

The Voice of Hope

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

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



Interim Pastor's Column

A Time to Trust

Our excellent Transition Team, who produced our paperwork for the Synod and potential pastoral candidates, rightly identified Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church of San Mateo to be at a “crossroads.” There are significant challenges ahead for Hope. The upkeep of our property – accessibility, deferred maintenance, upgrades to the Sanctuary, the roof and the organ. Many are asking about making our Worship more contemporary in style, music and more inviting to younger people (we have a task force for that too). And then there is the next chapter that a new pastor will write.

These could be cause for some anxiety. I want to encourage all of us to see this as a season for faith and prayer instead of anxiety and the fear of change. Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who was martyred under Adolph Hitler, wrote a classic book entitled *Life Together: A Discussion of Christian Fellowship*. Here's a passage which fits our times:

“Christian community is like a Christian's sanctification. It is a gift of God which we cannot

claim. Only God knows the real state of our fellowship, of our sanctification. What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God. Just as the Christian should not be constantly feeling his spiritual pulse, so, too, the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases” (Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, p. 30).

Jesus promises that God will build God's Church. Hope is a congregation of faith and increasing prayer. Hope has been blessed with so many long-time members who are deeply committed to doing whatever it takes to move Hope into a promising future. God will use your new pastor, your congregational leadership, and all of you (!) to grow – deeper and wider! I have no doubts about this!

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

That is a great word (!) for Hope going forward.

In joy,

Pastor Kevin

Join us Sundays in August for Pastor Kevin's Crucial Questions Sermon Series, where we explore questions like maintaining a work-life balance, a Christian view on managing resources, and preparing for our end of days.

See Page 4 of this newsletter for more details.



A Message from your Council President



The summer is quickly passing, and we have been travelling. With our children now busy with their own lives and activities, it is a challenge to get our whole family together. Fortunately, we were able to coordinate our schedules to meet up on the East Coast. We toured the sights in New England and visited with family and friends. It was a nice break from routine. Now back to the real world... school is starting again in just two short weeks.

Thank-you to the congregation members that took a break from their summer schedules to attend our Semi-Annual congregation meeting on June 22nd. At this meeting we elected our 2025-26 council members as well as our Treasurer and Financial Secretary. I am pleased to welcome Karl Voss (Personnel) and David Phillips (Finance) to this year's council. The names and positions for the entire council are listed in this month's Voice.

At our June meeting, the congregation also voted to approve the major repair work needed for our Organ. We hope to schedule this work to be completed in the summer of 2026. Finally, we learned about two Task Force efforts that are underway to help identify ways to envision and implement changes so that Hope can continue as a congregation for the next 70 years!. Our Worship Task force currently has enough members, but we are seeking volunteers for our Outreach Task Force to help us consider how we should communicate about Hope to those outside our church community. Please contact Margo Kannenberg or Eric Hoover if you have an interest in this initiative.

Other news from the council...

Education: Our New Testament Bible Study will continue in August after Café Hope. Our Sermon release Spark time is on break for the summer and will resume in September.

Evangelism: We will be hosting an Estate Planning presentation on Sunday September 14th in Nielsen Hall following Café Hope. We will be inviting members of the community. Please reach out to any friends that you think might be interested in this topic. Details are included in the Voice or please reach out to Sandi Kane for more information.

Property: We are working to get a defibrillator for Nielsen Hall and will offer training once everything is in place. We continue to work with Lynn Safety Inc. to provide a new safety line on the roof of the sanctuary. Also, as we announced in our congregation meeting, we are planning to replace the carpet in the sanctuary with carpet squares. During the month of August the various patterns will be on display and we will be asking congregation members to vote for which design they prefer.

Social Concerns: In July we voted to approve sending \$2000 from our church Benevolence budget to Lutheran Disaster Response, to assist those impacted by the recent floods across the US. We are also working on putting together an outreach effort or charity drive in September or October. Details will be shared later in August.

An update from the Call Committee...

The call committee has continued to meet throughout the summer to work toward choosing our next pastor. They held multiple interviews with several candidates. Please continue to pray for our Call Committee members (Helena, Frank, Deb, and Evelyn) as they deliberate on choosing Hope's pastoral leadership.

