



The Anchor – The Newsletter of Hope

February 2020

Vol 11, Number 5

Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor

"We have this Hope of Christ's promises as an anchor for our lives." Hebrews 6:19

Reflections of HOPE

from Pastor Andy

"Love is Our Religion"

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

--John 13:34-35

On my recent walk around the Lafayette Reservoir, a middle-aged man passed me wearing a sweatshirt printed with one simple phrase in bold letters, "Love is my religion..." I smiled and greeted him as he passed me thinking to myself, "That sounds a lot like New Age theology!"

As I continued to circle the reservoir, his sweatshirt continued to captivate my thoughts. Jesus makes it clear that all of Christianity hangs on three simple things: **Loving God, Loving Our Neighbors, and Loving One Another** (Matt. 22:37-40; Jn. 13:34-35). That is it. Period. It is really quite simple. If we desire to follow Jesus in the world, then love *is* our religion.

As I came to the end of my walk, I wondered if the three-fold commandment of Jesus to love could serve as a vision for all of the mission and ministries of Hope Lutheran Church in 2020. With that in mind, in my first full year as your pastor, I have set three personal goals for the year.

"Loving God": (*Worship and Spiritual Formation Ministries*)

If love is truly our religion, then Hope's ministries of worship and Spiritual Formation will continue to nurture and grow our love relationship with the

living God. ***In the New Year, one of my goals is to lead a mid-week, co-ed Bible Study for members of Hope and friends.***

"Loving our Neighbors": (*Mission and Outreach Ministries*)

If love is truly our religion, then Hope's ministries of mission and outreach will continue to demonstrate the love of Jesus for those in need in our surrounding neighborhood and beyond. ***In the New Year, my second goal is to increase the awareness of Hope Lutheran Church in the wider Rossmoor Community and beyond by engaging actively in the everyday life of the community.***

"Loving One Another": (*Fellowship and Care Ministries*)

If love is truly our religion, then Hope's ministries of fellowship and care for one another will continue to be a core value of Hope. ***In the New Year, my third goal is to revise our visitation/care ministry to ensure that all of our homebound members receive an in-home visit with Communion each week.***

One day soon, I hope to pass that man again at the reservoir. I want to show him my new sweatshirt!

May the love of Jesus continually be our guide,
Pastor Andy

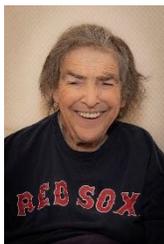


“WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

by Janice Callentine

NOTE: Janice has not been well since the beginning of December. Please remember her in your prayers. Her article this month is from the archives.

In Matthew 16, Jesus asks Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answers, “You are the Christ, the son of the living God.” We (Christians and Jews) all believe in God, but what do we believe about God? Many years ago, I heard a song that asks this question:



*God is different things to different people,
To some he’s nothing more than just a myth,
To others he’s an empty chair at Christmas,
To many He’s a word for swearing with.*

*But if it’s true He’s really that important,
And through the years great men have wondered too,
Perhaps we ought to check Him out more closely,
We know He’s God, but who is God to you?*

There are many different answers to this question, depending on who you ask. I have never judged anyone else’s different belief system. I always pray that everyone will find (and keep) a belief system that helps them feel the closest to God. People experience God in different ways. There is an anthem that many choirs have sung, entitled “God is a spirit”. That might be one answer. Yet the doctrine of the Trinity tells us that God is one God, in three persons. On the other hand, a famous Lutheran theologian describes God as the “Ground of Being”. I have never understood that phrase.

Even the government isn’t sure who God is. In the US Constitution, the first amendment contains two clauses that have come to be known as the separation of church and state. The first is the establishment clause, which prohibits Congress from establishing a “state religion”. The second phrase is the free exercise clause which states that we are free to worship as we wish, and that Congress can devise no “test” to make sure that we

are worshipping “properly”. Yet when you look around, church and state seem to be intertwined. The phrase “In God we trust”, appears on all our money. Sometimes, when people go to court, they have to swear to tell the truth, “So help me God”.

In some places, there is a law that says that a private conversation that has been intercepted is inadmissible as evidence in court against the person who started the communication, unless he or the person he intended to receive it has expressly said that it could be admitted. This leads to a true story: A man named Victor was charged with arson. The police brought him into a room where he was left alone. While being watched and taped, he got down on his knees and said: “Oh, God, let me get away with it just this once.” The trial court ruled that because of this law, the conversation (confession) could not be admitted into evidence. That ruling was appealed and the appeals judge ruled that Victor’s statement could be admitted because, for the purpose of this law, God should not be considered to be a person.

