

The Voice of Hope

JUNE/JULY 2025

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



Interim Pastor's Column

Sing A New Song

What King David would think if he saw the songs that he wrote over 2800 years ago printed in the sacred text and our hymnals? Especially when there are eight specific calls in his Psalms for “new songs” to be written and sung.

In Matthew's Gospel, chapter thirteen, Jesus teaches seven parables about what the kingdom of God is like. Twice he takes the time to explain two of these parables to his disciples who didn't understand the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23) and the parable of the wheat among the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43).

After hearing these parables, Jesus asks his friends, *“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”* This leads to one of my favorite texts for us to consider what we value from our past, and what we might adopt that's new and feels like a fresh expression of what God is doing in our midst:

“And then he said to them, ‘Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old’” (Matthew 13:52). The master counts as treasure what is new and what is old. There's no reason to value one above the other. We also notice that Jesus suggests valuing what is new and old is a matter of “training.”

The interim time we have spent together has been a season to think about what we value that we've

always done, and to begin imagining a different future. Each pastor who has served Hope Lutheran has added their chapter to who we are and what we value. Now it's time to “clear the decks” for our next pastor to add her/his chapter to our lives together.

There may be some changes in the words we use (like a more contemporary Lord's Prayer). There may be different times that we worship, or do Bible study, and have meetings. You may consider creating task forces instead of relying just on “committees.” This is something I have suggested to our leadership to not make it about “monthly meetings,” but instead focusing on what we want to accomplish.

Most of us now realize that change is the greatest constant of living in the 21st Century. The pace of change in our culture continues speed up. It's one of the reasons we must step out of the speeding race of our current world, and stop! to take time to pray, and sing, and hear God's Word spoken to our hearts and minds and share in the ancient meal Jesus instituted in Sunday morning worship – treasuring what's old and new.

In joy, Pastor Kevin



A Message from your Council President



As I sit to write my President's Message, I am amazed that we find ourselves at the end of May. The last two months seem to have passed so quickly.

It was great to see so many Hope families and visitors at our Palm Sunday brunch and Easter worship. Jan, Alex, Eric, and our choirs went above and beyond to provide exceptional music for Easter. It was truly a joyful worship service. If you enjoy our choir offerings, please be sure to join us at Hope **on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th**. There is more special music planned for this worship service.

Pastor Kevin's sermon series on the Lord's Prayer will continue until June 8th. We are considering whether to adopt the updated version of the Lord's Prayer for our worship going forward. Please let us know if you have strong feelings about this. Starting on July 13th, Pastor Kevin will begin a new sermon series called "crucial questions" which examines how we live out our faith in our everyday lives.

Our **Semi-Annual Congregation meeting** will be held on **Sunday June 22nd** in Nielsen Hall following our Worship service. Some of the important business items include:

- ◇ Updates from our treasurer and Call Committee,
- ◇ Election of the 2025-26 Council members, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary,
- ◇ A Congregation vote on two major maintenance items
- ◇ Introduction of initiatives to reach new members

In preparation for our meeting, the council's Annual Report to the Congregation will be available for review on June 15th. We currently have vacancies for two additional council members. Please contact our Nominating Committee (Pastor Kevin, Don Hermansen, Sandi Kane, and Marilyn Johnson) if you are

willing to serve on Hope's council. Make plans to attend this meeting, as your vote is crucial to reach our quorum.

Additional upcoming events to mark on your calendar... On Sunday June 1st, we will recognize the students at Hope that are graduating or promoting to a new school. This year, we have 15 graduates. God-speed on the next leg of their life journey! Our Preschool will have their promotion ceremonies on Thursday June 5th, and will then break for the summer. A memorial service for long-time Hope member Patricia Kennison will be held on Saturday June 7th at 1pm, with a reception to follow in Nielsen Hall. And finally, from now to June 30th, Hope will be collecting monetary donations for the Samaritan House backpack drive.

The past months have seen very little in the way of necessary maintenance projects for Hope. This is good news! There are several projects that are planned in the preschool and education building while the children are on summer break. After so many months of discussion, we are also making headway on installing a new safety line on the sanctuary roof. This is the next step before maintenance to the stained glass and church bell tower can move forward. Additionally, the council is working toward the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Hope.

An update on our Pastor search. I am pleased to tell you that the Hope Transition team has completed their work and that our Ministry Site Profile has been accepted by the Synod team. The team received complements on the completeness of our profile and the obvious amount of thought that went into it. Once again a huge thank-you to our Transition Team (Eric, Margo, Mary, and Heidi) for this very important work.

The Hope Council and call committee completed diversity training classes as we prepare to consider a diverse set of candidates for the next Pastor of Hope. The Call Committee reviewed the MSP with the Tran-

sition Team and began the process of preparing to examine and interview candidates from the synod. We are on-track to receive candidates from the Synod in June. We have heard unofficially that there are several candidates interested in becoming Hope's next pastor. This is an exciting time for us!

