



The Anchor - The Newsletter of Hope

March 2020

Vol 11, Number 6

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

Lent: A Season of Reflection, Renewal, Preparation

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...."

--Psalm 51:10

The Season of Lent is about the heart. The Psalmist cries out for God to create within him a pure heart and to renew a steadfast spirit within him. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a season of reflection, renewal and preparation for Easter Sunday. This year, the theme for our Lenten journey is *"Wondrous Love: A Journey of the Heart"*. Please join us for the upcoming Lenten services beginning on Ash Wednesday, then a mid-week Lenten Bible Study and our six-week Sunday Morning Lenten Sermon Series.



ASH WEDNESDAY

"A Journey of the Heart"

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

The focus of the four Gospels is on the historical Jesus: His life, words and ultimately, his sacrificial death on a Roman cross. The letters of the Apostle Paul focus upon the present reality of Jesus in our everyday lives. On Tuesday, March 3rd, I will begin a five-week mid-week Lenten Bible Study from Paul's letter to the Philippians, the epistle of joy. Joy is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of God. In these five weeks, we will seek to find joy in our lives, even in the midst of challenging circumstances. We are inviting the greater Rossmoor Community to join us for this time of Bible Study, discussion, reflection and prayer.



Wondrous Love

Mid-Week Bible Study

Reflections for Lent

March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st,
2:00pm - 3:30pm, Multipurpose Room #3
Gateway Complex, Rossmoor
Sponsored by Hope Lutheran Church

Beginning on Sunday, March 1st, we will begin a new Lenten Sermon Series, *"Wondrous Love: A Journey of the Heart"*. During the six Sundays in Lent, our journey of the heart will include the following themes...



LENT

A SEASON OF REFLECTION, RENEWAL AND PREPARATION

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:

"Wondrous Love: A Journey of the Heart"

- Mar 1 1 Lent *Temptations of the Heart* Matt 4:1-11
- Mar 8 2 Lent *The Conversion of the Heart* John 3:1-17
- Mar 15 3 Lent *A Thirsty Heart* John 4:5-42
- Mar 22 4 Lent *Seeing with the Heart* John 9:1-41
- Mar 29 5 Lent *A Broken Heart* John 11:1-45
- Apr 5 Passion Sunday *A Heart Poured Out* Matt 26:14-27

Please plan to join us for these special Lenten worship services. On Easter Sunday, we will welcome new members into our Hope family. As we begin this inward journey of the heart together, may each one of us, like the Psalmist, cry out for God to *"create within me a pure heart."* I look forward to this journey with you.

Together in the name of Jesus,
Pastor Andy

“PRIORITIES”
by Janice Callentine

Some years ago, our national Church, the ELCA, introduced the concept of Living Lutheran. They even changed the name of our magazine from "The Lutheran" to "Living Lutheran".



I'm guessing that the idea was to get us thinking about things that we could incorporate into our daily lives that will help us live the lives of service to which all of us are called.

As we go through our daily lives, it is important to have guidelines to follow as we strive to live as followers of Jesus. Most of all, we are called to live lives of love and forgiveness. But there is another important part of Christian living that we seldom hear talked about.

I like to think of these guidelines as priorities. After love and forgiveness, I believe that the concept that Jesus talked about most was priorities. The Bible tells us of the Rich Young Man who wanted to follow Jesus but couldn't bring himself to sell all of his riches. His priority was money and it kept him from serving God.

There's the story of the man who couldn't follow Jesus because he said he had to bury his father. He didn't mean that his father was dead, he meant that he had to take care of his father until the father died. His priority was family, and it kept him from serving God.

Some people focus on the needs of daily living, what we will eat or drink or wear. In The sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and His righteousness ". After that Jesus said that everything else will take care of itself. Jesus makes it very clear that our relationship with the Lord is our number one priority.

In the old original TV Star Trek series, they refer to the Starfleet prime directive. This was their number one priority and it was not to interfere with the lives

of people on other planets. For another example, every doctor today takes the Hippocratic oath which starts out by saying, "first do no harm". This is a doctor's number one priority.

