
4. Offer regular small group studies
5. Make giving easy through technology
6. Regular giving to your church and vision
7. Set Faith Goals.

We can also share “real life” testimonies of those who have grown in their faith/life giving, and those who

have been the recipients of it will help bring teaching to life. We can also focus on the socioeconomic diversity of our congregation. It is comforting to know that generosity is something anyone can practice regardless of income.

We are already blessed by giving to Hillsdale Peace Pantry and Samaritan House in our community. We have expanded our website, and have a committee looking into live streaming and utilizing more technology for both members and outreach. Our pastor led bible studies are available to both members and those looking for spiritual nourishment and connection.



“More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of”

Faithfully,  
Your servant in Christ  
Karen L. Reed

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1313 Commercial Street Bellingham, WA 98225

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MESSAGE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

website ([www.hopelutheransanmateo.org](http://www.hopelutheransanmateo.org)) along with Pastor Dan’s Bible studies. The links are organized and easy to find.

For those of us who miss the personal interaction with our Hope family, Heidi Waters hosts Café Hope via ZOOM each Sunday morning at 11:00. Café Hope lasts about an hour, and we sometimes follow a theme or have a timely presentation about issues such as COVID-19. We are also exploring allowing small groups to gather in person.

Any time changes are made, accepting and adapting to them can be difficult and/or uncomfortable. However, there may be something good that comes of this. The precautions that we must take give us an aware-

ness of practices that we have come to accept as normal. This experience has taught us not to take anything for granted. It has forced us to live more simply, and that is not all bad.

We hope you are well. Please use your face covering and practice social distancing. Be safe.

In Christian love,

The Hope Council Executive Committee

Don Hermansen, President  
Karen Reed, Vice-President  
Judy Jeschke, Secretary  
Margo Kannenberg, Treasurer  
Pastor Dan Severson

# July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 
				<b>9-1 Office Open</b> <b>11am Service Recording</b>		Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Online Worship <b>11am</b> Café Hope <b>2pm</b> Forerunner Church*		<b>9-1 Office Open</b>		<b>9-1 Office Open</b> <b>11am Service Recording</b>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>9am</b> Council Mtg Online Worship <b>11am</b> Café Hope <b>2pm</b> Forerunner Church*		<b>9-1 Office Open</b>		<b>9-1 Office Open</b> <b>11am Service Recording</b>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Online Worship <b>11am</b> Café Hope <b>2pm</b> Forerunner Church*	<b>9-1 Office Open</b>	<b>9-1 Office Open</b>	<b>9-1 Office Open</b>	<b>9-1 Office Open</b> <b>11am Service Recording</b>		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Online Worship <b>11am</b> Café Hope <b>2pm</b> Forerunner Church*	<b>9-1 Office Open</b>	<b>9-1 Office Open</b>	<b>9-1 Office Open</b>	<b>9-1 Office Open</b> <b>11am Service Recording</b>		

## The Voice of Hope Birthday listing



Jean Dehner .....	7/4	David Hermansen.....	7/18	Scott Hroziencik .....	7/29
Bill Fong .....	7/12	Bill Kannenberg .....	7/18	Lois Nieman .....	7/31
Hank Harper .....	7/12	Judith Hunt .....	7/24	Sam Wilson .....	7/31
Bill Hroziencik .....	7/13	Ellen Leaf .....	7/24		
Else Welch .....	7/14	Heather Hoover.....	7/27		
Robert Dehner.....	7/17	Erica Grimstvedt.....	7/29		

If you do not want the month and day of your birthday listed in the Voice of Hope, please call or email the church office.

## Annual Congregation Meeting Update and News from the Council

In some ways, my calendar seems a bit meaningless these days. The days ebb into weeks and weeks into months as the familiar routines we relied on to mark the passage of time have largely disappeared. But for those who are still keeping track, you may have noticed that June has come and gone without the Hope Annual Meeting and election of officers.

In May, as it became obvious that our “home quarantine” was not a short-term condition, our executive committee had the foresight to request that all of the current members of the Hope Council remain in their current positions until September. We believed this timeframe would be realistic for a rescheduled congregation meeting. We also felt that changing our executive team while so many things around us were changing due to Covid-19 was unwise. Fortunately, we have only a few council members that do not plan to continue next year, so this was not a big change.

Holding an in-person congregation

meeting in September is now in doubt. This is complicated by the fact that our constitution requires a quorum of 50 people to approve new council members, and gatherings of more than 50 people are specifically prohibited at this time. Ironically, one of the items that is planned for a vote at our next congregation meeting is to reduce the number of people required for a quorum. Our constitution specifically prohibits any sort of mail-in ballot or vote. The council has discussed the option of holding our elections over ZOOM, which other organizations have done successfully, however we believe it is unlikely that we will be able to reach our quorum this way.

I have written to the Synod for advice on this matter. I am certain we are not the only congregation that is experiencing these sort of issues. Hopefully they will be able to provide some guidance about how to proceed, perhaps releasing us from some of the constraints of our constitution. The worldwide pandemic has disrupted so many aspects of everyday life.

In any event, it is still our intent to publish our annual report and to hold some sort of virtual congregation meeting and election in September. We will provide an update to all members once the details are sorted out.

Although many things halted due to the pandemic, our council has continued to meet each month to address the business of the church. We have put together a committee to take our online worship to the next level to allow for “live streaming” of our services. This effort is led by Margo and Hank and they have accomplished much in a short time. Mark has also been able to update the lighting in the offices and Nielsen Hall and we have completed required inspections. Later this month our new office manager will start her employment. In July and August we will prepare the preschool and playground areas for reopening in the Fall.