Lastly, I wanted to share that Pastor Kevin, Don Hermansen, and I attended the 2025 Sierra Pacific synod gathering on May 17th in Walnut Creek. The theme for the gathering was "Do Not Lose Heart", and we were reminded throughout the day that hope persists, even in the face of uncertainty about our churches, Christianity in our country, and the political climate around our social welfare programs. The keynote speaker at the gathering was Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz, who serves as the Transitional Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of San Francisco. She was a powerful speaker, who acknowledged that church may not look like it once did, and calling for us to risk, experiment, and imagine new ways of being church. We were also able to sneak away and get a personal tour our Pr. Kevin's previous church, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Walnut Creek, which give ideas for Hope's facility. Overall, it was an uplifting day.

See you in worship and at the Semi-Annual Congregation meeting!

Judy Jeschke, Hope Council President

Mark your Calendar



**Sunday June 22nd in Nielsen Hall
following our Worship Service**

Notes from your Choir Director



Spring is in the air and flowers, trees and grasses are blooming profusely. We all enjoy the beauty of nature and the longer, warmer days. However, the result of all this blooming leads to aaaaaaaa CHOO!! As singers, spring allergies can cause problems with our voices. Everyone in our small choir has experienced discomfort this year, as it has been a particularly bad year for allergies. Somehow, we have persevered and continued to sing on Sundays.



Thinking back through April and May, I especially remember the joyous music on Easter. It was wonderful that our anthem combined singers, bells, youth singers and the organ. Alex and I have another joint song planned for June 8, Pentecost Sunday. This will be the end of the season for the choir and bells. Music will continue during the summer with solos, duets and a reprise of one or two of our favorite songs from this year. In July, I would like to schedule a "Gospel Sunday", where we sing a few of those sentimental favorites like "Precious Lord" and "Softly and Tenderly".

As we approach the summer break from regular rehearsals, I must give a "shout out" to the faithful members of the choir. Although small in number, they give their best to make a "joyful noise" each Sunday. Their dedication to the music ministry of the church must be acknowledged. To Marlys, Mary, Vicki, Ted, Jim and Hank - my thanks and appreciation for your musical offerings throughout the year.



Jan

Hope's Graduates



Congratulations to
Hope's 2025 Graduates!

The following individuals will be recognized in our
worship service on June 1.

Advanced Degree

- ◆ **Riley Sallander** will graduate with his Masters in Business Analytics from Cal Poly (California Polytech State University) San Luis Obispo.

College Graduates

- ◆ **Jackson Basch** (Jan Gunderson's Grandson) Graduated from University of Colorado (Boulder) with a Bachelor of Science in Strategic Communication.
- ◆ **Paige Holl** will graduate from Oregon State University (Corvallis). She is considering medical school following a year of work experience.
- ◆ **Sam Jung** graduated in May from Chapman University in Orange, California.

High School Graduates

- ◆ **Connor Dean** (grandson of Bill and Margo Kannenberg) is graduating from Prospect High School in Saratoga. He will attend West Valley Community College in the fall as a Theater major.
- ◆ **Maya Holland** (granddaughter of Don Hermansen) is graduating from Newbury Park High School.
- ◆ **George Kannenberg** (grandson of Bill and Margo Kannenberg) is graduating from The Caterham School in Caterham, England. He will attend USC in the fall, majoring in Political Science.
- ◆ **Noah Lin** graduated from Aragon High School. He will attend the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and plans to major in Psychology/pre-med.
- ◆ **Evan Phillips** (grandson of David and Mary Phillips) is graduating from Serra High School with plans to go to Michigan State University in the fall.

Promoting

- ◆ **Caitlyn Holl** is graduating 8th grade from Pacific Bay Christian School and will remain at the school for High School.

From the Desk of our Treasurer

Hope's financial information will be presented at the semi annual congregational meeting on June 22 and again in late January 2026.

Some current major efforts for Hope:

Community Outreach: We are collecting monetary donations in the month of June for Samaritan House's annual school backpack drive, which is held in Late July/early August. You can donate to this cause by writing a check to Hope Lutheran Church and noting that it is for Samaritan House.

Facility Maintenance & Repairs:

1. Our major project to install a new roof safety line is underway.
2. We are planning a re-painting project for the Preschool and Pastor's office over the summer.
3. Additional major maintenance projects have received council approval and will be presented at the semi-annual meeting.

