

The Voice of Hope

OCTOBER 2025

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



Interim Pastor's Column

Hope's Bright Future

It is impossible to put into words how much love and joy Debi and I have experienced with you at Hope Evangelical (never forget!) Lutheran Church in San Mateo. As much as I have tried to maintain a disciplined approach to staying close to Jesus, nothing drives that more than serving as a pastor. Not because it is a “higher calling.” We all have that as Jesus followers. It's about always knowing that I am never adequate to the task and must rely on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit to have any chance at being effective.

As I reflect on our many joys and sorrows these past fourteen months, the strength and faith of the people of Hope have been something to behold. Despite being an “older congregation” – both historically as well as median-aged – there is a vitality and commitment in the people of Hope that I believe is second to none! A special word of thanks to the Executive Team, Church Council, Transition Team and Call Committee. I am genuinely excited about your future direction and prospects.

I am also excited about what I believe is an excellent match between Hope and (soon to be) Rev. Lauren Chambers. She has already fallen in love with this community, and I am sure you will reciprocate. She will provide a spiritual grounding to your future. Maintaining the health of this community will always be the foundation for all future growth. She is a “connector” which is perfect for a congregation where so many are involved in so many ways. Do not allow her coming to be an excuse for anyone to “step back.” Your new pastor should be an inspiration for everyone to “step up.”

I pray you will be willing to continue evolving the style of worship at Hope to be a place where new people want to come. I pray you will continue to reach out and join hands and hearts with folks from nearby churches. Ours is a Kingdom effort, not a merely parochial one. Continue to allow Jesus to be at the center of who you are as a church family and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in following Jesus and reaching out to the community.

We have December 21st in our calendars. We'll see you again at the Jazz Service the Sunday before Christmas. You have faithful prayer partners in Debi and me. Thank you so much for being so gracious to us in this time of transition.

Pastor Kevin



Please Join Us as we bid Farewell to Pastor Kevin
with a Hawaiian—themed brunch!

**Sunday October 26th during our Café Hope
fellowship hour.**



A Message from your Council President

The Times, They Are a Changin'



On my flight to Chicago last month, I had the opportunity to watch the Academy Award nominated (8 nominations) movie “A Complete Unknown”, which is a biographical film about the early career of Bob Dylan. I thoroughly enjoyed this movie, and it gave me a better appreciation for how the folk music scene intersected with politics in the 1960s. Bob Dylan’s song *The Times, They are A-Changin’* has been playing in my head since then. The lyrics for this song ring true in this day and age, for both the country and here at Hope.

In the past year, so much has changed at Hope. We have experimented with changes with our worship service, including updating the Lord’s Prayer. Communion has been brought to the front of the church to be more accessible to our congregants. We continue to seek interesting music variety for worship, including some non-traditional formats (jazz worship) and an infusion of songs from other Christian traditions. Since Eric joined us in September 2024 he has certainly demonstrated the range and power of our organ. Earlier this year we updated the furniture and repainted the pastor’s office. This week we will be cleaning the aggregate stone in our Narthex, and the sanctuary recarpet project will be happening soon. The biggest change of all is just around the corner—Hope has just called its first female pastor, Lauren Chambers.

Pastor Kevin has been instrumental in helping us see the possibilities for Hope’s future. I hope you will join us for Café Hope on October 28th as we bid Godspeed to Pastor Kevin and Debi with a Hawaiian themed sendoff luncheon. While we will be sad to see him leave Hope and move fully into retirement, I believe he has ignited a spark at Hope that will continue with

our next pastor. Lauren has already suggested some changes at Hope, and our worship task force is generating ideas for additional changes based on their observations of other popular churches in our area. While it is too early to determine if these changes will reverse our decline in worshipers, there is no denying that there is a renewed energy at Hope that we want to continue.

I am very excited about the new carpet installation. I think this will give an updated and much brighter look to our sanctuary, while still highlighting the beautiful altar and elaborate woodwork in our space. We do not yet have a date when the materials will be available, or when the crew will be able to begin the work, but we hope this will be before Thanksgiving. If you were in church last Sunday, you heard from council member David Philips about a fundraiser we are kicking off to help cover the cost of the carpet. Hope’s members and friends are invited to purchase one or more carpet squares. See the box on the next page for details on this fundraiser.

Recently, I received some questions about scheduling another clean-up day at Hope. It is that time of the year to wash windows, clean the cobwebs, and do a general spruce up of our facility. This was discussed at the last council meeting. We are hoping to coordinate this with the timing of the carpet replacement, as we will need volunteers to help clean out the choir loft and streaming areas. Date TBD, more information to come.