Most of us probably aren’t sure whether God is a person or a spirit, or something else. That’s okay, because we are not all called to be theologians. But we are all called to be witnesses. We don’t need to describe God, but we can all tell about the times we have felt God’s presence, or how He helped us through some dark times in our lives. The good thing about our relationship with God is that it causes us to learn as we grow, which can give us more stories to share as we witness. The more we look at life through the eyes of faith, the more we can see God at work in our lives: healing us, teaching us, calling and equipping us to serve, and most of all, loving us.

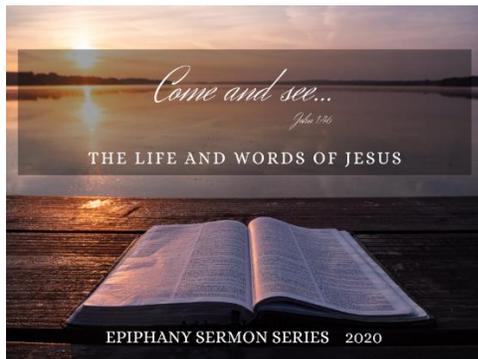
Peace, love and HOPE,
Janice



EPIPHANY SERMON SERIES 2020

“Come and See...”

The Life and Words of Jesus



- Feb 2 **“Blessed are you...”** Matthew 5:1-12
- Feb 9 **“Let your light shine...”** Matthew 5:13-20
- Feb 16 **The New Commandments** Matthew 5:21-37
- Feb 23 **The Destination** Matthew 17:1-9

Pastor Andy presented the beautiful poem “The Gentle Healer” in his sermon on January 12.

The Gentle Healer

By Michael Card

*The gentle healer came into our town today
 He touched blind eyes and the darkness left to stay
 But more than the blindness
 He took their sins away
 The gentle healer came into our town today*

*The gentle healer came
 Into our town today
 He spoke one word that was all he had to say
 And one who had died just rose up straight away
 The gentle healer came into our town today*

*Oh he seems like just an ordinary man
 With dirty feet and rough but gentle hands
 But the words he says are hard to understand
 Yet he seems like just an ordinary man*

*The gentle healer
 He left our town today
 I just looked around and found he'd gone away
 Some folks from town who followed him
 They say
 The gentle healer is the truth, the life, the way
 The gentle healer is the truth, the life, the way*

Minister of Music Report



It’s February and my thoughts turn to Valentine’s Day. It’s so great that the Catholics share their Saint with everyone.

One of my earliest memories of Valentine’s Day revolves around my second-grade teacher reminding us that we must give a Valentine to



everyone - not just our friends. It was a challenge to write out my name on a big packet of cards and not forget anyone. I remember going over my list with my friend Mark who looked over the names on my list and noticed that his name wasn’t on it. I checked his list and couldn’t find any mistakes. He remembered everyone! Don’t we all have friends like Mark? I would guess we do.

Today I celebrate Valentine’s Day with the birthday of my granddaughter who turns eighteen this year and graduates from high school. Last night I witnessed her perform in a play and realized how proud I am of not only her but all my grandchildren. I have been lucky in my life to marry the perfect woman who helped me produce a perfect trio of kids who, in turn, gave me a perfect set of grandkids.

Now with the memory of grade school Valentines surfacing, I am also grateful I didn’t accidentally leave out my best choices. Happy Valentine’s to each of you at Hope! Love to you all from the Andersons.



Wayne Anderson, Minister of Music

It's Good To Have Friends

Evelyn Olson & Evelyn Rorem



Trinity Center Wish List

Important: Trinity Center is NOT accepting donations of women's clothing, make-up, blankets at this time.