All Congregation Meeting... Sunday Sept. 7

We anticipate holding 1-2 congregation meetings this fall. The first meeting is to get the authorization to move forward with the carpet replacement in the Sanctuary. The estimated amount for this work exceeds the \$25,000 threshold that the council can authorize. This meeting is planned for **Sunday September 7** immediately following worship.

It is possible that we will require a second Congregation meeting later this fall to vote to select Hope's next pastor. The date for this meeting will be confirmed once we have more clarity on the timeline for the next steps in the Call process.

Your Sister in Christ,

Judy Jeschke, Hope Congregation President

Hope's Church Council July 2025 - June 2026

President: Judy Jeschke
(judy_jeschke@yahoo.com)

Vice President: Helena Dummler
(tibbyanya@gmail.com)

Secretary: Don Hermansen
(hermansendon@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Margo Kannenberg
(hopehelc@gmail.com)

Education & Youth: Helena Dummler
(tibbyanya@gmail.com)

Evangelism: Sandi Kane
(sandi.kane59@gmail.com)

Finance: David Phillips(dphillips143@gmail.com)

Personnel: Karl Voss (karl@vossnetwork.com)

Preschool: Judy Jeschke
(judy_jeschke@yahoo.com)

Property Management: Anne Wilson
(ambwlsn@gmail.com)

Social Concerns: Hank Harper
(hank.harper@gmail.com)

Stewardship: Shirley Klemens
(shirleyklemens@aim.com)

Worship: Don Hermansen
(hermansendon@gmail.com)

Non-Council Positions

Financial Secretary: Ellen Leaf
(emleaf@yahoo.com)

Notes from your Choir Director



The summer is half over, and our smaller congregations on Sunday indicate that many of us are traveling. My husband, Peter and I enjoyed a fabulous trip to London and Paris in June. Highlights



included several concerts at St. Martin in the Fields, which is a church with beautiful acoustics. They have a small professional choir which performs several free concerts during the week of sacred choral music. Across the street is Trafalgar Square, where we were lucky enough to see the London Symphony Orchestra rehearsing for their annual free summer concert. However, the best was yet to come. We attended the Matins service at Westminster Cathedral, arriving early enough to sit in the choir loft next to the choir of men and boys, and one woman! The service was all readings and music - the majestic organ - the sublime voices of the choir - the magnificent cathedral - it was truly a spiritual experience.

As I was searching through the ELW hymnal for gospel hymns, it was surprising to me how many are included in the Lutheran hymnal. It goes to prove that the heartfelt tunes and texts still resonate through the years, and are an important part of our American musical heritage. I am still having "ear worms" of those tunes in my head.

Even though it is worthwhile to re-visit those tunes, it is also important to learn some contemporary songs. A goal for the future will be to introduce new music to enliven our worship experience. A new pastor will certainly bring their worship ideas and style to our congregation, and we all want to move forward to maintain a loving, vibrant community at Hope.

Jan



Crucial Questions Sermon Series

Sundays in August

As we continue our Gospel lessons from Luke, one cannot help but notice that Luke connects Jesus' teachings about discipleship to stewardship. This allows us to ask some basic existential questions which is what our sermons will focus on for the remainder of the summer:

August 3rd **How Much is Enough?**

How do I manage my resources? (Luke 12:13-21)

August 10th **Do You Like Surprises?**

Planning for our inevitable end (Luke 12:32-40)

August 17th **What Time Is It?**

How do we judge the times in which we are living?
(Luke 12:49-56)

August 24th **What is the Sabbath?**

What's my work/life balance? (Luke 13:10-17)

August 31st **Is There a Cure for Selfishness?**

Can I learn humility? (Luke 14:1, 7-14)

If this subject matter intrigues you, a reminder that our sermons are posted online if you are traveling or have other Sunday morning commitments.

Pub and Pastor(s)

Thursdays in August, 7 PM
Alpha Acid Brewery, Belmont

Pastor Joshua Serano (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, San Carlos) and myself will be hosting a time of conversation, reflection, and trying out some brews on Thursday evenings in August.

We are going to meet the first week, August 7th at Alpha Acid Brewery, 121 Industrial Road, Unit #11, Belmont, CA 94002. If their "vibe" meets our needs, we'll stay there. If not, we have some other choices.