The memorial service for Ellen Leaf, who was called suddenly into the Father’s kingdom, will be on Saturday October 4th at 1pm with a brief reception to follow in Nielsen Hall. Thanks to Peg Shomaker, who has volunteered to fill her role as our Financial Secretary.

In November, we will kick off our Stewardship Campaign for 2025. Our Stewardship Sunday, the day to return pledge cards, will be November 23rd. More information about this is coming in November.

Lauren Chambers will begin leading worship at Hope

on Saturday November 2nd as our guest pastor. Her Ordination will be November 8th at 12pm at Christ Lutheran Church Visalia. Lauren has extended an invitation to attend for anyone in our congregation that would like to be present. I will be attending to present Lauren as a candidate for ordination and would be happy to have company on the trip. We are also planning a watch party in Nielsen Hall for anyone that wants to watch the livestream. The date of her Installation at Hope is not yet set.

Here are some 2025 Hope events to put on your calendar. Additional details will be shared in the November-December newsletter.

November 8th – Lauren Chamber’s Ordination at Christ Lutheran Church, Visalia CA (A watch party of the live-streamed service is being planned at Hope)

December 14th – International brunch

December 21st – Advent Jazz worship service (Back by Popular demand – Invite your friends and neighbors!)

My thanks to you, Hope family, that have partnered to make this journey of change possible. See you in church.

In Christ,

Judy

Hope's Carpet Square Fundraiser!

During the month of October, Hope's members & friends are invited to donate funds to cover one or more new carpet squares for our sanctuary.

Each carpet square will cost \$25. An entire row/pew of squares (15 squares) would cost \$375. If you would like to contribute to Hope to offset the cost of the new carpet, please write a check to Hope with a note in the memo line for Carpet Square Donation.



Notes from your Choir Director



The fall season is a time of new beginnings, and so it will be at Hope. We are all excited to soon be welcoming Lauren as our new pastor, but this change means saying goodbye to Pastor Kevin. His leadership, thoughtful sermons, warmth and caring for all of us has been a blessing! In sharing his personal life experiences with us, and how the turmoil and joys deepened his faith, in turn, this sharing deepened our faith. We will miss you, Kevin!

Our new Pastor will bring freshness and new ideas into the Worship service. As we plan our music, my goal is to have a mixture of favorites and new hymns. Relating to and enhancing the theme of the day is always the goal in choosing appropriate music. I'm sure that Lauren has her preferences, and may introduce new hymns for us, which might become new favorites. I look forward to her input and ideas.

On Sunday, September 14, we all sang #581, "You Are Mine" which was new, and the congregation picked up the tune easily and sounded quite good. The choir and bells have begun our weekly rehearsals - changing to a Tuesday at 4:30 for choir and 5:30 for bells. If you have been thinking of joining us, remember, It's never too late to jump in!

Many thanks to all who offered special music this summer - Vicki, Marlys, Jim, Hank and Ted all sang. Eric played a special piece and our budding musicians, Annika and Elizabeth sang the lovely tune, "Simple Gifts" for us. I am grateful to all.

Jan



**SAVE
THE DATE**



Lauren Chambers
WILL BE ORDAINED TO THE
MINISTRY OF WORD AND
SACRAMENT
IN THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

WHEN: NOVEMBER 8 | AT 12 PM
WHERE: CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
3830 W TULARE AVE
VISALIA, CA 93277

OR VIA YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM:
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
@CHRISTLUTHERANCHURCHVISALIA18499](https://www.youtube.com/@CHRISTLUTHERANCHURCHVISALIA18499)

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE
COMMUNITY CONNECTION CENTER
ALL CLERGY ARE INVITED TO VEST AND PROCESS.
THE COLOR OF THE DAY IS RED

Preschool Corner
October 2025

As the school year begins, the children and teachers are settling back into routine. The children are excited for some of their favorite activities as the month of October arrives. First, we will be taking the children to Lemos Farm in Half Moon Bay where they will be searching for the perfect pumpkin, riding ponies and going on hayrides.

The school is continuing the monthly Village Host Pizza Fundraiser, which is held every first Tuesday of the month. On October 16th, we will participate in the Great California Shakeout and practice earthquake and fire drills. Finally, we end the month with one of the children's favorite holidays, Halloween. They will come all dressed up in their costumes and have a parade to Ellie's office.

