

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

The Voice of Hope

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

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



**Pastor Lauren
Chambers**

Pastor's Message

Forty years ago this October, a certain character made her debut on *Saturday Night Live*: the Church Lady, played by Hope Lutheran's own Dana Carvey...Well, isn't that special?

Now, for better or for worse, Carvey's experience here may have provided some inspiration for the Church Lady. Whether that is true—we can't say for certain. (Although, I've heard rumors...)

But I love the fact that, 40 years later, we can look at someone who was once a kid sitting in these pews and recognize that church leaves a mark on the people who pass through our doors.

Sometimes, perhaps, more than we intended.

The Church Lady is, of course, an exaggerated and comedic version of a certain kind of church person. But beneath the humor is something worth taking seriously: our experiences in church shape us. The people we encounter, the stories we hear, the hymns we sing, the questions we ask, the traditions we inherit—all of these become part of who we are.

These are the things that prompt us to come back, to participate, to become part of something larger than ourselves. Perhaps they are even the things that inspire us to reach out and invite our friends and neighbors to be a part of this, too.

There are a lot of things happening at Hope this fall. We'll have our jazz worship on September 13, a blessing of the animals on October 4, and another game night on October 23.

We'll also begin our annual stewardship season, when we'll talk together about how we care for the church that has been entrusted to us and the ministry we share.

And that IS special, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Lauren Chambers

Jazz

Worship

Sunday, September 13

10:00 am

Hope Lutheran Church
600 42nd Ave; San Mateo, CA
www.hopelutheransanmateo.org



Meditatio Mondays—Join us for *Meditatio* Monday; a moment to slow down, reflect, and hear God's Word for the upcoming week. Every Monday at 5pm over Zoom.

Contact Pastor Lauren for the Zoom link, or use the following Zoom login credentials:

ID: 839 8396 5743 PW: Hope



A Message from your Council President

Not that I ever went too far, but “I’m ba-ack” as president of Hope’s church council. I’ve

served as president before – I cannot remember how many times. I haven’t gone far. As council secretary, I’ve been on the Executive Committee, so I haven’t been far from the action. I am looking forward to working with Pastor Lauren, who attends our council meetings, and our new council.

Transitions are rarely easy. Our transition this year involves about half the council membership. We thank Margo Kannenberg, Judy Jeschke, Shirley Klemens, Hank Harper, and Anne Wilson for their dedicated service to Hope for the past several years. We hope that we can occasionally call on them for their expertise.

We are welcoming new council members Nick Holl, Kari Dahl, Frank Lin, and Evelyn Gertsch to the council. Returning council members are Sandi Kane, Helena Dummler, David Phillips, Karl Voss, and Don

Hermansen. You can see on the back of the Sunday bulletin that we have several active committees that cover all aspects of our Christian life at Hope (Education, Youth, Stewardship, Evangelism, and Worship) as well as the more practical aspects of Hope’s presence in San Mateo (Property Management, Finance, Personnel, Preschool, and Social Concerns). If you feel called to become involved in any of these committees, please contact the committee chair whose e-mail address is listed in the bulletin.

My younger sister, Linda Mathre, has been on my mind. As our family prepares to celebrate her life, we remember her strong and unwavering faith that was nurtured at Hope. She was just a few months old when our family joined Hope as it began. Linda went all the way through Sunday School and participated in Luther League at Hope. Newly baptized at our former church in San Francisco, Linda was confirmed at Hope. After graduating from California Lutheran University, she met John at Hope, and they were married at Hope. Raising their children in Fremont, Linda brought them and several of their friends from their church in Fremont to youth activities at Hope for several years. Her roots here were truly deep.

Don

From the Desk of our Treasurer

2026 Q2 Financial Summary

- Church expenses were significantly higher than our church income for the first half of 2026, leaving us with a church deficit.
- Church income included significant memorial gifts.
- Church expenses during the first half of 2026 included the final carpet payment and

safety ladder/line expenses.