This will be a time for an open discussion of a variety of subjects, and we may have some more focused topics as well. Guys, come and join us, and bring a friend!!

In joy, Pastor Kevin

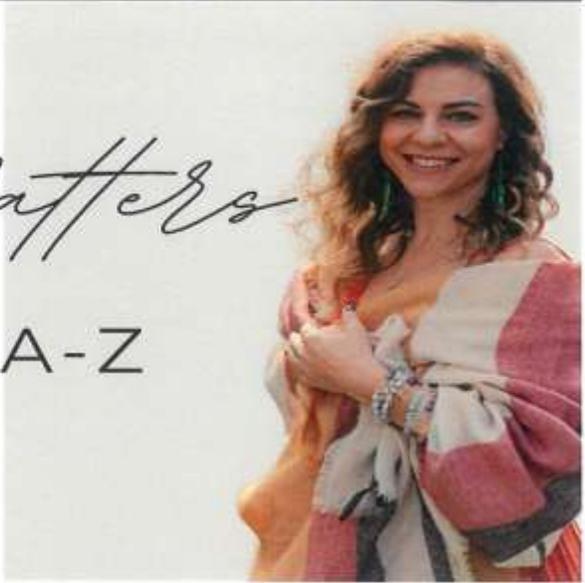


August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>The office is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday closed</p>					1	2
<p>3 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 11:30 Bible Study</p> <p>2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am Worship Committee</p> <p>AA*</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>7pm Pub and Pastors—Alpha Acid Brewery, Belmont</p> <p>FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>8</p> <p>AA*</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 11:30am Church Council Meeting</p> <p>2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>12*</p> <p>9:30 am Quilting</p> <p>AA*</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>7pm Pub and Pastors—Alpha Acid Brewery, Belmont</p> <p>FA* Neurotic's</p>	<p>15</p> <p>AA*</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 11:30 Bible Study</p> <p>2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30 Women's Bible study</p> <p>AA*</p>	20*	<p>21</p> <p>7pm Pub and Pastors—Alpha Acid Brewery, Belmont</p> <p>FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>22</p> <p>AA*</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 11:30 am Bible Study</p> <hr/> <p>31* 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 Quilting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Preschool Back to School night</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7pm Pub and Pastors—Alpha Acid Brewery, Belmont</p> <p>FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>29</p> <p>AA*</p>	<p>30</p>

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed Happy Labor Day	2	3 First day of Preschool classes	4 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	5 AA*	6
7 10:00am Worship and Communion 11am Congregation Meeting 11:15am Café Hope	8 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	9 9:30am Quilting	10 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	12 AA*	13 8am-5pm Tongan Church gathering
14 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 11:30am Estate Planning Worship 2pm Tongan Church*	15 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	16 10:30am Women's Study AA*	17 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 4:00pm Church Council FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	19 AA*	20
21 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	22 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	23 9:30am Quilting AA*	24 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	26 AA*	27
28 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	29 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	30 AA*	The office is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday closed			



Protecting What Matters

ESTATE PLANNING A-Z

Join Laura Croft, Esq. to learn how to keep your loved ones and assets protected. At this FREE education event, you will discover:

- How to make sure your wishes are honored
- How to ensure that the assets you leave to your children and loved ones are protected.
- How to pass on more than just your assets and leave a true legacy

EVENT DETAILS

September 14, 2025
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**During Cafe Hope immediately following church services*

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
600 42nd Ave, San Mateo, CA



PRESERVING YOUR TIMELESS LEGACY THROUGH
Estate Planning

Laura Croft

ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY

650-787-4142

INFO@TIMELESSESTATEPLANNING.COM

TIMELESSESTATEPLANNING.COM

@LAURA_D_CROFT

News from Around the Synod and Beyond



ELCA Bishop Eaton's message on The Budget Bill

In a message about the passage of the federal budget bill, Bishop Eaton expresses concern over how it will affect the most vulnerable in our communities. She encourages us to heed Luther's words and support our neighbors in all life's needs — even as it becomes more challenging — so that all may know the abundant life that Jesus has promised.

