

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

"Knowing and sharing the good news of Hope in Christ"



Introducing Lauren Chambers

"Please allow me a moment to introduce myself. I am absolutely delighted to be the next pastor at Hope and to walk alongside you all in life and faith.

What You Should Know About Me as Your Pastor:

I care deeply about you. I want to know about your joys, struggles, questions, and doubts. However, I am not a mind reader. If you would like a visit, or if something is going on in your life, please don't hesitate to let me know. I want to show up for you, but I won't always know when something is going on unless you tell me.

I value honesty over perfection. You don't have to pretend to have it all together around me. I believe God meets us in our real, messy, and beautiful lives — right where we are.

You don't need to impress me. Whether you come every Sunday or just once a year. If you have questions or strong convictions, whether you're coming for the first time or the 5,000th, I just want you to come!

I am just as human as you. My vocation doesn't make me 'holier' or 'closer to God'... I don't have all the answers, and I will never pretend like I do. I am an imperfect person who has dedicated myself to worshipping a perfect Christ!



Lauren E. Chambers

WILL BE INSTALLED AS
PASTOR

AT HOPE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN SAN MATEO

600 42ND AVENUE
SAN MATEO, CA 94402

NOVEMBER 15 | AT 1 PM

ALL CLERGY ARE INVITED TO VEST AND PROCESS.
THE COLOR OF THE DAY IS GREEN

HOPE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AS WE CELEBRATE'S LAUREN INSTALLATION AT HOPE.

I believe the church should be a place of safety and belonging. I take the responsibility of creating a space where all people feel seen, valued, and loved very seriously."

Your (soon-to-be) Pastor Lauren

A Message from your Council President



Last Sunday’s time change served as an undeniable reminder that shorter days and the 2025 Holiday season are imminent. November and December will once again be a busy time at Hope. Please take a moment to read about all that is happening and make plans to join us.

First up, I want to especially draw your attention to two very important events in the life of our next pastor, Lauren Chambers. Lauren’s ordination will be at 12pm on Saturday November 8, 2025 at Lauren’s

home church, Christ Lutheran Church – Visalia. The service will be livestreamed and I hope many of you will tune in. You can find the link to view the service in this newsletter. The following Saturday, Pastor Lauren will be installed at Hope. Mark your calendar for **Saturday November 15 at 1pm**. Congregation members are encouraged to attend, and we will have a reception for Lauren following the service.

November is stewardship month at Hope. Pledge cards for 2026 offering commitments were mailed to our members this week. Please return your card by mail or drop it off at the Hope Office by November 24, 2025. Our 2026 budget committee will gather in early December to begin the budget process for next year, and these pledge cards are important information to assist this process.

News from the council: In our October meeting we approved Hope’s benevolence allocations for 2025, and those can be found listed in this newsletter. We have confirmed with Schoenstein for our major Organ restoration project, and that work is scheduled for October 2026. Our defibrillator has arrived and will be mounted in Nielsen Hall near the kitchen very soon. We are also working to set up training for anyone in the congregation that is interested in learning how to use this device. The new carpet for the sanctuary is currently in manufacturing, and the carpet installation is scheduled to begin before Thanksgiving. The new carpet will be installed in phases (altar area first, then choir loft, then main floor of the sanctuary) to minimize disruption to our worship services. Thank-you to everyone that participated in our carpet fundraiser. As of October 31 we had collected \$5675, enough to purchase 227 squares, which covers the space of 12 pews.

I also wanted to thank our voting members for their support in our special congregation meeting on November 2. Your trust in our council members to make wise decisions for the care of our buildings and property is so appreciated. I

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

hope to have good news to share about the progress with our new safety line and access ladder in our January Congregation meeting.