- The Preschool continues to generate surplus monthly income, which lowered our overall deficit.
- Looking ahead at the second half of 2026, we will need to fix a leak in the stained glass on the roof and a major organ repair of approximately \$22,000 is scheduled for October.



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

- **Readers**
- **Ushers**
- **Video Camera Assistants**

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



Notes from your Choir Director



What a beautiful, balmy summer we have enjoyed here on the Peninsula. However, It has been heart-wrenching to watch the news of tornadoes, floods, wildfires and extreme heat plaguing the rest of the country. We are so lucky and blessed to live in this temperate climate.

As Fall approaches, I look forward to all our activities ramping up again. The choir will begin rehearsals on

Tuesday, September 8 at 4:00, and the Bell rehearsal will be at 5:00. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, this is the perfect time.

Many thanks to all who provided special music during the summer: Marlys Jungroth, Vicki Hanson, our organist Eric Holderman, Henry Lin, and Susan and Stephen Bell. We listened and sang to a wide variety of music this summer, from Classical to Gospel to Contemporary Christian. As Fall begins, we will again enjoy Alex Bootzin and his jazz musicians on September 13, as they share their unique interpretations of hymns we know and love. It will be a festive Sunday!

Jan

Preschool Corner—September/October 2026

Here we go again! We are back and summer is over. Our classes are filled with children excited to be at Hope and ready to learn.

We welcome our new teacher Amy Garcia. She will be joining Colleen and I educating and entertaining the little ones. I am truly blessed to work side by side with such wonderful teachers.

We have a busy October, it's one of our favorite months.

- Village Host Pizza Fundraiser (Every first Tuesday of the month) Dine -in, Take Out or Delivery!
- Lemos Farm Field trip
- Great California Shakeout
- Halloween Costume Party

We will be having our Annual See's Candy Holiday Fundraiser. 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. Thank you very much for helping the preschool!

At Hope, we cherish teaching faith and foster Christian values into our children. Looking forward to the new school year.

Blessings,
Tracy



Hope's Church Council July 2026 - June 2027

President: Don Hermansen

Vice President: Helena Dummler

Secretary: Sandi Kane

Treasurer: Frank Lin

Education & Youth: Helena Dummler

Evangelism: Evelyn Gertsch

Finance & Stewardship: David Phillips

Personnel: Karl Voss

Preschool: Sandi Kane

Property Management: Nick Holl

Social Concerns: Kari Dahl

Worship: Don Hermansen

Non-Council Position

Financial Secretary: Peggy Shomaker

Men's Bible Study Fellowship
resumes meetings at Hope on
Tuesday September 15.



**PASTORS
&
PUBS**

HAPA'S
Brewing Company EVERY THIRD THURSDAY
722 LAUREL ST. 6 PM
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

Blessing of the Animals

at

Hope Lutheran Church

Bring your pet and join us for our outdoor
service

Sunday, October 4, at 10 am

600 42nd Ave; San Mateo, CA
www.hopelutheransanmateo.org

We love all of God's creatures, but for safety purposes,
please keep your furry, feathered, or scaled friends
leashed or securely contained.



THE BOOK OF ROMANS

FINDING HOPE

Journey through Paul's
Letter to the Romans

May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy
Spirit you may abound in hope
Rom 15:13

Meeting Location:
HOPE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
600 W 42nd Ave., San Mateo, CA

Day:
TUESDAY EVENINGS

Time:
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Dates:
SEPTEMBER 15 - MAY 2027

ALL ARE WELCOME | COME AS YOU ARE

For More Information: Contact Dennis Paoletti
at 415-990-5229 | dpaoletti88@gmail.com
www.bsfinternational.org