Thank you for caring and sharing! Your donations to help Trinity Center's powerful ministry to the Walnut Creek homeless are greatly appreciated. Items can be placed in the bin as you enter the Fireside Room on Sunday. Items that Trinity Center needs the most:

Food Pantry Items

- Cases of bottled water
- Stews, chili, corned beef hash, Cup of noodles
- Fruit, fruit cups, pudding
- Peanut butter & jelly, crackers
- Cans with pop tops appreciated.**

Gift Cards and Transportation

Safeway, Target Gift Cards, any amount
 Gift Cards for Gasoline for those who have cars – can be purchased at Safeway & Lucky
 Bus Passes and BART Tickets (BART tickets with small amounts left are welcome)
 County Connection Single Ride Tickets – available at County Connection office

Clothing Items They Need The Most:

Men's socks, Men's underwear, Men's belts
 Men's pants (sweat pants, jeans, casual, dress) new or used clean

Thrivent Action Team Project for Trinity Center

Eight Hope members gathered at the Sampson home to pack food bags for homeless who participate in evening program winter shelter at the Armory. Thirty-two bags were provided with the aid of \$250 from Thrivent Financial through an Action Team project. The volunteers enjoyed fellowship, and a soup lunch provided by the Sampsons, following their volunteer work.

Members of Thrivent are allowed to conduct 2 projects per calendar year and must invite others to do the volunteer work with them. Members of Hope who led projects in 2019 were Priscilla Mah, Julane Sampson, and Wayne Sampson. If you are a Thrivent member, you may contact Wayne Sampson for details on how you, too, may lead projects.



Upcoming Events in February

Sunday, January 26 – 52nd Annual Congregational Meeting

Saturday, February 1 - Women of Hope Bible Study at 10am in the Bunker Room at Creekside.

Sunday, February 2 – Choir practice at 9:00am; Epiphany sermon series continues

Sunday, February 9 - Choir practice at 9:00am

Saturday, February 15 – Hope Council/Staff retreat 9am-noon. Location: Pleasant Hill

Thursday, February 20 – Anchor articles and group updates due

Sunday, February 23 – We will be having our 4th **Sunday luncheon** after service. If you would like to bring something, we could use desserts.

Sunday, February 23 – TTBB Tenor-Bass Choir practice begins at 9:00am

Wednesday, February 26 – Ash Wednesday service. 2pm, Fireside Room

Small Group News

The Women of Hope Small Group – The women's Bible study group will meet on Saturday, February 1, from 10-11:30am in the Bunker Room at Creekside. Pastor Karen will lead the second session of the study found in the January/February issue of *Gather* magazine which is entitled "We Are Called: Disciples of Christ". Please see Priscilla Mah if you have any questions.

Monday Lunch Group – On Monday, February 17, we will have lunch at the Butternut Grill and Bar, 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. We will meet at the Gateway Clubhouse front entrance at 11:10am and form carpools to get to the restaurant. If you have questions, please call Inge Knight at 925-954-7478.

Wednesday Lunch Group – This group usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please talk to Esther Kuencer if you have any questions.

Third Wednesday Lunch Bunch – Sign up on Sundays February 9 & 16 to attend the 3rd Wednesday Lunch Bunch on THURSDAY February 20th at the home of Wayne and Julane Sampson from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. Cost is \$5 per person. **NOTE: WE ARE MEETING ON THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY!**
Julane & Wayne Sampson
2425 Pine Knoll Drive, Unit #6, Entry 5
925-322-4227 or 925-278-4050

The Small Group Going Out to Dinner – The Small Group Going Out to Dinner will be dining at Burma 2 (1616 N. Main St., Walnut Creek) on Tuesday, February 18th at 5:30 PM. Persons planning to attend should contact Karen Peterson on her home phone (934-8463) by Sunday, February 16th. Those wanting to carpool should meet at Gateway at 5 PM.

Dinner-in-homes Groups – Hope has two evening dinner groups that each meet once a month. The groups each schedule their own meeting night based on the schedule of its members. The host prepares the main course, and each member in attendance provides a side dish. Hosting rotates from one member to another each month. If you would like to join a group in January, please speak to Julane Sampson or Priscilla Mah.

Loss & Grief Group – The group will meet twice during the month of February on February 8th & 15th immediately following the coffee hour. If you would like to join the group, you are encouraged to possibly cut your social interaction a tad short and join the group by 12:15 pm. This will allow us to explore the effects of grief and loss individually, as well as engage in conversations about the stages of bereavement.
For questions about the group, please feel free to call Marjatta DeSchepper at: 925-448-1049.

God's Work, Our Hands.



Have you remembered the **Hope Endowment Fund** in your will or trust? When you plan your giving for 2020, think about the Hope Endowment Fund. Your contribution is tax deductible. For more information, please contact Evelyn Olson or any member of the Hope Endowment Committee. Members are identified on their name badges.