God's number one priority for us can be summed up simply by saying, "do the right thing." In the Old Testament, the prophet Micah lists God's top three priorities: "to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

To do justice means to do the right thing. Doing what is right can be difficult for us when it takes us out of our comfort zone. We often hide our discomfort behind the excuse of busyness. It is true that most of us lead busy lives and have more on our plates than we can handle. However, we should ask ourselves if some of the things on our "to-do" list are really more important than our relationship with God.

Sometimes we even confess our limitations and say that we are not good at doing certain things. In the book of Exodus, when God wants Moses to lead His people, Moses says that he is not a man of words, and is of slow speech.

God eventually got tired of Moses' excuses and told Moses that his brother Aaron would help. God had their backs and they got the job done. God also has our backs and, if we make our relationship with Him our top priority, not only will we be living Lutheran, but we will be living Christian as well.

Peace, love and HOPE,
Janice

Interfaith Council of Rossmoor

If you would be interested in becoming Hope's representative to the Rossmoor Interfaith Council, please contact Pastor Karen for more information.

QCD – Everyone Wins!

By Mark Krauth

As everyone knows, the congregation of Hope Lutheran passed a 2020 budget that is projected to be in the RED for the year. Asking people to increase their weekly or monthly contributions can be difficult.

However, what if you could increase your pledge by 10% to 20% without actually INCREASING the amount of money you give out of your pocket?

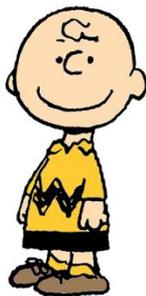
The answer is QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution). If you're over 70-1/2, and have an IRA, you can give to Hope Lutheran DIRECTLY from your IRA and the distribution will not be subject to any tax. It is a tax-free withdrawal from your IRA. All you need to do is tell your Financial Institution to send the check directly to Hope Lutheran and you just avoided paying the IRS their normal cut. (See the Instructional Handout available on the bulletin cart or see Mark Krauth if you have any questions regarding how to do this).

Money goes to Hope? Check. Helps to support your Church's mission? Check. Avoids the IRS? Check. Win/Win/Win.

Minister of Music Report



When I started seminary, I was introduced to a book by Robert Short titled "The Gospel According to Peanuts". Short was a young pastor who turned a slide presentation he used into a best seller. He presented slides created from the newspaper strip "Peanuts" by Charles Schulz and described how they related to New Testament Scripture. The seminary offered



discussion sessions with faculty and students to assess the merits of the book and how it might assist us to relate to life. It was powerful and I thought it would continue to be present in my mind forever. Well, like most things we study, I eventually forgot about the book with a new business and growing family taking precedence in my everyday life.

That all changed recently. I got an email from a friend who is active in his church and thought I would appreciate a slice of philosophy from the creator of "Peanuts". Try this first series of questions:

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five Miss America winners.
4. Name ten Nobel Prize winners.
5. Name the last ten World Series winners.

How did you do?

Now try these questions.

1. List a few teachers who helped you through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. List a few folks who have made you feel appreciated.
5. Name five people who you look forward to spending time with.

I'll bet you had no trouble with these.

The points are simple to understand and absorb. No one remembers fame and fortune for very long but everyone remembers those who changed our lives. The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, the most awards. They are the ones who care the most. You can make a difference too.

Wayne Anderson
Minister of Music

The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is a very special time of year for followers of Jesus and those who are preparing for Baptism. "Lent" is a term coming from the Old English meaning "Spring" and had to do with

The
Season
of
Lent



the transition from the darker days of winter to the lengthening of daylight hours leading to the equinox. Forty days of fasting associated with Lent commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted by the evil one, prior to the beginning of his ministry.