You can watch the video at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGMvAhFhGjE



Support flood recovery and response in Texas

The ELCA stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and rebuilding begins. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod and will work with other partners as well to respond to urgent needs, provide emotional and spiritual care, and support cleanup and long-term recovery. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that our neighbors are not alone on the long road to recovery after disasters like the floods in Texas. Give today at ELCA.org/flooding/donate.

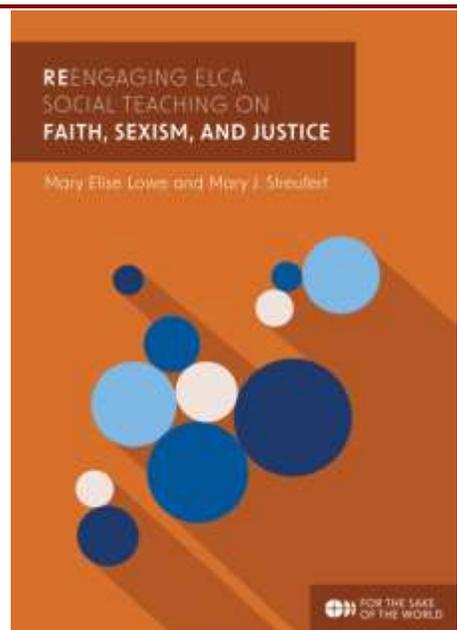


ReEngaging ELCA Social Teaching on Faith, Sexism, and Justice

In *ReEngaging ELCA Social Teaching on Faith, Sexism, and Justice* Mary Elise Lowe and Mary J. Streufert call us to think together about the ELCA's 2019 statement on faith, sexism and justice. What does it mean to embody Lutheran convictions to resist patriarchy and sexism, embrace multidimensional sex and gender, and envision a world that is life-giving for all humans? The book delivers a clarion call to action. Social and religious systems of patriarchy are sinful. God intends for God's diverse creation to flourish. We are called, therefore, to resist all barriers to lives of flourishing and abundance for everyone.

This book is available for purchase at:

www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/3381/ReEngaging-ELCA-Social-Teaching-on-Faith-Sexism-and-Justice



Worship Assistants for August and September

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

Date	Greeters	Reader	Assisting Minister	Audio and Video
August 3	Helen Hanlon	Deb Stucke	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Nate Gertsch Streaming: Niels and Soren Voss
August 10	Shirley Rohe	Marlys Jungroth	Don Hermansen	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Judy Jeschke, Henry Lin
August 17	Marilyn and Phil Gaal	Don Hermansen	Helena Dummler	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming:judy Jeschke, Hank Harper
August 24	Mary Toalson	Hank Harper	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Kari Dahl, Soren Voss
August 31	Sandy Polster	Doug Kannenberg	Marlys Jungroth	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Nate Gertsch, Hark Harper
Sept. 7	Lisa Sallander	Marlys Jungroth	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Skip Dahl , Judy Jeschke
Sept. 14	Shirley Rohe	Doug Kannenberg	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Henry Lin, Soren Voss
Sept. 21	Helena, Annika Elizabeth	Deb Stucke	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Nate Gertsch Streaming: Skip and Kari Dahl
Sept. 28	Anne Wilson	Skip Dahl	Helena Dummler	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Judy Jeschke, Henry Lin

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
- Lily Rankin
- Thom Johnson
- Robert (Bob) Lillo
- Jeremy Dummler
- Bill & Louise Fisher
- Lynn & Marlys Lovell
- Margit Hansen
- Lynn Van Dine (brother of Shirley Rohe)
- Jamie Petersen
- Ronnie Toschi
- Kirsten Simpson
- Carlos Cabezas
- Leila Dressel



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 August 3 and 17th/ September 7 and 21st.** 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.

Can't make it to Hope?

Watch our live-streamed services on the Hope website or 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.

MUSIC AT HOPE

Our Choir will resume practices in September. We are always seeking musicians to enhance our services. Contact Jan Gunderson if you can contribute your musical talents.

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 continue in August
- Women's Bible Study: Tuesday August 19th and September 16th 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 October is Monday September 22

Hope Lutheran Church
600 W. 42nd Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403



Hope Lutheran Church

phone: 650-349-0100

email: helc@pacbell.net

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.