M argo K annenberg



June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Graduate Recognition 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	2 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	3 4:00 Exec. Team 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:45 pm Bells Rehearsal	4	5 1pm Preschool Graduation and final day of school FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	6 AA*	7 1:00pm Celebration of the Life of Patricia Kennison 
8 Pentecost Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 11:30 Council Meeting 2pm Tongan Church*	9 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	10 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program* 9:30 am Quilting AA*	11 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program*	12 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	13 AA*	14 
15  10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	16 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	17 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program* 10:30 am Women's Bible Study AA*	18 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program*	19 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	20 AA*	21
22 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 11:30 Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting 2pm Tongan Church*	23 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	24 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program* 9:30 am Quilting AA*	25 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program*	26 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	27 AA*	28
29 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	30 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*					

The office is open Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday closed

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program*	2 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program*	3 Office Closed  FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	4 AA*	5
The office is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday closed						
6 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	7 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	8 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program* 9:30am Quilters	9 9am-3pm Summer Reading Program*	10 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	11 AA*	12
13 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 11:30 Council Meeting (tentative) 2pm Tongan Church*	14 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	15 10:30am Women's Study AA*	16	17 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	18 AA*	19
20 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	21 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	22 9:30am Quilters AA*	23	24 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	25 AA*	26
27 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	28 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	29 AA*	30	31 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*		

Rev. Marsha Harris is the pastor of Central Lutheran Church in Van Nuys. Pastor Kevin contacted her about taking quilts from Hope to share with fire victims in Southern California. This is a note she sent to Pastor Kevin to update us on what has happened.



Southwest California Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Greetings people of
Hope, and especially the quilters,

The Southwest Synod of the ELCA has been slow in getting some of its responses out by our own Bishop (Branda Bosh) losing her home and needing a leave of absence to deal with both the trauma and the paperwork. We had no prior policies for responding to disasters.

Now they have hired a Disaster Response Coordinator whom I know personally - someone who I got to know in my internship in 2015-16 - and they've been rolling out disaster response / relief funds for both the churches that received damage and individuals who need help while awaiting FEMA and Insurance funds.

Today I had a visit with the Bishop Brenda on another matter, and I took the quilts and pillowcases to the Disaster Response Coordinator who, less than 2 weeks into the job is coordinating "rehomeing" supplies and baskets. and is getting lists from the members at our churches and retired pastors who have been impacted of what needs they have at this point. They'll be working over the next couple of weeks or so to get kits put together, now that most victims of the fires have moved to interim housing while they're getting houses rebuilt or their property sold.

Bishop Brenda's family has already provided an heirloom quilt to her and her wife, so she deferred to the others to receive the beautifully gifts from Hope.

While we were getting to this point, my church hosted a summit of congregations from our conference on several matters (including response to the fires) on March 1st. The pastors and lay members from 14 congregations laid hands on and blessed the quilts that we laid out on our stage (someone got a photo but I'm still trying to track it down). Tori, the Disaster Response Coordinator is going to do her best to get pictures as people receive the quilts and kits, so as we get them I will share them.

March 23, 2015

I am thankful to God for Hope Lutheran Church and the role it has played in my family's lives. I want to gift this to you now while I am here to know you've gotten it.

-Bob Lillo

Earlier this year, Hope received a note of thanks and a generous donation from Bob Lillo.

News from Around the Synod and Beyond



ELCA presiding bishop issues pastoral letter on the election of Pope Leo XIV



ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has issued a pastoral letter on the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as Pope Leo XIV. "We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America join with people around the world in praying for the ministry of Pope Leo XIV," the letter read, in part. "We rejoice with the people of the Roman Catholic Church, especially those in our communities, as they joyfully receive their new shepherd."

Eaton says we share "context and theological roots" with the U.S.-born pope, noting that, like Leo, Martin Luther was an Augustinian. "We pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain Pope Leo XIV for the ministry to which he has been called, and will strengthen us all in our vocations as bridge-builders and as witnesses to God's love for all people and creation."

You can find the full letter at:

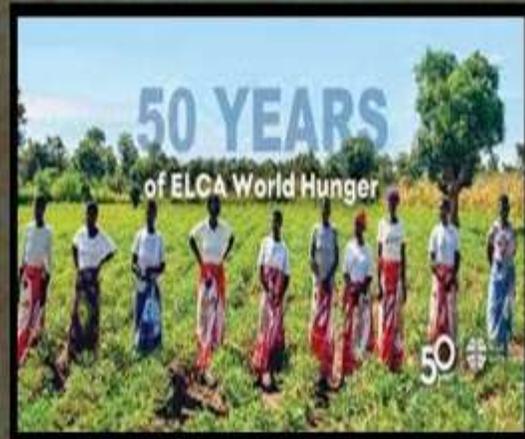
www.elca.org/news-and-events/pastoral-letter-from-presiding-bishop-eaton-on-the-election-of-pope-leo-xiv

What is Happening to Programs Supported by ELCA World Hunger?

How is **ELCA World Hunger** responding to major federal funding cuts? Join the Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network on **June 18 at 7 pm** via Zoom as we hear from Susannah Cunningham, Senior Director for the ELCA Building Resilient Communities Team, and learn how these programs are still making a difference—and how you can help.