Advent and Christmas at Hope: This year, Advent begins on November 30th. Our decorating date for the Church and Nielsen Hall will be Saturday December 6th. Please join us if you can help with this, even for an hour or two. We will begin at 9am and decorating generally continues past 12. This Advent, we will continue the Hope traditions of the lighting of the advent candles at the beginning of each service, and the International Brunch (December 14) and cookie exchange (December 21). Also, back by popular demand, Alex and his jazz musicians will return to provide an Advent Jazz worship service on December 21th during our regular worship time. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend (or six) to worship at Hope for a unique and lively worship service. Our Christmas Eve service will be Wednesday December 24 at 5pm.

In Joy and Thanksgiving,
Judy



2025 Benevolence Distributions

The Hope Council has approved \$13,557 in Benevolences to be disbursed this year, in accordance with the Hope budget. The council voted to primarily focus our funding to organizations that operate in our local area. Our 2025 distributions will be allocated to the following organizations.

Second Harvest Food Bank:	\$3557
Samaritan House:	\$2000
Life Moves:	\$2000
CALL Primrose:	\$1500
Lutheran Disaster Relief (Floods)	\$2000
ELCA World Hunger:	\$1000
CORA:	\$1000
Hillcrest Chaplaincy	\$ 500

Preschool Corner November/December 2025

The children had a wonderful time last month with all their activities!

- We celebrated the hot weather with Water Day.
- We went to Lemos Farm
- We had two fire trucks/five firemen come to school and the children were taught about fire safety
- We participated in the Great California Shakeout.
- The children celebrated Halloween. They looked absolutely spook-tecular in all their Halloween costumes as they went

on a Halloween parade to Ellie's office (Thank you Ellie!).

We have lots of learning material prepared for this month. The students are looking forward to learning about the first Thanksgiving, doing fun turkey inspired art and being grateful for all the wonderful things around them.

During the month of December, we are teaching the children the true meaning of Christmas through stories, music and art. They are extremely excited for their annual Christmas Performance where they get to sing their favorite Christmas songs for their families in Neilson Hall.

In October and November, we will participate in our annual See's Candy Fundraiser which helps fund our Family Night and other special activities. Please help support the preschool by ordering some delicious chocolate! To place an order, there will be forms in Nielsen Hall. Please return the form to Elie with a check written out to "**Hope Lutheran Preschool**". The last day to place an order is on the November 17th, so don't miss your chance to help the preschool!

Again, thank you for your continuous support.

Blessings, Tracy



Advent and Christmas Festivities 2025

Saturday, Dec 6th. Decorating Hope's sanctuary and Nielsen Hall. 9 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14th. International Brunch. During Café Hope

Sunday, Dec. 21st. Advent Jazz Worship Service at 10 a.m.
Christmas Cookie Exchange during Café Hope

Wednesday, Dec. 24th. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28th. Service of lessons and Christmas Carols

Please join us for these wonderful events in December as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.



International Brunch

**Sunday, December 14
2025 following worship**

Please join us in Nielsen Hall for our annual International Brunch!!

This year, we have decided to make this a pot-luck brunch. Signup sheets will be posted in Nielsen Hall before Thanksgiving. We welcome foods from all cultures! We also need help with prep work, set up, and cleaning.

If you are able to help, please sign-up or contact Sandi Kane at 415-902-0958.

Christmas Decorating @ Hope

Saturday December 6th at 9am

Volunteers will be decorating both the sanctuary and Nielsen Hall. This is a time to feed your creative juices – and have a good time while making our worship spaces welcoming for all who join us, in person and on line, for services – and for food and fellowship. There are many tasks for all “creative” levels!



