

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

JULY/AUGUST 2026

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



**Pastor Lauren
Chambers**

Pastor's Message

One of my deepest joys in ministry is watching people enjoy being together.

You tell me you had a wonderful time at game night, so did I!

It was such a testament to the idea that "Church" is more than

worship on Sunday morning.
Church is about the people!

Don't get me wrong, worship is central to who we are as Christians, but the life of a congregation happens in all the moments before and after the service as well. It happens through relationships, shared meals, laughter, service, and community.

And here's the thing: that community doesn't come from the pastor, especially not when she's been here less than a year.

I can preach. I can teach. I can visit. I can lead worship. But I cannot create fellowship for an entire congregation by myself.

In fact, I don't think I'm supposed to. No one can.

The strongest congregations are not the ones where the pastor organizes everything. They are the ones where members take ownership of their shared life together. They have an idea and step in. They see an opportunity and make it happen. They invite others to join them.

If you enjoyed game night, perhaps you're the person who helps plan the next one.

If you wish we had more opportunities to gather, perhaps you're the person who helps create them.

If you're waiting for someone else to start something, consider that you might be that someone else.

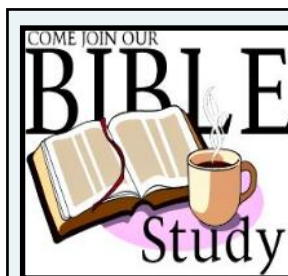
The church has never been a one-person ministry. It takes all of us. Every member brings gifts, ideas, talents, and passions that help shape our life together.

So if you've ever thought, "It would be nice if our church did..." I encourage you to finish that sentence and then come talk to me.

Not because I'll do it for you, but because I would love to do it with you.

Together, we can continue building a congregation where worship is meaningful, fellowship is abundant, and everyone has a place to belong.

In Christ,
Pastor Lauren



Meditatio Mondays

Every Monday at 5pm, Pastor Lauren hosts a *lectio divina*-style Bible study over Zoom.

Join us 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



A Message from your Council President

June and July are what I consider to be the “vacation era” for Hope members. During the summer we

often see our Sunday enrollment drop as people set off for vacations and other get togethers. If you are traveling, I hope you will take advantage of our live stream services while you are away. This is also a time when many of the regular Hope activities take a summer pause. But this does not mean that nothing is happening at church, rather it is a time for us to reset before beginning the busy Fall season.

Congratulations to our newly elected council members for 2026-2027. Kari Dahl, Helena Dummler, Evelyn Gertsch, Nick Holl, and Frank Lin will be joining our council starting July 1. Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Congregation Meeting on June 7th to elect the new members. Those of you who attended are aware that my time on Hope’s Council will come to an end on June 30. Don Hermansen has agreed to serve as your next council president. See the accompanying text box for the full list of our 2026-2027 council members. These roles are tentative and may change until they are ratified by the council at the first meeting of the new council in July.

After our congregation meeting, the biggest news this month was the installation of our new sanctuary roof safety line and access ladder. Most of this construction was completed on June 16th, and the new ladder was blessed following our Worship service on June 21. The crew from Lynn Safety will be returning to Hope in July to install the final component, a vertical safety line for the access ladder. Check out the pictures of the project in this month’s voice.

On June 18th, we had a good turnout for the

Hope game night. The general feedback was that this was something participants would like to repeat again in the coming months. We are planning a second event on Friday August 21. If you are interested in helping to plan this or any type of outreach/ community event, please contact Pastor Lauren or myself.

And finally, I wanted to send a special shout-out to the Hope quilters, who prepared piles of beautiful quilts for donation to Samaritan House. These were blessed and presented to Reyna Sandoval, the Director of Food and Community Services at Samaritan House, during our worship service on June 28th. Reyna also provided an overview of how Samaritan House helps community members in need in San Mateo county, which was a great illustration of the Parable of the Good Samaritan and how it can apply to our current day lives. As a follow up to Reyna’s visit, we will be running a donation campaign in the month of July to raise funds and collect clothes for the back to school drive for the Samaritan House Kids Closet. More details are in this newsletter.