How the 40 days are calculated varies with different Christian denominations. In Roman Catholic tradition, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday). The Great Fast or fasting period continues to Holy Saturday, comprising 44 days. However, the Sundays are omitted from the Fast, making 40 days. In the Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist, and Western Rite Orthodox churches the Lenten Season goes from Ash Wednesday to the evening of Holy Saturday, making 46 days. The six Sundays are not counted in the fast, as Sunday is always a celebration of the Resurrection, so that makes the season 40 days.

Early in the Christian Church fasting was the abstention from certain foods as a form of sacrifice. Later it came to include the shunning of festivities, the giving of alms to the poor and doing other good deeds. Prayer has always been a paramount part of the season. In modern times, "fasting" has often come to mean giving up "vices" such as alcohol or chocolate. Rather than focusing on the "giving up", the hope is that believers will focus on the positive aspect of drawing closer to God and in showing love for neighbor. Reading the Bible or Lenten Devotion every day, spending more time in

listening prayer, and being intentional about reaching out to those who are ill or lonely, is a part of many people's Lenten discipline.

Since the earliest days of the Christian Church the 40 days has also been a time of preparation for baptism, which happened on Easter Eve. The gathered community would recall the history of God's people well into the night. When midnight came, the newly baptized would join the community in Holy Communion and the Easter Feast which followed. The Three Days (Good Friday, Holy Saturday/Easter Eve, and Easter Sunday) are called the Triduum and many churches today celebrate Holy Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation), and Reception of New Members on Easter Sunday. This year, at Hope, we will be welcoming new members on Easter!

The Color of the Season is purple. Chosen as a symbol of royalty, it also brings a somber tone to the season. In the Lutheran Church our paraments (Altar and Pulpit hangings, Banners, etc.) are purple and the pastors' stoles are purple as well. In some churches, altar flowers are removed during the season and the cross or crucifix may be draped in purple fabric.

The Lutheran Divine Service, the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the Anglican Churches, and the Presbyterian service of worship associate the Alleluia with joy and omit it entirely throughout Lent, not only at Mass but also in the canonical hours and outside the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" at the beginning and end of the Acclamation Before the Gospel at Mass is replaced by another phrase. (From Wikipedia)

This Lenten Season we join the millions of believers over time and all those in the world today who make this Journey of the Heart! May you draw closer to the Lord who has created and loved you!

Peace, love and hope,

Pastor Karen

Time & Talent 2020

Abundant thanks to everyone for your continuing participation and service in the many ministries at Hope.

Of our 112 members, 51 people signed up for one or more ministries available on our 2020 Time & Talent list. That's about 46% of our membership!

You make Hope great!





In Loving Memory

The family of Hope extends our love and sympathy to the family of **Carolyn Boggs** who died February 5th.



Please pray for Carolyn's family that they will experience God's comfort, peace and presence.

Anniversaries

Carolyn Schick celebrates her 12th Anniversary on the Hope Staff.



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

Upcoming Events in March

Sunday, March 1 – Choir practice at 9:00am;
Lenten sermon series begins.

Saturday, March 7 - Women of Hope Bible
Study at 10am in the Bunker Room at Creekside.

**Saturday, March 7 – Spring
Forward!** Tonight, before going
to bed, set your clocks AHEAD
one hour.



Sunday, March 8 - Choir practice at 9:00am
Daylight Saving Time begins

Monday, March 9 – Hope Council Meeting at
1:00pm

Friday, March 20 – Anchor articles and group
updates due

Sunday, March 22 – We will be having our 4th
Sunday luncheon after service. If you would like
to bring something, we could use desserts.

Sunday, March 29 – TTBB Tenor-Bass Choir
practice begins at 9:00am

Small Group News

The Women of Hope Small Group –The women's
Bible study will meet on Saturday, March 7, from
10-11:30am in the Bunker Room at Creekside.
Pastor Karen will lead the third session of the "We
are called" study found in the March issue
of *Gather* magazine. This session is entitled "Called
to serve" and will explore the work God calls us to
do in the world. Please see Priscilla Mah if you
have any questions.

