

The Voice of Hope

MARCH/APRIL 2026

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



Pastor Lauren Chambers

This Ash Wednesday, after our noon service, several volunteers and I had the joy of offering **Ashes to Go** to 15–20 passersby in Central Park, despite the rainy weather, it was a simple but meaningful way to mark the beginning of Lent together. As we enter this season, our theme is “**Encounters.**” From the

wilderness to the tomb, Lent invites us to notice how Jesus meets us in the realities of our lives—our temptations, uncertainties, thirsts, grief, and the weight we carry. Each week, we will encounter Christ in a new way: in the wilderness where trust is tested, at the well where deep thirst and boundaries are met, through healing that restores sight and dignity, in grief where sorrow is honored, on the streets of Jerusalem as celebration and confrontation meet, at the cross where suffering and steadfast love intersect, and finally in the resurrection, where life triumphs over death and God’s love transforms everything. In each encounter, God meets us as we are, calling us into new life.

I also want to invite you to a new Bible Study opportunity I am calling **Meditatio Mondays** which will meet on Zoom at 5:00 p.m every Monday evening. It will be a time for reflective *lectio divina* on the weekly Gospel passage.

During the month of March, we will be breaking from our regular Sunday Morning Bible studies, but I hope that you will join in on the Midweek Lenten Services that will be hosted at several of our neighboring churches during March. (See the calendar for details).

May this Lent and Easter be a season of noticing, listening, and encountering Christ in unexpected places—both in the world around us and in the quiet places of our hearts.

With grace and peace,
Pastor Lauren



Palm Sunday (March 29th), 10 AM
Café Hope – a community brunch, 11:15 AM

Good Friday (April 3rd), 7 PM
Readings, Hymns and Reflections

**The Resurrection of Our Lord
(April 5th), 10 AM**
Processional and Flower Cross

A Message from your Council President



Dear Members and Friends of Hope,

How can it be possible that we already find ourselves at the end of February? Truly, the first two months of this year seemed to fly by.

I would like to thank everyone that attended our Congregation Meeting in January. If you missed the meeting, here is a quick recap. At the meeting, we shared how blessed Hope was in 2025. Exciting things are happening! Our Call to Lauren as our Pastor has given a positive energy to Hope's worship and we are excited for the new ideas she brings. Our new carpet in the Sanctuary has modernized and brightened our worship space. Due to large memorial gifts and a one-time generous member donation, we ended the year with a significant financial surplus. Also in the meeting, Margo reported on the work of the Worship Task Force (Eric Hoover, Margo Kannenberg, Marlys Jungroth, Jan Peterson, and Pastor Lauren), the process they followed, and the recommendations that were made. The congregation also approved the 2026 budget, and the Nominating Committee was selected. Thanks in advance to Anne, Margo, and Heidi for volunteering to join Pastor Lauren and me as the 2026 Nominating Committee. Please contact any of us if you have any interest in serving on Hope's council this next year.

With 2025 behind us, we have much to look forward to in 2026. Our construction of the new roof access point and safety line is currently in the San Mateo City approval process, and we anticipate this work will begin in late Spring. In February, our council met in an all-day offsite meeting to brainstorm the various initiatives we want to address this year and the relative priority of each. These include suggestions from the Worship Task force in addition to new ideas brought by Pastor Lauren and council members. More information will be

forthcoming on which efforts the council will address this year.

Following the completion of our Worship Task Force efforts, we are moving into the next phase. Eric Hoover has volunteered to also lead our Outreach Task force (Thank-you Eric!), and we are currently looking for Task Force members. This team will focus on how to best spread the word about Hope in our community, to draw others to Hope. If you have an interest in "sharing the Good News of Hope", I encourage you to contact Eric, Margo, or myself to get involved.