May God watch over all in our Hope community that are traveling this summer.

See you in church!

Judy Jeschke



Thank you to the Hope quilters, who lovingly donated these beautiful quilts to Samaritan House for our neighbors in need in San Mateo County



Notes from your Choir Director



When you read this I will have just returned from a trip to Spain and Portugal (hopefully safely!) Our trip begins in Madrid, winds through Spain and 3 days in Portugal, and ends in Barcelona. We are excited to see the almost finished "La Sagrada Familia" by Gaudi as an ending highlight.

As we look forward to the summer months, a few interesting and appealing events are on the horizon for worship. Eric will be on vacation the first two weeks of July, so these two weeks will be a little different. I have planned American music for July 5 -

a little jazz for the Prelude by Bill Evans and an Offertory by Aaron Copland. On July 12 we will have a guitarist who plays both bass and acoustic to join us on all the hymns and special music. I have chosen hymns that are more contemporary and suited to guitar, so bring your best singing voice and enjoy! On August 16 another "Gospel Sunday" is scheduled. All of the music will be from this tradition of the late 19th and early 20th century. We have many choices in our ELW hymnal of these heartfelt and emotional songs.

Throughout the summer we will hear solos and duets from Hank, Marlys, Vicki, a solo by Henry Lin, and another piano-organ duet.

Jan

Hope's Church Council July 2026 - June 2027 (Tentative)

President: Don Hermansen (presidenthelc@gmail.com)

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

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

Treasurer: Frank Lin (hopehelc@gmail.com)

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

Evangelism: TBD

Finance & Stewardship: David Phillips(dphillips143@gmail.com)

Personnel: Karl Voss (karl.voss71@gmail.com)

Preschool: TBD

Property Management: Nick Holl

Social Concerns: TBD

Worship: Don Hermansen (hermansendon@gmail.com)

Not yet assigned: Evelyn Gertsch, Kari Dahl

Non-Council Position

Financial Secretary: Peg Shomaker (pshomaker_@icloud.com)

*Thank
you*

We are seeking a variety of volunteers to help out with our worship services each week. We especially need:

- **Readers**
- **Altar Guild members**
- **Ushers**
- **Video Camera Assistants**

Please speak with a council member or contact Ellie in the office if you can serve in these roles.

We're
Searching for
Volunteers





Scan to
donate



We will be
collecting
items
throughout
July!

Help Stock the Samaritan House Kids Closet!

Every child deserves clothing that is comfortable, clean, and their own. Join us in supporting the Samaritan House Kids Closet by donating much-needed clothing for children and youth.

Currently Needed

Sizes: 3T (Toddler) through Youth XL

New (boys' & girls', all sizes):

- Socks
- Shoes
- Underwear
- Pajamas

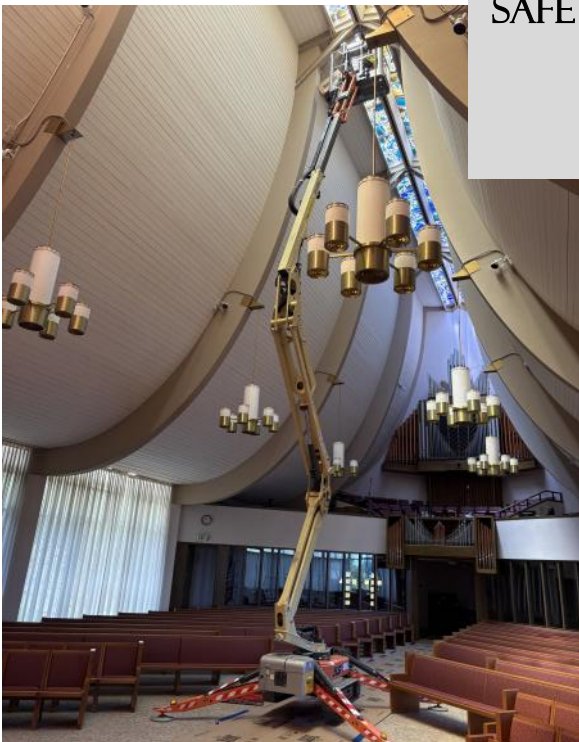
New or Gently Used:

- Girls' leggings
- Boys' joggers
(elastic-waist pants)

Can't shop? Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase needed items for the Kids Closet. Simply scan the QR code or write a check to the church with "**Kids Closet**" in the memo line.

