

# Hope Happenings

## December 2024

*Our service offers a blend of traditional and contemporary worship style and music.*

**9:30 AM - Worship Service**



*Join us for worship in person or online via Hope's YouTube Channel*



**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Hope Children's Center Preschool

An ELCA Congregation

29043 Vallejo Ave, Temecula, CA 92592-2307

(951) 676-6262 [www.hopetemecula.org](http://www.hopetemecula.org)



# Cherished by God

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11)*

from the Pastor

In our moments of difficulty, we can draw comfort from the story of the shepherds, the first to hear the wonderful news of Christ's birth. These were just everyday people, quietly watching over their flocks beneath the calm night sky, when suddenly, the angels pierced the darkness with a message of incredible joy: "For unto you born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11 ESV). This joyous announcement wasn't given to those with power or privilege; it was meant for those who might feel a bit forgotten, just like many of us at times.

This story gently reassures us that no matter where we are in life, God sees us and holds us close. He cherishes us and meets us in the everyday moments, inviting us to embrace the hope and joy that come from knowing Him. The Advent season serves as a tender reminder that while we await His return, we are never truly alone. Each candle we light, filled with expectations, symbolizes the light of Christ, guiding us through the shadows of doubt and fear.

As we journey through life, let's find encouragement in the truth that God is actively involved in our stories. His promises are not just distant memories; they are vibrant gifts that shape our path. We can trust that He is weaving everything together for our good, even when we can't see the full picture.

So, as we celebrate this Advent season, let's open our hearts to the gentle whispers of God. May we find comfort in knowing that we are cherished and remembered, and may our lives reflect the light of His love to those around us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your beautiful promises and the precious gift of Jesus. Help me to trust in your perfect timing and to feel your presence in my daily life. May I be a reflection of your love to others, sharing the joy of your remembrance in every moment. In Jesus' name, amen.

Cherished by God, - Pastor Dan



Our next meeting and luncheon will take place on Thursday, December 12th, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be Ham Dinner, Salad and Dessert. The cost for the meal will be \$13.00. The program will be a Christmas Sing-A-Long featuring Paula Arlich and Mike Cooper. Please sign up on the easel located in the Church entryway so we have a head count for food.

## PRIME TIMERS

*(Hope's Senior 50+ Ministry)*

THURSDAY,

DEC. 12TH, 2024

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

*In Fellowship Hall*

May this Advent season find you and your family in good health!

The Church Council is busy getting ready for the Congregational budget meeting December 15th right after church worship. Please plan on attending.

This Christmas gives us all a chance to reflect on what we can give back. The council will need volunteers, as well as audit and finance committee members.

2025 will be an exciting year at Hope, so get on the bandwagon and help.

We are all children of God. We all bow our heads to the birth of Jesus. Please attend this Advent season and enjoy the sights and sounds of worship.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Hope Church Council



## Congregational Budget Meeting

**December 15th, 2024**

*Immediately following Worship Service*

We will be having our annual congregational budget meeting to approve our 2025 budget immediately following service in the sanctuary on December 15th. Hard copies will be available at the church in the narthex and will also be emailed out the week of December 2nd. Please mark your calendars to be in attendance for this short and important meeting.



# FEED THE HUNGRY

# Holiday Food Drive

Hope Lutheran will be sponsoring a food/hygiene drive to benefit the Mission Hope party beginning Sunday, Dec. 1st. Donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall through Sunday, December 15th. Volunteers will deliver all donation to Mission Hope on the following Tuesday, Dec. 17th. Mission Hope provides essential food items to over 400 families and individuals in our community every week. They also provide day bags and hygiene kits for the unhoused.

Suggested Food Items: Pasta & Sause, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Boxed Side Dishes, Canned Fruit & Veggies, Canned Meat & Fish, Hot/Cold Cereal, Rice & Beans (Canned or Dry), Soups, Stews & Chili

Suggested Hygiene Items: Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Toothpaste

Questions?

Contact Holly Hartman at:

[hollishart4@yahoo.com](mailto:hollishart4@yahoo.com)

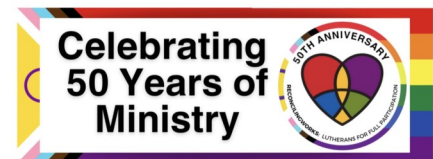
**Deadline**  
Sunday, December 15th

## Did You Know?

- RIC is a program that has been in existence since 1983 to develop a welcoming and affirming spirit in congregations for LGBTQ people.
- What is affirming? In relation to LGBTQ people welcoming them as they are.
- Benefit—Hope would be an oasis for people currently unwelcome in many churches in the Temecula Valley.
- RIC *will not* change Hope except to open the door of welcome wider.
- RIC *will not* ask for a donation to the organization, it is a free will donation.
- RIC helps our faith community deepen and expand our welcome.
- RIC is the work of justice telling.
- RIC conveys Jesus' message of speaking on behalf of the marginalized.