We are now in the season of Lent, and Holy Week is right around the corner. On Ash Wednesday, Pastor Lauren led a successful afternoon of "Ashes to Go" in San Mateo's Central Park. Despite the unsettled weather, we had positive contact with approximately 15 individuals, some of whom sought us out after reading Pastor Lauren's NextDoor post. In March, we will be partnering with area ELCA churches (Good Shepherd, St. Andrews, Holy Trinity) to host a Wednesday evening Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer worship. The schedule for this worship is posted in this newsletter. We will host at Hope on March 18. Additionally, we will hold our ever-popular Palm Sunday Brunch on March 29. We are seeking food donations for these events. Sign-up sheets will be available in Nielsen Hall in March. Our Holy Week services will include Good Friday worship at 7pm, and our Easter Celebration at 10am on April 5.

Adult Bible study opportunities for March and April will include Pastor Lauren's Monday evening *lectio divina*-style bible study over Zoom (5pm Mondays in March). Zoom details are available in our weekly email blast or email Pastor Lauren for the link. Our Sunday morning Bible Study will pause during Lent; we will resume after Easter with a topic from the Old Testament. Our women's bible study continues the third Tuesday of each month (10:30am in Nielsen Hall). We are considering hosting a new member class to commence this Spring or Summer for anyone that is either interested in becoming a member at Hope, or would like a refresh on what it means to be

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Preschool Corner

March/ April 2026

In March, we have more exciting activities. “**March Madness at Hope**”. These are special events every week for the children to be silly and expressive. We are looking forward to all the leprechaun shenanigans on St Patrick’s day.

We held our 12th Annual Spaghetti/Bingo Night for the families. It was an incredible evening.

We are gearing up for Family Night on May 6th in Nielsen Hall with Happy Birds performing for us. Our theme is “**What’s Up!**” The children are enthusiastically creating anything that is up rocket ships, butterflies, airplanes, hot air balloons etc. This social gathering serves as an opportunity for us to showcase Hope Lutheran Preschool while expressing our heartfelt appreciation to the families who have consistently supported our school.

Registration is now open for 2026-2027.

We are hosting tours on Fridays for families interested in the Fall school year. Word of mouth is our best marketing tool. We are the hidden gem in San Mateo.

Have a wonderful month and spread Peace and Love.

Happy Easter from the Preschool Staff.



Blessings, Tracy



*Notes from
your Choir Director*

Spring is around the corner - the blooming yellow daffodils are popping up around us. The season of Lent has arrived and we are anticipating Easter. Traditionally, in planning the music for Easter, the addition of a trumpet would be the instrument of choice to add to the joyous occasion. Covid put a temporary end to that tradition, but finally this year we will have a trumpet for Easter! Alex, Eric and I are planning some joyous music for bells, organ, choir and trumpet.

Pastor Lauren and I have been choosing the hymns together. We are striving to find a nice mix of traditional and contemporary hymns. You might be surprised at how many upbeat, contemporary hymns are included in our ELW hymnal. Lauren has a good knowledge of the ELW hymnal and a keen sense of the appropriate song to complement her theme of the day.

When we moved to Nielsen Hall during the carpet installation, the singing of the hymns sounded very good in that smaller space and because we were closer together. In the Sanctuary, we are spread out. You may not sing out as strongly without people closely around you for musical support. The choir is there to lead and encourage you to lift your voice in community spirit.

Jan



Midweek Soup Supper & Holden Evening Prayer

a shared Lenten journey of Peninsula Lutheran congregations

March 4th, 6pm

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
301 Burlingame Ave., Burlingame

March 11, 6pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
1501 S El Camino Real, San Mateo

March 18, 6pm

Hope Lutheran Church
600 42nd Ave., San Mateo

March 25, 6pm

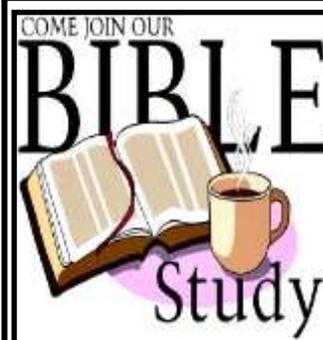
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
149 Manzanita Ave., San Carlos

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Lutheran. Details To Be Announced. If organized studies don't work for your schedule, please check out the devotional resources available at Hope. I hope you will make time for biblical reflection during this season of Lent and beyond.