Your servant in Christ,

Judy Jeschke,  
Hope Council Secretary

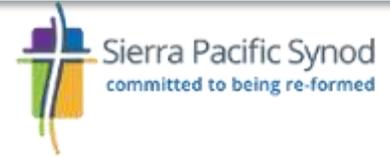


### Called to Eternal Rest

Ruth Lillo, wife of Robert Lillo, passed away on  
June 6, 2020

Hope has established a memorial fund for Ruth.  
Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the  
office.

## News from Around the Synod and Beyond



### 2020 Bishop Election

In fall 2019, each of the nine Conferences of the Sierra Pacific Synod held a gathering where it invited congregations and individuals within the conference to suggest names of those eligible persons on the clergy roster of the ELCA whom they believe to have the gifts and graces necessary for holding the office of bishop.

The following thirteen pastors agreed to have their name lifted up as a potential nominee, and each submitted a brief biographical questionnaire. A traditional ecclesiastical ballot will be used for the bishop election. This means that any Minister of Word and Sacrament on the active or retired rosters of the ELCA can be nominated. It also means that a person pre-identified at a Conference gathering will still need to be nominated on the ecclesiastical (first) ballot at the Synod Assembly to be considered a nominee for bishop.

[Katy Grindberg](#)

[Jeff Robert Johnson](#)

[Charlane Lines](#)

[Mark Price](#)

[Nelson H. Rabell-Gonzalez](#)

[Tuhina Verma Rasche](#)

[Dawn Roginski](#)

[Megan Rohrer](#)

[Manda Truchinski](#)

[John B. Valentine](#)

[Anita R. Warner](#)

[Frederick W. Weidmann](#)

[Connie Winter-Eulberg](#)

Additional information on these candidates is available on the synod website. <http://spselca.org>

### Mini Prayer Shawl

To guide the voting members at the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in prayer and discernment, we plan to provide mini-prayer shawls for each person. They will go home with members in their brief cases, pockets, or purses as a reminder of the prayers of unknown sisters and brothers in Christ, and can be used during their own times for prayer and devotions.



And so, we are asking all knitters and crochet-ers to wash their hands, grab their needles and hooks, gather up their yarn, and create mini prayer shawls roughly 6" by 3". We will need about 600 total! Please send your mini-shawls by July 15 to:

**All Saints Lutheran Church  
2 San Marin Dr.  
Novato, CA 94945**



## Campfire Worship with Mt. Cross

June 14-July 31 was supposed to be our summer camp season this year. So during that time, we'll host an Omega Worship Watch Party on our Facebook page every Sunday night at 7:30PM. We'll have songs and stories and prayers around a campfire and give you a way to do camp at home that week. Join us at [www.mtcross.org/mtcrossministries](http://www.mtcross.org/mtcrossministries) every Sunday night at 7:30PM!

## Upcoming Events at



### Worship with us online each week!

We will continue posting our worship services on the Hope website for the foreseeable future—even after we are once again able to resume in-person worship.

The council executive team is carefully following the guidelines from San Mateo County, the state of California, and the Sierra Pacific Synod for holding in-person worship services. We will notify our members and friends through email and phone updates once we have a date for resuming worship services at Hope.

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

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

### Worship Assistants for July

Thank-you to the following individuals for assisting with our online worship in July. As a reminder, we record each week's service on the previous Thursday at 11am.

Date	Readers
July 5	Marlys Jungroth
July 12	Monika Hastings
July 19	Hank Harper
July 26	Sandi Kane

### OFFICE HOURS AND PROCEDURES

Our office is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Starting on July 20, the office will be open Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm.

All members and visitors are requested to call or email the office before visiting the church. To comply with California's regulations to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we have implemented new procedures for all visitors to the church building. Everyone must sign in and will be required to submit to a temperature scan before entering the building. Masks must be worn unless a person is in their own private office. We have masks available for those who need one. Additionally, we are increasing the frequency of cleaning in common areas, and regularly wiping down commonly touched items with disinfectant, such as doorknobs, light switches, hand rails, and the copy machine.

### ONLINE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We have expanded our online offering by adding a children's message to our website each week. This can be viewed as part of our sermon, or it is available as a short stand alone message for children. You can find our weekly children's message at:  
<http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/worship/sermons/>

### CAFÉ HOPE

Our weekly congregation social hour continues Sundays at 11am over ZOOM. Join us to connect with members and friends each week. If you have a particular topic that you would like to hear discussed, please contact Pastor Dan or Heidi to make arrangements.

### MENS BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast group is on break over the summer. Men's Breakfast will resume the third Saturday in September.

### FACILITY USE

Please Note: Effective July 1, we will allow outside groups to resume use of our facility.

Hope Lutheran Church  
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San Mateo, CA 94403

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July 2020

*The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church*

# *The Voice of Hope*

**Voice of Hope Deadline for August: Monday July 20**



## **Hope Lutheran Church**

650-349-0100

helc@pacbell.net

[www.hopelutheransanmateo.org](http://www.hopelutheransanmateo.org)

[www.facebook.com/hopelutheransanmateo](https://www.facebook.com/hopelutheransanmateo)

**Sunday Worship can be viewed online at**

[www.hopelutheransanmateo.org/sermons](http://www.hopelutheransanmateo.org/sermons)