### Got Any Questions, Cares or Concerns?

Please see the RIC Committee members  
Lin Hodgkinson, Mona & Bryan Dirkes.



**HOPE'S MENS GROUP:** Our next meeting is on Saturday **December 7th**, 2024 at **8:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall as well as on Zoom. We will begin our study of the New Testament book of Galatians. You are encouraged to read this short 6 chapter letter Paul wrote to the churches he founded in Galatia, warning them against certain false teachers. Paul reminds the churches of the simple message of salvation by faith alone, which he and other church leaders teach and concludes with advice on how to live a Spirit-filled life. If you are able to read Galatians in a version different than you normally read, please consider doing so. We will study the meaning and messages in the words Paul wrote in Galatians.

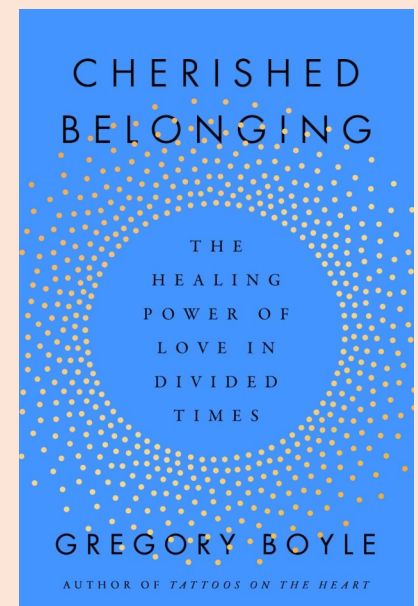
If you have any question regarding Hope's Mens Group, please contact Philip Hansen at: [philip717@verizon.net](mailto:philip717@verizon.net)



Hope's Book Club will take a December break.

Our January book club selection is: ***"Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times"*** by Father Gregory Boyle. We will meet on **January 20th** at **4:45pm** at Marta Bills' home. If you're joining us for the first time, please text or call Marta Bills (951-553-0972) to be added to our e-mail group and/or to get further information.

Our February book club selection is: ***"Circle of Hope: A Reckoning with Love, Power, and Justice in an American Church"*** by Eliza Griswold. Date and location TBA. Previous books read by the group are available to borrow! You can find the "library" in the narthex.



# Hope Hysterical History

It was December 1978. Hope's lively congregation (about 50 people), was meeting in Lake Village Clubhouse on Rancho Vista Road, a dead-end road accessed from Ynez Road. There was no Sports Park; no Starlight Ridge subdivision; no Temecula Valley High School, only Linfield Christian School was in its present location.

Of course Christmas preparations are in full swing, and the Mission Pastor, Frank Klutz, enlisted a young mom to create the Christmas pageant. Her name was Mrs. Georgia Wiley (now Schindler). Petite, energetic, lively eyes, 70s hippie haido, and a heart for the Lord.

The rehearsal (yes, just one rehearsal) was the Sunday prior to Christmas Eve. Six little angels in re-usable Halloween ghost attire, and shiny tinsel wings. So precious! Very quickly, it is pageant time. Ms. Georgia is ready to gather her angel/chicks under her wings. But-oh no!-where are the angel/chicks?

With minimum reshuffling, the missing children were replaced with grandparent's visiting dears, children of visitors, and other giggling, courageous souls.

It was a miraculous event... to highlight the miraculous event of our Lord's birth.

## HOPE'S HYSTERICAL HISTORY

QUESTION: DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY OF THE WEEK CHRISTMAS DAY WAS IN 1978?

*FIND THIS ICON IN THIS DECEMBER ISSUE FOR THE ANSWERS! —>*



# Thank You!

Thank you to Hope Lutheran Congregation for your generous support and donations of food and grocery gift cards for this year's Thanksgiving Food drive for Project Touch families. With your donations there was enough food and extras to feed more than 20 families. Thrivent Financial action team gift card was used to purchase fresh produce (tangerines, potatoes, extra cookies and peanut butter) for families to round out the Thanksgiving Day meal. Thank you again for your generosity. It is very much appreciated.

~ Hope Hunger Ministry



**Tuesday, December 24th**

**6:00 PM**

Join us as we prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas to you All!

# Thank You to our Servants in Service

*“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” - 1 Corinthians 12:12*

It takes ALL of us to be Christ’s body here at Hope. While it is impossible to thank everyone individually for all their acts of discipleship, each month we try to highlight a few folks who have been “especially supportive.”