Finally, the Synod meetings for 2026 have been announced. The conference gathering for SF/ Peninsula will be held on Saturday April 25 at 11am at Messiah Lutheran Church, Redwood City. The regional synod assembly will be Saturday May 30th 9am-3pm at Christ the Good Shepherd Church, San Jose. In addition to Pastor Lauren, two people from our congregation are needed to attend each of these meetings. Please contact me if you have interest in attending either of these gatherings.

As always I welcome member feedback on all things Hope!
Your Servant in Christ, Judy

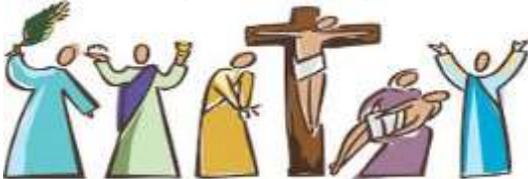


Beginning in March, Pastor Lauren will be hosting a *lectio divina*-style Bible study over Zoom. Join us at 5:00 PM every Monday evening for *Meditatio* Monday; a moment to slow down, reflect, and hear God's Word for the upcoming week.

Contact Pastor Lauren for the Zoom link.
Or use the following Zoom login credentials

Login: 839 8396 5743
PW: Hope

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	2 <i>Meditatio</i> Monday at 5:00 Via Zoom 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	3 9:00 am Council Preschool 10:00 am Worship Committee	4 6p Soup Supper 7p Evening Prayer Service (hosted at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 301 Burlingame Ave; Burlingame)	<div style="background-color: #e0f0f0; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> The office is open Monday-Thursday 9-3 p.m. and Friday closed </div>		
8 Daylight Saving Time 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	9 <i>Meditatio</i> Monday at 5:00 Via Zoom 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	10 No Coir rehearsal 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship	11 6p Soup Supper 7p Evening Prayer Service (hosted at St Andrews Lutheran Church, 1501 S El Camino Real; San Mateo)	12 Council Meeting @ 4:00pm 7pm FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	13 Spaghetti / Bingo family night @ 6:00 pm 7pm AA*	14
15 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	16 <i>Meditatio</i> Monday at 5:00 Via Zoom 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	17 9:30 am Quilting 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship	18 6p Soup Supper 7p Evening Prayer Service (hosted at Hope Lutheran Church, 600 42nd Ave; San Mateo)	19 7pm FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	20 7pm AA*	21
22 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	23 <i>Meditatio</i> Monday at 5:00 Via Zoom 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	24 10:30 Women's Bible study 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship	25 6p Soup Supper 7p Evening Prayer Service (hosted at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 149 Manzanita Ave; San Carlos)	26 7pm FA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	27 7pm AA*	28
29 Palm Sunday 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:00am Café Hope Palm Sunday Brunch 2pm Tongan Church*	30 <i>Meditatio</i> Monday at 5:00 Via Zoom 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	31 9:30 am Quilting 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship	 <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: #4b4b9b;">Holy Week</p>			

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 10:00am Easter Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church*	6 Preschool Office Closed 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	7 Spring 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship	8 Break ———	9 ————— 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	10 ————— 7pm AA*	11 11:000 am Celebration of life for Bill Kannenberg Lunch to follow In Nielsen Hall
12 Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 11:30am Bible Study 2pm Tongan Church*	13 <i>Meditatio</i> Monday at 5:00 Via Zoom 7pm AA* Neurotic's	14 9:30am Quilting 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship	15	16 4:00pm Council Meeting 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	17 7pm AA*	18
19 Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 11:30am Bible Study 2pm Tongan Church*	20 <i>Meditatio</i> Monday at 5:00 Via Zoom 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	21 10:30 am Women's Bible study 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship	22	23 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	24 7pm AA*	25
26 Worship and Communion 11:00am Café Hope 11:30am Bible Study 2pm Tongan Church*	27 <i>Meditatio</i> Monday at 5:00 Via Zoom 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*	28 9:30am Quilting 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 7:00 pm Men's Bible fellowship	29	30 7pm AA* Neurotic's Anonymous*		



A memorial service for Bill Kannenberg will be held on Saturday, April 11 at 11:00am in the sanctuary. Lunch will be served after the service in Nielsen Hall.