Hope Lutheran Church Game Night

**October
23rd**





September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The office is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. We close for lunch 1-2 p.m.		1 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	2 6:30-7:30 pm Preschool Back to school night (Nielsen Hall)	3 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	4 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	5
6 10am Worship 11am Café Hope (Nielsen Hall) 2pm Tongan Church* (Nielsen Hall)	7—OFFICE  CLOSED 5 pm Meditation Monday (Zoom) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	8 9:30 am Quilting 10:30-11:30am Preschool Meet & Greet 4pm Choir 5pm Bells 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	9 Preschool begins	10 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	11 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	12
13 10 am Jazz Worship 11am Café Hope (Nielsen Hall) 11:30am Hope Council Mtg (Youth Room)	14 5 pm Meditation Monday (Zoom) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	15 10:30 am Women's Bible study 4 pm Choir 5 pm Bells 7-8:30 pm Men's BSF* (Nielsen Hall) 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	16	17 6 pm Pastors & Pubs—Hapa's Brewing Co. 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	18 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	19 9:00 am-1:00 pm California Writers Club* (Nielsen Hall)
20 10am Worship 11am Café Hope (Nielsen Hall) 2pm Tongan Church* (Nielsen Hall)	21 5 pm Meditation Monday (Zoom) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	22 9:30 am Quilting 4 pm Choir 5 pm Bells 7-8:30 pm Men's BSF* (Nielsen Hall) 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	23	24 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	25 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	26 1:00 pm-4:00 pm Private member Event (Nielsen Hall)
27 10am Worship 11am Café Hope (Nielsen Hall) 2pm Tongan Church* (Nielsen Hall)	28 5 pm Meditation Monday (Zoom) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	29 10:00 am Worship Committee 4 pm Choir 5 pm Bells 6-8:30 pm Men's BSF* (Nielsen Hall) 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	30			



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	The office is open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. We close for lunch 1-2 p.m.			1 Preschool Field Trip to Lemos Farm 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous	2 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	3 9:30 am-2:00 pm California Writers Club* (Nielsen Hall)
4 Blessing of the Animals 10am Outdoor Worship (Parking Lot) 11am Café Hope (Ed. Building) 2pm Tongan Church* (Nielsen)	5 5 pm Meditation Monday (Zoom) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous (Fireside Room)	6 Preschool Village Host Pizza Fundraiser (Dine in or Take Out) 4 pm Choir 5 pm Bells 7-8:30 pm Men's BSF* (Nielsen Hall) 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	7	8 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous* (Fireside Room)	9 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	10
11 10am Worship 11am Café Hope 11:30am Hope Council Mtg 2pm Tongan Church* (Nielsen Hall)	12 NO PRESCHOOL CLASSES (Teacher In-Service) 5 pm Meditation Monday (Zoom) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous* (Fireside Room)	13 9:30 am Quilting (Nielsen Hall) 4 pm Choir 5 pm Bells 7-8:30 pm Men's BSF* (Nielsen Hall) 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	14	15 6 pm Pastors & Pubs—Hapa's Brewing Co. 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous* (Fireside Room)	16 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	17 9:00 am-1:00 pm California Writers Club* (Nielsen Hall)
18 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 11am Café Hope (Nielsen Hall) 2pm Tongan Church* (Nielsen Hall)	19 5 pm Meditation Monday (Zoom) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous* (Fireside Room)	20 10:30 am Women's Bible study 4 pm Choir 5 pm Bells 7-8:30 pm Men's BSF* (Nielsen Hall) 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	21	22 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous* (Fireside Room)	23 5-7 pm Game Night (Nielsen Hall) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	24
25 Reformation Sunday  10am Worship 11am Café Hope 2pm Tongan Church* (Nielsen Hall)	26 5 pm Meditation Monday (Zoom) 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous* (Fireside Room)	27 9:30 am Quilting (Nielsen Hall) 4 pm Choir 5 pm Bells 7-8:30 pm Men's BSF* (Nielsen Hall) 7:30 pm Men's AA* (Ed. Building)	28	29 7 pm FA* (Ed. Building) 7 pm Neurotic's Anonymous* (Fireside Room)	30 7 pm AA* (Ed. Building)	31 