- ◆ Thanks to the following for volunteering as Communion Assistant for Worship in the month of November: Carrol Kent, Elsa Arbues.
- ◆ Thanks to the following for volunteering as Reader for Worship in the month of November: Ken Wertz, Bruce Hodkinson, Bryan Dirkes, Isabella Knight.
- ◆ Thanks to Bob Danek, Kurt Holms and Craig Cotten for faithfully covering usher duties during Worship.
- ◆ Thanks to Thomas Schwalbe for volunteering as Music Leader in the month of November
- ◆ Thanks to Brian Glahn, Thomas Schwalbe, and Mike Haworth for serving as Canto during the month of November.
- ◆ Thanks to worship leaders like Mike Cooper, Ruben Arbues, Kevin Pregovisk, and Don Jackson who shared their talents with us through November.

*If you know of someone quietly serving Hope...  
Please let the church office know so they can be recognized here.*

## Hope Temecula-Financial Report AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024

	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
JANUARY	30,342.61	41,969.70	(11,627.09)
FEBRUARY	36,862.00	20,818.39	16,043.61
MARCH	20,596.25	46,700.79	(26,104.54)
APRIL	33,417.00	32,006.12	1,410.88
MAY	33,836.00	30,949.53	2,886.47
JUNE	37,157.00	25,958.22	11,198.78
JULY	34,122.42	36,041.40	(1,918.98)
AUGUST	38,323.64	43,637.64	(5,314.00)
SEPTEMBER	51,264.45	55,535.49	(4,271.04)
OCTOBER	45,951.30	44,130.72	1,820.58
YTD TOTALS	<b>361,872.67</b>	<b>377,748.00</b>	<b>(15,875.33)</b>
YTD MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL			<b>23,324.84</b>
NET INCOME			<b>(39,200.17)</b>
YTD BUDGET	<b>358,440.00</b>	<b>335,160.80</b>	



### JOY CIRCLE

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 1:00 PM**

Joy Circle will not meet in December. We will resume monthly meetings in January, 2025. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15th, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the home of Patsy LeGro. The Bible study leader will be Mary Ann Mericle.



Come join us on  
**Tuesdays**  
from  
**6:30pm-8pm**



# Holiday Potluck Lunch

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

After Worship—11:30 AM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We are having a holiday event on Sunday, December 8th. There will be a potluck lunch after church (11:30), and then we'll go to the sanctuary to learn about the holidays. Well, we pretty much know about Christmas... and Advent which comes before Christmas... But, do you recall the most mysterious one of all? Epiphany! It comes after Christmas (yes, the twelve days of Christmas), but what's so very special about it? You'll hear the answer to that—right from the mouth of a camel! There will also be a craft project and lots of singing! Please sign-up! See you on the 8th of December!



Hope's Hysterical History Answer:  
Christmas Day in 1978 was on **Monday!**



Hope Women's Ministry invites you to dedicate an engraved brick to honor your friends & family, to remember loved ones and pets, or to glorify God. Celebrate occasions such as birthdays, wedding or baptismal anniversaries, confirmation, graduation or other special events.

The cost of the brick is \$50, and order forms can be picked up in the church narthex. This is a wonderful way to leave a lasting mark for the future of Hope and the larger Temecula community as a whole. Payment needs to be made out to "Hope Women's Ministry" with a memo stating "Prayer Garden Brick." Blessings upon you all.







# December Birthdays

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 01 - Chuck Coe<br>Bob Mericle                              | Sandy Sanders<br>Justin Strom                           |
| 02 - Brendan Freiberg<br>Jim Gero                          | 17 - Karie White  |
| 06 - Karen Lloyd   | 18 - Megan Syed   |
| 07 - Nancy Tosch   | 19 - Adele Lindberg<br>Tyler Salesky                    |
| 09 - Julie Baggest<br>Matthew Schork<br>Tasia Schork       | 20 - Breanna Freiberg                                   |
| 10 - Brooke Hanson   | 21 - Carol Rosingana                                    |
| 11 - Ashlyn Reeg   | 25 - Nick Anderson<br>Jesus Christ                      |
| 14 - Bruce Dobson<br>Matt Doty<br>Cali Johnson<br>Jan Ritt | 29 - Rosalie Hayward<br>Sarah Masters                   |
|  | 30 - Meghan Edwards<br>Linda Foresta<br>Gabriel Sanders |



*At Hope Lutheran, we also like to celebrate baptismal anniversaries. If your baptismal anniversary is not listed, please call the church office to add!*