Thank you for helping provide children in San Mateo County with the clothing they need to learn, play, and thrive.

SAFETY LINE & LADDER INSTALLATION JUNE 2026

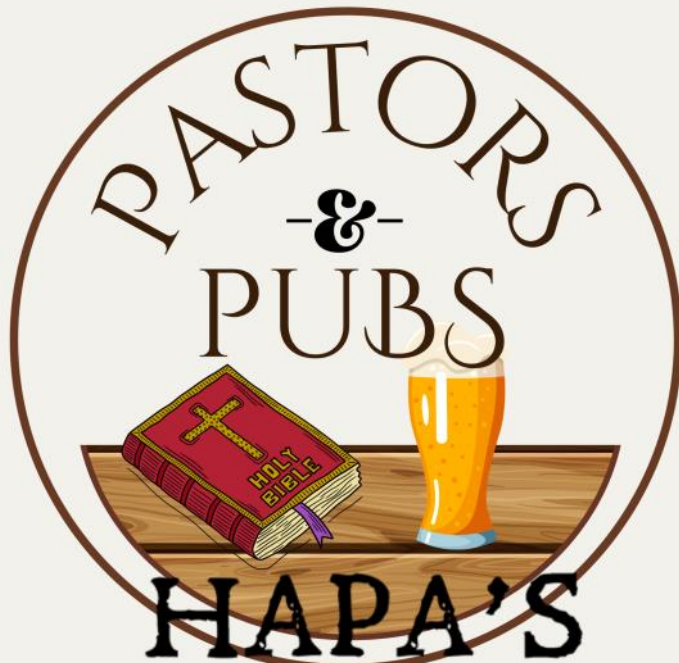


July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The office is open Monday-Thursday 9-3 p.m. and Friday closed			1	2 Office Closed	3 7:00 pm AA*	4 
5 10 am Worship 11 am Café Hope	6 5 pm <i>Meditatio</i> Monday on Zoom 7 pm AA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	7	8	9 7 pm FA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	10 7:00 pm AA*	11
12 10 am Worship 11 am Café Hope 11:30 am Council Meeting 2 pm Tongan Church*	13 5 pm <i>Meditatio</i> Monday on Zoom 7 pm AA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	14 9:30 am Quilting	15	16 7 pm FA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	17 7:00 pm AA*	18
19 10 am Worship 11 am Café Hope 2 pm Tongan Church*	20 5 pm <i>Meditatio</i> Monday on Zoom 7 pm AA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	21 10:30 am Women' Bible Study	22	23 7 pm FA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	24 7:00 pm AA*	25
26 10 am Worship 11 am Café Hope 2 pm Tongan Church*	27 NO <i>Meditatio</i> Monday 7 pm AA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	28 9:30 am Quilting	29	30 7 pm FA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	31 7:00 pm AA*	

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The office is open Monday-Thursday 9-3 p.m. and Friday closed						
2 10 am Worship 11 am Café Hope	3 5 pm Meditatio Monday on Zoom 7 pm AA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	4	5	6 Pastors & Pubs Hapa's Brewery @ 6 pm 7 pm FA* 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	7 7:00 pm AA*	8
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Brewing Company

AUGUST 6, 13, 20, & 27 @ 722 LAUREL ST,
6PM SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

Hope Lutheran Church Game Night

**August
21st**



Save the Date



**HOPE'S GAME NIGHT
JUNE 2026**



Hope's Prayer List

- Erica Grimstvedt
- Karen Reed
- Tim Hanlon
- Lily Rankin
- Thom Johnson
- Lynn Van Dine (Shirley Rohe's brother)
- Jeremy & Kristin Dummmler
- Bill and Louise Fischer
- Lynn & Marlys Loveall
- Dolores Roscoe
- Deb Stucke
- Margit Hansen