Monday Lunch Group – On Monday, March 16,
the group will have lunch. Choice of restaurant to
be announced. 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 – After having
Lunch Bunch gatherings for 2 months on a
Thursday, we are back on the schedule of meeting
on Wednesdays. Sign up on Sunday, March 8 or
March 15, to attend lunch on March 18 at the home
of Wayne and Julane Sampson, 2425 Pine Knoll Dr,
at Entry 5, Unit #6. Time is 12:00-2:00 p.m. The
cost is \$5 per person.

The Small Group Going Out to Dinner – The
Small Group Going Out to Dinner will be dining at
Forli, an Italian restaurant located at 3160 Danville
Blvd, Alamo, CA 94507. The date is Thursday,
March 19th. Persons planning to attend should
contact Karen Peterson (934-8463) by March 17th.
Persons wanting to carpool should meet in front of
Gateway Clubhouse at 5 PM. Reservations are for
5:30 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 March on March 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.

Worship Assistants for March 2020

Altar Guild

- 3/1 June Payne, Priscilla Mah, Sara Wood
- 3/8 June Payne, Priscilla Mah
- 3/15 Jean Possin, Nancy Siebenand
- 3/22 Jean Possin, Ingrid Wood
- 3/29 Jean Possin, Ingrid Wood

Greeters

- 3/1 Lynne Smith, Linda Brun
- 3/8 Gerda Peterson, Shirley Griffey
- 3/15 Sandy Williams, Nancy Siebenand
- 3/22 Karen Peterson, Barb Gilbert
- 3/29 Jean Possin, Mark Conrad

Ushers

- 3/1 Evelyn Olson, Bill Ryan
- 3/8 Carol Krueger, Robin Kanno
- 3/15 Julane & Wayne Sampson
- 3/22 Wally & Lina Hale
- 3/29 Nancy Conrad, Nancy Siebenand

Communion Assistants

- 3/1 Mark Krauth, Sally Nordwall
- 3/8 Margaret Anderson, Bill Kuhnsman
- 3/15 Marjatta DeSchepper, Bill Ryan
- 3/22 Wayne & Julane Sampson
- 3/29 Evelyn Olson, Gerda Peterson

Lay Readers

- 3/1 Inge Knight
- 3/8 Barb Gilbert
- 3/15 Shirley Griffey
- 3/22 Karen Peterson
- 3/29 Nancy Conrad

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: Kimberly Twesme
Care Ministry: Marjatta DeSchepper
Operations Manager: Robin Kanno Rossmoor
Interfaith Council Representative: *open*

Welcome **Kimberly Twesme!**
Your beautiful voice is a gift to the Hope Congregation. We are so happy to have you as our Cantor.



Thank you, **Don Gurley**, for 10 years of sharing the gift of your wonderful voice with Hope. We love you!

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
Mark Krauth
Stella Liu
Jack Padley
Wayne Sampson
Carolyn Schick

2020 Hope Church Council Members

Bill Kuhnsman (President)
Barrie Christensen (Vice President)
Mark Krauth (Secretary/Treasurer)
Marjatta DeSchepper (Care Ministry)
Robin Kanno (Operations Manager)
Jack Padley (Liaison to Endowment Committee)
Carolyn Schick (Financial Manager)

Thank you, **Clint Mah** and **Tom Hunt**, for your outstanding service on the Hope Council.



Welcome to the Hope Council, **Barrie Christensen** and **Jack Padley**. We look forward to working with you.





SERMONS THAT HAD PEOPLE TALKING

Sermon on the Mount – Pastor Andy, Feb 2

Blessed

YOU ARE BLESSED...

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.”

“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.”

“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.”

“You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.”

“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.”

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.”

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.”

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.”

Matthew 5:3-10 (The Message)

Partial Recap of Pastor Andy’s Sermon 2/16

By Tom Lee



...on the way to Hope Lutheran



...waddling in



practicing with the wings ...no more waddling



...leaving Hope Lutheran ...with HOPE!