# December Baptism Birthday


- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 01 - Caleb Johnson<br>Debra Moore<br>Jodi Prystash         | Justin Strom                          |
| 03 - Joan Neidig   | 18 - Amanda Jones<br>Angelina Jones   |
| 05 - Craig Cotten<br>Olivia Orner-Haun<br>Elisabeth Revell | 19 - Jessica Jones<br>Rosalinda Jones |
| 06 - Joanna Van Nyhuis                                     | 22 - Kelsey Varisco                   |
| 08 - Lin Hodkinson   | 23 - Annabeth Dobson<br>Oliver Dobson |
| 09 - Laura Ann Madott                                      | 24 - Thomas Schork                    |
| 12 - Cherie Gero   | 25 - Jo Ann Wasserburger              |
| 14 - Brooke Hanson   | 29 - Hailey Baggest<br>Reese Koltvet  |



- 07 - Elsa & Ruben Arbues (37)  
15 - Kenneth & Yuki (51)  
16 - Amanda & Stephen Enochs (24)  
18 - Craig & Diane Cotten (53)  
27 - Jeff & Debra Moore (32)



# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Worship</b> 9:30am-10:30am David Bradley Rehearsal 12:00pm-6:30pm	<b>2</b> Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 6:00pm-9:00pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	<b>3</b> Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm-8:00pm	<b>4</b> Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Stone Creek Women's 7:00pm-9:00pm	<b>7</b> Mens Bible Study 8:00am-9:00am
<b>8</b> <b>Worship</b> 9:30am-10:30am Holiday Potluck Dinner 11:30am-1:00pm	<b>9</b> Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 6:00pm-9:00pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	<b>10</b> Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm-8:00pm	<b>11</b> Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am Council Meeting 4:30pm-6:00pm	<b>12</b> Prime Timers 11:30am-1:00pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Worship</b> 9:30am-10:30am Budget Meeting <b>Food Drive Deadline</b>	<b>16</b> Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 6:00pm-9:00pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	<b>17</b> Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm-8:00pm	<b>18</b> Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Worship</b> 9:30am-10:30am	<b>23</b> Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 6:00pm-9:00pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm-7:00pm	<b>25 - Christmas Day</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Worship</b> 9:30am-10:30am	<b>30</b> Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 6:00pm-9:00pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	<b>31</b>				

# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*An ELCA Congregation*

## PASTOR

Dan Cole - ext. 205

[pastor@hopetemecula.org](mailto:pastor@hopetemecula.org)

## MUSIC DIRECTORS

Paula Arlich

[parlich@hopetemecula.org](mailto:parlich@hopetemecula.org)

Barbara Meinke

[bmeinke@hopetemecula.org](mailto:bmeinke@hopetemecula.org)

## IT TECHNICIAN

Justin Strom

[justinstrom@hopetemecula.org](mailto:justinstrom@hopetemecula.org)

## CHURCH SECRETARY

Soren Dockings

[staff@hopetemecula.org](mailto:staff@hopetemecula.org)

## FINANCE DIRECTOR

Susan Garland

[sgarland@hopetemecula.org](mailto:sgarland@hopetemecula.org)

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon-Thurs: 9 AM-2 PM

*Closed Fridays*

## **CHURCH PHONE**

(951) 676-6262

## **EMAIL**

[staff@hopetemecula.org](mailto:staff@hopetemecula.org)

[www.hopetemecula.org](http://www.hopetemecula.org)



## Hope's 2024 Church Council

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Karen Hansen, President

Bruce Hodgkinson, V. President

Dorene Swenton, Secretary

Cheryl Morg, Treasurer

### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Elsa Arbues

Lou Long

Tom Schwalbe

### **Have a question? Idea to share? Concern?**

The Church Council would like to hear from you. Contact the Church Office to get their contact info.

Thank you to all supporting

## **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

with your time, talents and financial support!

1. To give a ONE-TIME or RECURRING gift online: go to [www.hopetemecula.org](http://www.hopetemecula.org) and choose "GIVE" in the menu bar OR scroll down and click "ONLINE GIVING." The button will take you to a secure page with easy, step by step instructions. Update your giving preferences any time.
2. TEXT "hopetemecula" to 73256 and follow the prompts for a one-time gift.
3. Mail a check to Hope Lutheran Church, 29043 Vallejo Ave., Temecula, CA 92592

## **HOPE CHILDREN'S CENTER**

(951) 694-3607

Paulina Escamilla

*Director*



[hcc@hopetemecula.org](mailto:hcc@hopetemecula.org)



Our Mission: Anchored in Christ...to Build and Grow Faith

Our Purpose: To share Jesus' love by reaching out and welcoming all

Our Vision: We will: *TRUST GOD* in the midst of what makes us anxious  
*CHOOSE FAITH* instead of fear and  
*SERVE MISSION* instead of our own comfort