Please join us in this celebration of his beautiful life. The service will be streamed for those who are unable to attend.

The family thanks all those at Hope who have reached out with words of comfort and prayer.

The Family of Bill Kannenberg



We are pleased to announce that our Souper Bowl of caring fundraiser collected \$600 on February 8th. This amount was matched by the council and we made a \$1200 donation to Second Harvest in February. Thanks to all who contributed to fight Hunger in San Mateo county!



2026 Altar Flowers

The flower chart for 2026 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



News from Around the Synod and Beyond



**San Francisco Peninsula
Conference Gathering**

Saturday, April 25 11 am - 1 pm

Bring a Lunch!

Messiah Lutheran Church
1835 Valota Rd. Redwood City, CA



ELCA World Hunger has engaging resources to share this Lenten season. ELCA World Hunger’s Lent calendar invites you to pray, reflect and learn about this ministry throughout the 40 days of Lent.

This year’s calendar emphasizes the importance of advocacy in our shared ministry to build a just world where all are fed. Download the calendar, along with an accompanying action guide and full-length stories, at ELCA.org/WHLent.

We are seeking two congregation members to attend this year's gathering of our area churches. Please contact Judy if you are interested in attending as a representative of Hope.

Hope’s Prayer List

- Erica Grimstvedt
- Karen Reed
- Gilbert Schroeder
- Tim Hanlon
- Lily Rankin
- Thom Johnson
- Jeremy and Kristin Dummler
- Bill & Louise Fischer
- Lynn & Marllys Loveall
- Ronnie Toschi
- Dolores Roscoe
- MaryAnn Kestle
- David Phillips
- Margit Hansen
- Lois Nieman
- Deb Stucke
- Marilyn Gaal
- Margit Hansen
- Hank Harper



Worship Assistants for March and April

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

Date	Greeters	Reader	Assisting Minister	Audio and Video
March 1	Holl/Shomaker Family	Mary Toalson	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney
March 8	Shirley Rohe	Evelyn Gerstch	Sandi Kane	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Kari Dahl
March 15	Sandy Polster	Sandi Kane	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Nate Gerstch Steaming: Skip Dahl
March 18 Evening Prayer	None	None	None	Sound: Skip Dahl
March 22	Phil Gaal	Doug Kannenberg	Karl Voss	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Soren Voss
March 29 Palm Sunday	Sandy Polster	Don Hermansen	Helena Dummler	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Judy Jeschke
April 3 Good Friday	No Greeter	Marlys Jungroth Frank Lin	Judy Jeschke	Soundboard: Nate Gerstch No Streaming
April 5 Easter	Mike and Lisa Sallander	Doug Kannenberg	Sandi Kane	Sound: Ben Gosney
April 12	Shirley Rohe	Marlys Jungroth	Helena Dummler	Sound: Skip Dahl
April 19	Sandy Polster	Nick Holl	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Streaming: Henry Lin
April 26	Lin/Jeschke Family	Hank Harper	Don Hermansen	Sound: Ben Gosney

Upcoming Events at



SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Join us for worship each Sunday at 10am.

Each Sunday is a service of Word and Sacrament. 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: @11:30am
(following Café Hope) Resumes after Easter
10:30am Women's Bible Study: Tuesday March 17 and April 21
Meditatio Mondays 5pm over Zoom

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 May is Monday April 20th

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.

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