Advent Candle lighting



November 30

The Gerstch Family

December 7

The Shomaker/Holl Family

December 14

Jeschke/Lin Family

December 21

The Sallander family

November 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
<p>2 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 11:30am Special Congregation Meeting 2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>3 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>4 4:30pm NO Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship AA*</p>	5	<p>6 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>7 AA*</p>	<p>8 Lauren Chambers Ordination @ 12:00 pm Watch online at clcvisialia.org</p>
<p>9 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>10 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>11 VETERAN'S DAY (Preschool Holiday) 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship</p>	12	<p>13 4:00 pm Council Meeting FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>14 AA*</p>	<p>15 Pr Lauren's Installation @ 1:00 pm With reception to follow</p>
<p>16 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>17 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>18 10:30 Women's Bible study 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship* AA*</p>	19	<p>20 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>21 AA*</p>	22
<p>23 10:00am Worship 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>24 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>25 4:30pm Choir AA*</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Office Closed FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>28 </p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*</p>	<p>AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>	<p>AA*</p>		<p>FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*</p>		

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible followship AA*	3	4 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	5 AA*	6 Decorating Hope for the Holidays @ 9:00 am
7 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	8 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	9 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible followship AA*	10	11 FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	12 AA*	13
14 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope—International Brunch 2pm Tongan Church*	15 AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	16 10:30am Women's Study 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible followship AA*	17	18 Preschool Christmas sing FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	19 AA*	20
21 Advent Jazz Worship 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope- Cookie exchange 2pm Tongan Church*	22 Preschool winter break begins AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	23 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells AA*	24 Christmas Eve 5PM Worship	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas! FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*		
28 10:00am Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	29 Office Closed AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	30 AA*	31	1 Office Closed Happy 2026!		

A Celebration of Christmas Carols

5-Piece Jazz Band Advent
Worship

**Sunday December 21st
at 10am**

or view online at
HopeLutheranSanMateo.org



Featured songs include:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Angels We Have Heard on High

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

What Child is This?

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Carol of the Bells

Joy to the World

The First Noel

SWING by for an uplifting
JAZZ service to celebrate the
season!

*This unforgettable service will
fill your heart with joy and your
feet with rhythm.*

**Invite your friends and
family to Hope for this
unique and lively worship
experience!**



Notes
from
your
Choir Director

As our beautiful fall
weather fades into

November, we are anticipating a new beginning with Pastor Lauren. I look forward to her ideas and enthusiasm as she ministers our congregation.

You may have noticed that the choir is smaller this fall. The choir laments the loss of Ted Fancher as our tenor. He loved singing with us, but his memory struggles became too much for him to continue. We miss his dedication and humor.

By now you have noticed the new arrangement of the choir chairs and bell tables in the Chapel. This change is better for our sight-lines and gives us a little more room in the area.

Planning is underway for Thanksgiving and Advent. One special event which will highlight the season is the return of Alex and his jazz group. His program was so meaningful and enlightening last year, that his group will return on December 21, for the Sunday service before Christmas. What a wonderful way to begin Christmas week! On Christmas Eve, we will have our traditional service with the choir and young people joining, the bells and our favorite carols, ending with candles and "Silent Night".

Jan

Annual Cookie Exchange

Sunday December 21, 2025 During Café Hope

Please join us in Nielsen Hall on December 21st for Café Hope and cookies. We will have a table set out for our COOKIE EXCHANGE. The rules are very simple:

- 1). Make a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies.
- 2). Bring as many cookies as you would like to take home (bring a dozen, take a dozen home).
- 3). We will provide plastic zipper bags for you to pack up your goodies to enjoy at home with family and friends.

News from Around the Synod and Beyond



Statement From Bishop Jeff Upon the News of Federal Agents in the Bay Area



October 23, 2025

*“Perfect love casts out fear”
(1 John 4:18)*

Siblings in Christ,

News of federal immigration actions in the Bay Area stirs anxiety in our communities and uncertainty in our hearts. Yet as fear sweeps down upon us, love wells up within us. And love—God’s love made flesh among us—is stronger than fear, stronger than violence, stronger than intimidation, stronger than death.

When fear and violence are on the move, the Church must move with love. We stand together with the targeted and the vulnerable. We bear witness to our solidarity on the Way of Jesus—not because it is easy or popular, but because it is faithful.

“Stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and in no way intimidated by your opponents.” (Philippians 1:27–28)

In this moment we are called to stand up and to stand together—to stand for love and to bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ among us.

