

Hope Happenings

January 2025

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



Cherished by God

"But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:16)

I've had numerous discussions with individuals who genuinely feel they've made too many mistakes for God to still care about them. They often view themselves as irreparably damaged, believing they have no hope of ever experiencing God's love.

In response to these feelings, I like to ask a straightforward question: "Have you ever done anything worse than what Paul did before he became a follower of Christ?" Paul referred to himself as the worst of sinners because he actively persecuted and killed God's followers, mistakenly thinking he was fulfilling God's purpose.

Yet, even in that darkest moment of his life, God reached out to Paul, showering him with grace and revealing the depth of His love, even when Paul was opposing Him. Paul understood that God did this to demonstrate His remarkable patience and to show everyone that no one is beyond His mercy and forgiveness.

If God could rescue someone as lost as Paul, then we can find comfort in knowing that none of us are too far gone to be embraced by His love. Regardless of how broken or unworthy you might feel, remember that God's arms are always open wide, ready to welcome you. You are never out of His reach or care.

With God's boundless love,

- Pastor Dan

PRIME TIMERS

(Hope's Senior 50+ Ministry)

THURSDAY,

JAN. 9TH, 2025

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

In Fellowship Hall



Our next meeting and luncheon will take place on Thursday, January 9th, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be Pizza, Special Salad and Dessert. The cost for the meal will be \$13.00. Our speaker will be Mark Cowan, Computer Technical Support Service. Some of the things he will be going over is: Types of Scams, such as social media impersonation, the Refund/Gift card scam, Text Messages, Search Engine Phishing. He will also go over checking your sign in history and how to identify scams and how to protect yourself online. Please sign up on the easel located in the Church entryway so we have a head count for food.

Greetings in Christ!

It's a New Year!

New beginnings represent a chance to start fresh and make changes not only in our lives, but in the lives of others. Throughout the Bible we are called by God to serve others. Take the time to prayerfully consider how you can be a better servant of the Lord. There are countless ways to serve using the gifts and talents God has given each of us. So many ministries at Hope to serve and share—where will God lead you? Helping in weekly worship, special events, altar guild, our youth, or perhaps a new ministry for you in 2025!

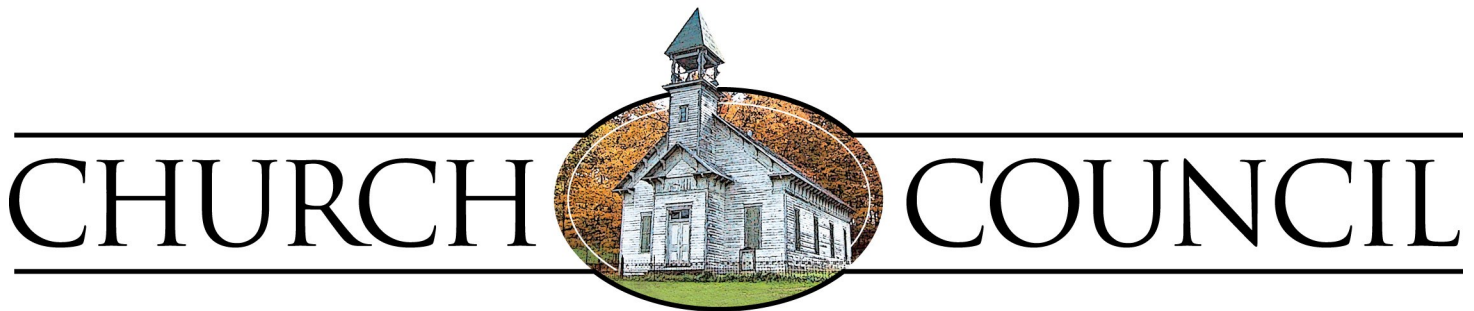
I am excited to announce a Call Committee has been created and is working closely with the synod as they walk the process for our next “settled” pastor. This is a confidential process, and this group of individuals is up to this very important task. Please pray for this group as they look to find the best candidate for Hope.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held after service on Sunday, January 26th. This is a yearly gathering of church members where we

review the Annual Report, celebrate the past years' achievements and vote on a new slate of Hope Council members. Anyone interested in being part of Hope's Council or you want to recommend someone, please contact any current Council member. Pray on how the Lord will lead you to serve in this tremendous opportunity at Hope.

As Christians, we can find hope and strength in knowing that God is with us in all things, including the new beginnings we face. In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord says, “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” God is constantly at work in our lives, creating new opportunities and possibilities for us. We must remember that regardless of what we will face in the upcoming year, Jesus Christ will be there in the beginning and at the end!