To register, email **Edie at thelotts@gmail.com**

Zoom link will be sent a week before the event.



WELCA Conference 5 Event: Support for Apopa Lutheran Church

You are warmly invited to an afternoon of learning, fellowship, and support for the **Scholarship Program at Apopa Lutheran School in El Salvador**, hosted by **Women of the ELCA, Conference 5**.

Join us on **Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM** at **St. Mark's Lutheran Church**, located at **1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco**.

Rev. Lyle Beckman, will share stories from his recent visit to Apopa, offering a glimpse into the lives of the children and the impact of this vital scholarship program. The after-



noon will also include a musical skit celebrating Katharina von Bora, produced by Rev. Peter Krey, highlighting the enduring legacy of WELCA's Katie's Fund, and an Ice

Cream Social as we gather in community to support this important ministry.

All are welcome! Please RSVP to SPSWELCAC5@gmail.com as parking is limited.

Worship Assistants for June and July

Thank-you to the following individuals for assisting with our worship.

Date	Greeters	Reader	Assisting Minister	Audio and Video
June 1	Lisa Sallander	Skip Dahl	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Noah and Henry Lin
June 8	Marilyn & Phil Gaal	Deb Stucke	Don Hermansen	Sound: Nate Gertsch Steaming: Skip Dahl
June 15	Sandy Polster	Hank Harper	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Niels and Soren Voss
June 22	Louise & Bill Fischer	Don Hermansen	Helena Dummler	Sound: Skip Dahl Streaming: Judy Jeschke and Hank Harper
June 29	Mary Toalson	Doug Kannenberg	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Skip and Kari Dahl
July 6	Anne Wilson	Deb Stucke	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Skip Dahl and Hank Harper
July 13	Shirley Rohe	Don Hermansen	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Niels and Soren Voss
July 20	Helen Hanlon	Marlys Jungroth	Don Hermansen	Sound: Nate Gertsch Streaming: Noah and Henry Lin
July 27	Dusty and Bob Mendes	Doug Kannenberg	Helena Dummler	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Skip and Kari Dahl

2025 Altar Flowers

The flower chart for 2025 is up in Nielsen Hall. The cost for a vase of flowers is **\$35**. Please sign up for the dates that you wish.

If you are unable to sign up in person, but would like to help beautify the church, please just call the office.

To arrange for a message to be printed in the bulletin announcements, please call or email Ellie in the office no later than the Tuesday before your donation.

Flower donations can be picked up 15 minutes after the worship service concludes, or during office hours Monday-Thursday from 9am-3pm.



Hope's Prayer List

- Erica Grimstvedt
- Karen Reed
- Gilbert Schroeder
- Tim Hanlon
- Art Schillberg
- Lily Rankin
- Thom Johnson
- Robert (Bob) Lillo
- Jeremy Dummler
- Bill & Louise Fisher
- Leena Tuohey
- Lynn Van Dine (brother of Shirley Rohe)
- Lynn & Marlys Lovell
- Margit Hansen
- Jamie Petersen



Upcoming Events at



SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Join us for worship each Sunday at 10am.

Our services of Word and Sacrament will be **Sundays**

June 1 and 15th / July 6th

and 20th. We serve communion by intinction at the front of the church. We will also bring communion to those who prefer to take communion from their pew.



Our Online Sunday Worship Service

Watch our live-streamed services on the Hope YouTube channel. To find our channel, go to YouTube (www.youtube.com) and search for Hope Lutheran Church San Mateo. Select Live Streams to watch our service.

We also publish our recorded service on the Hope website (www.hopelutheransanmateo.com) at any time.

OFFICE HOURS

Our office is open on Monday-Thursday from 9am-3pm.

CAFÉ HOPE

Join us Sundays following our worship service. Members and friends are welcome to visit in Nielsen Hall. Coffee, tea, and individually wrapped treats are available.

HOPE'S BIBLE STUDIES

Join us for one of our Adult Education opportunities!

- Sunday Bible Study: Sundays @11:45am (following Café Hope) - will resume in July
- Women's Bible Study: Tuesday June 17th and July 15th 10:30am

QUILTERS

The Hope quilters meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday between 9:30am-3pm. in Nielsen Hall. We share coffee & goodies. Join us anytime. Sewing skills are not required!

Voice of Hope Deadline for August is Wednesday July 23

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Hope Lutheran Church

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www.hopelutheransanmateo.org

www.facebook.com/hopelutheransm

Sunday Worship can be viewed online at

www.hopelutheransanmateo.org/sermons
or on YouTube @hopelutheransanmateo9062



Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/hopelutheransm>. LIKE and FRIEND the page to keep updated on church events, learn about opportunities to become involved in our community, and SHARE with your friends.