- Lois Nieman
- Hank Harper
- Marilyn Gaal
- Mike Tinka (Hank Harper's brother-in-law)
- Karen Chambers (Pr. Lauren's Mother)
- Linda Mathre (Don Hermansen's Sister)
- Susan, Bob, Brent VanderWeil (family of Skip Dahl)





Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly 2026 Business Session Recap

During the meeting, we elected a new Synod Vice President, Sal Espino (Resurrection Lutheran, Granite Bay), and gave thanks for the faithful leadership of outgoing Vice President Simon Wong (Hope Lutheran, El Sobrante). We also elected Beth Williamson (Davis Lutheran) and The Rev. Dr. Gabriele Schroeder (Faith Lutheran, Meadow Vista) to serve on the Synod Council.

Assembly participants approved resolutions on compensation for rostered leaders and organizing for climate action. Details about these resolutions can be found on the synod website: www.spselca.org/blog/synod-assembly-2026-business-session-recap

We heard a compelling call from Pastor Daniel Solberg (St. Paulus Lutheran, San Francisco) to faithfully resist tyranny and authoritarianism. Treasurer Scott Taylor (St. Mark's Lutheran, San Francisco) shared news of a clean audit and preparations for the September budget assembly, while Jim Kowalski (St. Francis Lutheran, San Francisco) highlighted the transformational impact of the Synod's Generosity Team.

As we conclude this year's assembly, we give thanks for all who served, led, and participated. May God continue to guide the Sierra Pacific Synod as we walk the

News from Around the Synod and Beyond

**OPTIONAL POST-TOUR AVAILABLE:
EXTENSION TO JORDAN**
Dates: Jan. 22 - 24, 2027
Package: \$990 | Single Supplement: \$200



January 12 - 22, 2027 | San Francisco, CA (SFO) | Package Price \$4390

HOLY LAND

pilgrimage





Rev. Dr. Charlane Lines
Tour Leader

Package Price Includes: Round-trip airfare * Breakfast, lunch, and dinner * Accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels * Transportation in a private bus * English-speaking licensed tour guide * Supporting the living stones * **And Much More**





Good Shepherd Travel
www.goodshepherdtravel.com
Toll Free: 1-844-659-5263


[Register Online](#)

Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA
Address: 2000 Center St # 200, Berkeley, CA
Phone: (510) 559-2770

Info Session: January 2027 Holy Land Solidarity Trip with Pr. Charlane Lines

Monday, August 3, at 7 pm on ZOOM

Join us for a conversation with Tony Abuaita, owner of Good Shepherd Travel, as he answers your questions as you consider signing up to join this tour. The ZOOM link can be found on the synod website.

www.spselca.org/events/info-session-holy-land-solidarity-trip-with-pr-charlane-lines-january-2027-xpcs3

Worship Assistants for July/August

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

Date	Greeters	Reader	Assisting Minister	Audio and Video
July 5	Shirley Rohe	Marlys Jungroth	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Noah Lin
July 12	Sandy Polster	Evelyn Gerstch	Don Hermansen	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Kari Dahl
July 19	Marilyn & Phil Gaal	Margo Kannenberg	Sandi Kane	Sound: Nate Gerstch Steaming: Henry Lin
July 26	Shirley Klemens	Doug Kannenberg	Margo Kannenberg	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Judy Jeschke
August 2	Shirley Rohe	Karl Voss	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Soren Voss
August 9	Marilyn & Phil Gaal	Marlys Jungroth	Helena Dummler	Sound: Nate Gerstch Steaming: Noah Lin
August 16	Sandy Polster	Hank Harper	Don Hermansen	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Henry Lin
August 23	Mary Toalson	Don Hermansen	Karl Voss	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Soren Voss
August 30	Anne Wilson	Sandi Kane	Judy Jeschke	Sound: Ben Gosney Steaming: Henry Lin

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 9am-3pm.



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: Will resume in September

10:30am Women's Bible Study: July 21 & August 18

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 September is Wednesday August 19

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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