If you encounter officers of the government who stir fear or disrupt the peace of our neighborhoods, root yourselves in faith and in prayer. Let your footing be courage and compassion. Stay centered and wise. Do not amplify anxiety, but share trustworthy information. Keep watch over one another. Reach out to your neighbors.

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another; be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” (Romans 12:9–12)

Hold fast to what is good, my friends. Love is stronger than evil. This is our confession. This is our hope. And this is our witness.

Confident that God’s grace is sufficient,

+Jeff



Good news: there’s still time for you to [subscribe](#) to *Living Lutheran* and receive the winter 2025-'26 issue of our print magazine! **SNEAK PEEK:** Our winter issue is packed with engaging stories and moving seasonal reflections in time for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Ash Wednesday. We’ll also provide in-depth coverage of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry’s installation and the meaningful ministries happening in the ELCA’s rural congregations.

Visit livinglutheran.org/subscribe to set up your individual subscription. Subscribe by **Nov. 10** to receive the winter issue.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1420 Lafayette Street Alameda, CA 94501

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

Holiday Arts & Craft Boutique
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

SAT NOV 15 Handcrafted gifts, treats & treasures, Fun, festive, & FREE Admission!

Worship Assistants for November and December

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

Date	Greeters	Reader	Assisting Minister	Audio and Video
Nov. 2	Lisa and Mike Sallander	Hank Harper	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Skip Dahl Streaming: Kari Dahl
Nov. 9	Shirley Rohe	Caitlyn Holl	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Nate Gerstch Steaming: Judy Jeschke and Henry Lin
Nov. 16	Marilyn and Phil Gaal	Doug Kannenberg	Helena Dummler	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Skip and Kari Dahl
Nov. 23	Don Hermansen	Skip Dahl	Karl Voss	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Nate Gerstch and Soren Voss
Nov 30	Sandy Polster	Sandi Kane	Don Hermansen	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Skip Dahl and Nate Gerstch
Dec. 7	Holl/Shomaker Family	Caitlyn Holl	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Soren Voss and Henry Lin
Dec. 14	Shirley Rohe	Don Hermansen	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Skip Dahl and Judy Jeschke
Dec. 21	Sandy Polster	Margo Kannenberg	Don Hermansen	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Judy Jeschke and Henry
Dec. 24	TBD	Erica Lin	Helena Dummler	Sound: Skip Dahl Streaming: Kari Dahl and Noah Lin
Dec 28	Mary Toalson	TBD	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Skip and Kari Dahl

**GOD LOVES A
CHEERFUL
GIVER**



Stewardship Sunday is November 23rd

Stewardship is much more than financial service to our church and to God. It involves other ways of letting our light shine that we may give glory to God in Heaven. We hope that you will prayerfully consider giving your time, talents, and financial gifts in service to the church.

Please return your monetary pledge card for 2026 to Hope by **Monday, November 24th.**

Hope's Prayer List

- Erica Grimstvedt
- Karen Reed
- Gilbert Schroeder
- Tim Hanlon
- Lily Rankin
- Thom Johnson
- Robert (Bob) Lillo
- Jeremy and Kristin Dummler
- Bill & Louise Fischer
- Lynn & Marlys Loveall
- Jamie Petersen
- Ronnie Toschi
- Delores Roscoe
- Debra Stucke
- Marlys Jungroth
- MaryAnn Kestle
- Lynn Van Dine



Upcoming Events at



OFFICE HOURS

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

We will be closed November 26th and 27th (Thanksgiving) and December 25th and 29th (Christmas).

DISCOVER
HOPE
this Christmas

All-ages Worship
December 24th at 5pm



SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Join us for worship each Sunday at 10am.

Our services of Word and Sacrament will be **Sundays Nov 2, 16, and 30. Starting in December we will serve communion every week.**



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.

CAFÉ HOPE

Join us Sundays following our worship service. All are welcome to visit in Nielsen Hall for coffee, tea, and light refreshments.

Voice of Hope Deadline for January is Monday December 22nd

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.

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