Board of Directors

President
Sonja Tappan

Vice President
Heather Zimmerman

Treasurer
Mike Etheridge

Secretary
Bernard Chen

Members
Karen Bowman
Tish Busselle
Sang-ick Chang, MD, MPH
Marie Chuang
Rob DeConteras
Eldris Estevez
Maria I. Faulve-Montojo
Greg Herrera
Bob Hirth
Michael Jackson
John Lake
Scott Lee
Pam McCarthy-Hudson
Christina Rising, MD
Joan Rosas
Margaret Taylor
M.G. Thibaut
Jason Ting
Stefani Jacobson Willis
Bryan Wise

Chief Executive Officer
Laura E. Bent

Advisory Council

Council Chair
Patty Hsu

Members
Mike Aydelott
Duncan Beardsley
Lucretia del Broussard
Joan Cassman
Sophie Cole, MD
Nicole Fernandez
William S. Freeman
Pam Frisella
Neela Benjamin Gentile
Bob Grassilli
Davina Hurt
Bill Kenney
Susan K
Jeff Luc
Mollie M
Laurie M
Maria M
Judi P
Susan R
Cliff R
Massy S
Faye S
Jay S
Lisa T

August 12, 2026

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church –
Attn: Margo Kannenberg and Hank Harper
600 42nd Ave
San Mateo, CA 94403-5034

Dear Margo, Hank, and the Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you for your gift of \$3,425.00 received on July 31, 2026 in support of our Kids Closet Program. We entered this springtime filled with hope. But we know that many members of our community face renewed uncertainty securing essentials for their lives; staples they will need in coming weeks.

At these times, and with many thanks to you, Samaritan House will remain a pillar of help and hope for those who need us. Your kindness is already being used to provide these essentials.

We thank you for stepping up to support our efforts and in turn, bringing a sense of relief and comfort to so many forging their way to resiliency. We know we can't do this important work without you.

We are truly grateful for your belief in us and in our mission.

With sincere gratitude,

Laura E. Bent
Chief Executive Officer



On Friday, July 31st, four of us (Sandi Kane, Shirley Klemens, and Hank & Jeannette Harper) volunteered at the San Mateo Event Center to help Samaritan House prepare for their back-to-school backpack distribution. Alongside about 15 other volunteers, we spent about an hour and a half assembling roughly 1,000 hygiene kits to be passed out with the backpacks to local children and families, helping ensure that students in our community have essential items they need as they head into the new school year.

Refreshments, including hot and cold coffee, donuts, and croissants, were provided, and seating was available for those who needed it. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other volunteers and support a great cause.

Book Talk with Anne Serrano

Join local author Anne Serrano as she talks about her new book, *Budget Spaghetti*.

Budget Spaghetti serves up a warm, practical approach to money. Through reflection, shared stories, and a dash of compassion, readers learn to take control of their finances one ingredient at a time and create a budget that feels like home.



We'll have treats and beverages to share and, of course, books to sell and have signed.

Please RSVP via email to let us know you'll be joining us so we can plan enough chairs, treats and beverages!



REACH & TEACH
BOOKS - TOYS - GIFTS

Sunday, September 13
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Reach and Teach
1179 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA

services
retain this
272.

samaritanhousesanmateo.org

Dear Pr. Lauren & Hope Lutheran Church,

I had so much fun at the August game night at Hope! Thank you for inviting me. I look forward to joining in for a future game night. I really loved how you all set up the hall -- very open, welcoming, & conducive to exploring different games. Having such a full spread of food with a special treat -- added a challenge level for that age-paced card game! With gratitude,
Anne Serrano ☺



Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

News from Around the Synod and Beyond



**Lutheran
Disaster Response**

Communities in Nepal are facing catastrophic loss after deadly, devastating floods. On Aug. 26, powerful floodwaters carrying glacial ice and mud swept down the Himalayas through a mountain valley. Hundreds of people have died, and hundreds more remain missing as families are waiting for news of loved ones. Homes have been destroyed, roads and bridges are gone, and entire communities are struggling to access basic necessities.

Our hearts break for all those affected.