Endowment Committee Members

- Evelyn Olson – Coordinator
- Mark Conrad
- Tom Hunt
- Mark Krauth
- Stella Liu
- Jack Padley
- Wayne Sampson
- Carolyn Schick

Time & Talent 2020

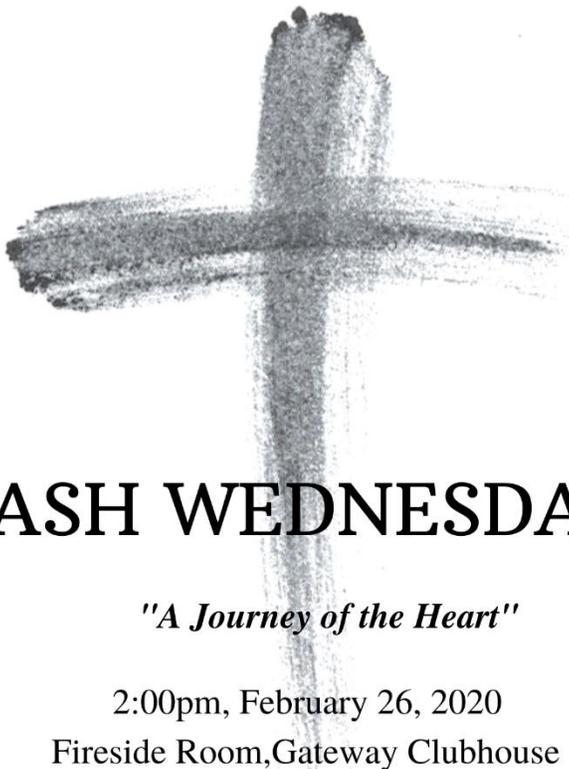
We need you! Hope is blessed with an abundance of members with many varied Talents. It is one of the reasons we have been so successful supporting our Church's mission over the past 50+ years. Please, prayerfully, review the Time & Talent form that was handed out and consider your unique talents and how they might support our great Church.



If you did not receive a form, they are available on the bulletin cart

Please turn in your Time & Talent forms to Robin Kanno.

Thank you!



ASH WEDNESDAY

"A Journey of the Heart"

2:00pm, February 26, 2020
 Fireside Room, Gateway Clubhouse

Worship Assistants for February 2020

Altar Guild

2/2 June Payne, Priscilla Mah, Sara Wood
2/9 June Payne, Priscilla Mah, Sara Wood
2/16 Jean Possin, Debbie Bergvall, Nancy Siebenand
2/23 Jean Possin, Debbie Bergvall, Ingrid Wood

Greeters

2/2 Dee Reichert, Ingrid Wood
2/9 Inge Knight, Linda Brun
2/16 Carol Krueger, Robin Kanno
2/23 Jean Possin, Gwen Carlson

Ushers

2/2 Evelyn Olson, Bill Ryan
2/9 Nancy Conrad, Gerda Peterson
2/16 Julane & Wayne Sampson
2/23 Shirley Griffey, Sandy Williams

Communion Assistants

2/2 Wally & Lina Hale
2/9 Robin Kanno, Nancy Siebenand
2/16 Mary Lyn & Jack Padley
2/23 Barbara & Wayne Quan

Lay Readers

2/2 Sandy Williams
2/9 Clint Mah
2/16 Mark Krauth
2/23 Julane Sampson

Thank you for your faithful service!
If you are going to be gone, please ask someone to trade with you.

Worship Assistant Coordinators

Altar Guild – Jean Possin
Ushers – Evelyn Olson
Communion Assistants – Mary Lyn Padley
Greeters – Sandra Williams
Lay Readers – Mark Krauth
Fellowship – Margaret Anderson
Offering Counters – Jean Possin
Altar & Table Flowers – Mary Lyn Padley

Hope Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Andy Smith
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Karen Woida
Anchor Contributor: Janice Callentine
Minister of Music: Wayne Anderson
Financial Manager: Carolyn Schick
Cantor: Don Gurley
Care Ministry: Marjatta DeSchepper
Operations Manager: Robin Kanno

Rossmoor Interfaith Council Representative: *open*

2019 Hope Church Council Members

Clint Mah (President) – *term ending*
Mark Krauth (Vice President)
Tom Hunt (Secretary/Treasurer) – *term ending*
Marjatta DeSchepper
Robin Kanno
Bill Kuhnsman
Carolyn Schick

NOTE: We will elect two new members to Council at our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26