We will be having our Annual See's Candy Holiday Fundraiser starting the end of October. If any church members are interested, the preschool would appreciate your order. The forms will be available in the church office soon, please include your money with your order by November 20th. Thank you very much for helping the preschool!

Blessings,
Tracy



Join us for A Celebration of life for

Ellen Brackett Leaf

Saturday October 4 at 1pm
With a brief reception to follow

Ellen was called to her heavenly home on September 8,
2025 at the age of 82.



October 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	3 AA*	4 Ellen Leaf Celebration of life @ 1:00 pm
<p>5 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 11:30 Bible Study</p> <p>2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>6 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>7 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>AA* Men's Bible Study Fellowship</p>	8	<p>9 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	10 AA*	11
<p>12 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 11:30am Bible Study</p> <p>2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>13 Preschool Closed for Teacher Inservice</p> <p>AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>14 9:30am Quilting 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells</p> <p>AA* Men's Bible Study</p>	15	<p>16 4pm Church Council Meeting</p> <p>FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	17 AA*	18
<p>19 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 11:30 Bible Study</p> <p>2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>20 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>21 10:30 Women's Bible study 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells</p> <p>AA* Men's Bible Study</p>	22	<p>23 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	24 AA*	25
<p>26 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope Going away party for Pr. Kevin</p> <p>2:00pm Tongan Church</p>	<p>27 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>28 9:30 Quilting 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells</p> <p>AA* Men's Bible Study Fellowship</p>	29	<p>30 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	31 AA*	

News from Around the Synod and Beyond



The Rev. Yehiel Curry: Installation as the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA October 4th at 11am Pacific Time



On **Saturday, October 4, 2025**, the Rev. Yehiel Curry will be installed as **presiding bishop of the ELCA**. The service will take place at 2 p.m. Central time (**11 a.m. PDT**) at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Rev. Curry, elected during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Curry has served as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019 and was re-elected in 2025. Previously, he served as mission developer and pastor of Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Illinois. He earned his M.Div. at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. You can read more about Rev. Curry in a July interview he did with Living Lutheran magazine: www.livinglutheran.org/2025/07/casting-a-vision-for-the-church/

This installation marks a new chapter in our church's witness. As Lutherans, we celebrate God's ongoing work to raise up leaders who guide us in proclaiming the gospel, serving our neighbors, and seeking unity in Christ across differences.

The Installation will be livestreamed and can be accessed from the ELCA website.

www.elca.org/about/churchwide/office-of-the-presiding-bishop/presiding-bishop-installation

LOPP-CA Statement on Prop 50

As the election season begins, the [Lutheran Office of Public Policy–California](#) has shared its discernment on CA Proposition 50, temporarily replacing congressional district maps. Following is an excerpt from that discernment.



It is our standard practice to recommend “strong support” or “strong oppose” where our social teaching is directly on point; “support” or “oppose” where the teachings are not directly on point but a good faith reading of them would tend to support or oppose the proposition; “no position” where our teaching is silent; and “neutral” where the issue implicates multiple contradictory statements. Under this established framework, we are compelled to recommend neutral on Proposition 50.

We know there is no “neutral” oval to check on the ballot; citizens who retain the right to vote (for now) must answer yes or no. This question feels simultaneously momentous and miniscule, and a recommendation of neutral feels insufficient. In the interest of humility and transparency, we are moved to share that we unanimously intend to vote yes on Proposition 50, as we endeavor to use fallible human systems to protect the well-being of all.

You can read the full letter, accompanied by a letter of support from the Bishops of the Sierra Pacific, Pacifica, and Southwest California Synods of the ELCA, on the LOPP-CA website (lutheranpublicpolicyca.org).

Worship Assistants for October

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

Date	Greeters	Readers	Assisting Minister	Audio and Video
October 5	Bob & Dusty Mendes	Marlys Jungroth	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Skip Dahl Streaming: Kari Dahl & Henry Lin
October 12	Shirley Rohe	Deb Stucke	Don Hermansen	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Judy Jeschke & Nate Gertsch
October 19	Sandy Polster	Doug Kannenberg	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Skip and Kari Dahl
October 26	Mary Toalson	Don Hermansen	Helena Dummler	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Henry Lin & Soren Voss

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 October 2025

- 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
- Family and Friends of Ellen Leaf



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 October 5 & 19**. 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 Choirs practice on Tuesday evenings. 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 October
- Women's Bible Study: Tuesday October 21st at 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 November is Wednesday October 22

Hope Lutheran Church
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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.

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