Even with limited communication from the affected area, we are already hearing tragic stories of loss, and we know the needs will be significant. Lutheran Disaster Response has long-standing relationships with trusted partners throughout Nepal. **We will support emergency relief and long-term recovery through these established partners who know their communities best.**

To donate to the relief efforts visit

[ELCA.org/disaster](https://elca.org/disaster) or make your check out to the ELCA, write "Lutheran Disaster Response" on your check's memo line and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Conversation With Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry

In this event recording from August 6, 2026, you can learn more about Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and hear about his vision and leadership. He shares his own pathway to leadership and talks about our shared mission and the deep connections that sustain and inspire ELCA members across the expressions of our church.

Watch the video at

vimeo.com/1217743892/b4002eff5c



**You are invited to a virtual evening with
Regina Q. Banks,
Director of Lutheran Office of Public Policy-CA
Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

**We will be exploring the
California Ballot Propositions
from a faith perspective.**

**Presented on Zoom by the
Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network.
This event will be recorded and posted.**

Register now!

Email Edie Lott at thelotts@gmail.com with your name, city and congregation to register. You will receive a Zoom meeting invitation the week before the event.

Worship Assistants for September/October

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

Date	Altar Guild	Greeters	Reader	Assisting Minister	Audio	Video
Sept 6	Lisa Sallander	Shirley Klemens	Skip Dahl	Don Hermansen	Ben Gosney	Kari Dahl
Sept 13	Helena Dummler	Shirley Rohe	Doug Kannenberg	Margo Kannenberg	Ben Gosney	Skip Dahl
Sept 20	Heidi Waters	Heidi Waters	Margo Kannenberg	Helena Dummler	Ben Gosney	Judy Jeschke
Sept 27	Mary Toalson Leena Touhey	Anne Wilson	Karl Voss	Judy Jeschke	Skip Dahl	Soren Voss
Oct 4	Lisa Sallander	Shirley Klemens	Sandi Kane	Don Hermansen	Alex Bootzin	NONE
Oct 11	Helena Dummler	Shirley Rohe	Doug Kannenberg	Don Hermansen	Ben Gosney	Henry Lin
Oct 18	Heidi Waters	Mary Toalson	Marlys Jungroth	Helena Dummler	Skip Dahl	Kari Dahl
Oct 25	Mary Toalson Leena Touhey	Anne Wilson	Margo Kannenberg	Judy Jeschke	Ben Gosney	Nate Gertsch

2026 Altar Flowers—



The flower chart has been moved to a new home in the Narthex!

We are seeking flower donations for Sundays in September—December.

The cost for a vase of flowers is **\$35**. Please sign up for the dates that you wish.

To arrange for a message to be printed in the bulletin announcements, please call or email Judy in the office no later than the Wednesday before your donation.

Hope's Prayer List

Members

- Erica Grimstvedt
- Karen Reed
- Tim Hanlon
- Lily Rankin
- Bill and Louise Fischer
- Lynn & Marlys Loveall
- Dolores Roscoe
- Deb Stucke
- Margit Hansen
- Lois Nieman
- Hank Harper



- Marilyn Gaal
- Richard Ekong and his family as he begins his service with the U.S. Navy

Special Requests

- Thom Johnson (Lyle & Marilyn's nephew)
- Lynn Van Dine (Shirley Rohe's brother)
- Jeremy & Kristin Dummler
- Mike Tinka (Hank Harper's brother-in-law)

- Suzanne and Brent Vander Weil (family of Skip Dahl)
- Bonnie and Jerry Holl (family of Nick Holl)
- Jean Runkle (Linda Harvey's sister)
- The family and friends of Linda Mathre (Don Hermansen's Sister)
- The family and friends of Dar Stucke (Tom Stucke's mother)

Upcoming Events at



SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Join us for a service of Word and Sacrament each Sunday at 10am. 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.

We also publish our recorded service on the Hope website (www.hopelutheransanmateo.com).

OFFICE HOURS

Our office is open on Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm.
We close for lunch from 1pm-2pm.

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!

Meditatio Mondays: each week at 5pm over Zoom

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays September 15 & October 20 at 10:30am

Men's Bible Study Fellowship: Tuesdays at 7pm (this is a ministry of BSF International)

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.

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 Monday October 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.

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