In His Service,
Karen Hansen
Hope Council President



We are looking for candidates for the 2025 Hope Church Council. To be eligible you must be a confirmed member of Hope. Please prayerfully consider yourself or others to share their gifts by serving on the council at Hope. Contact Karen Hansen by email: Karen71781@verizon.net for questions or to submit a name. Help lead Hope into the future!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26th, 2025

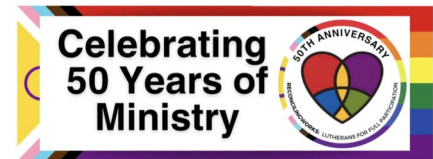
(Following Worship Service)

RIC—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.
- The journey of RIC is to open our hearts to the love of Jesus for all.
- We use the language of journey when referring to the program because it is more than a checklist.
- It is the understanding that we are unified in Christ to welcome all as they are.
- We believe that God values each person as a beloved child.

Got Any Questions, Cares or Concerns?

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



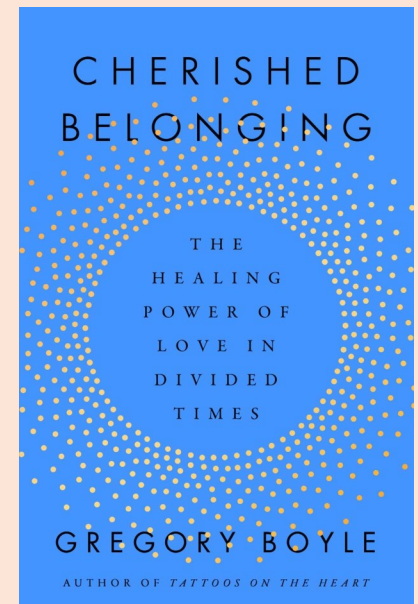
HOPE'S MENS GROUP: Our next meeting is on Saturday **January 11th**, 2025 at **8:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall as well as on Zoom. We will continue our study of the New Testament book of Galatians. You are encouraged to read Chapter 1 as we will study Chapter 1 line by line. Paul wrote to the churches he founded in Galatia (modern day Turkey), 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



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

Those of you who remember Pastor Lyle Peterson will remember this: "The number of seeds in an apple can be counted, but no one can count the number of apples in a seed."

How many seeds are in an apple? There might be five, or seven, or eight, or more. Cut the apple, count the seeds.

Then think about the members of Hope. Every Sunday we count the people who attend the service. We count the people who join us through technology. We have membership lists to help us keep track of how many people attend Hope.

Now think about how many people's lives have been touched by those Hope people. There is no way to count that number. We have outreach programs that assist those in need. Do we know how many people are blessed through those programs? (We do know that we are blessed to be a blessing to others.)

In this Epiphany season, and for all of 2025, let's continue to be the apple seeds that create love and laughter and blessings for so many others.



JOY CIRCLE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 1:00 PM

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.

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS



Sunday, January 5th

After Worship Service

We are inviting our talented and dedicated church members to join us immediately after worship service on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 as we will be taking down all the Christmas decorations in the church. Let's have a great turnout and lighten the workload for all.

Happy New Year to you All!



Come join us on

Tuesdays

from

6:30pm-8pm

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 December: Carrol Kent, Karen Hansen, Kathleen Kovich, Sherry Ito.
- ◆ Thanks to the following for volunteering as Reader for Worship in the month of December: Ken Wertz, Marta Bills, Philip Hansen, Heather Haworth.
- ◆ Thanks to Brain Glahn and Lou Long for volunteering as Music Leader in the month of December.
- ◆ Thanks to all who helped with "Hanging of the Greens" to prepare the church for Christmas. We had a great response with 22 members turning out for the event!
- ◆ Thank you to all who donated to the 20 Thanksgiving baskets and the many donations to support Mission Hope this Christmas.
- ◆ Thank you to the Women's ministry for sponsoring the wonderful Holiday potluck. A good time was had by all!

*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 November 30, 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
NOVEMBER	42,717.28	43,720.73	(1,003.45)
YTD TOTALS	404,589.95	421,468.73	(16,878.78)
YTD MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL			25,593.70
NET INCOME			(42,472.48)
YTD BUDGET			394,294.00

Hope Women's Ministry



Thanks to everyone who was involved with our Holiday Pot Luck Christmas Program. Thanks to Lynn Petroff and Karen Lloyd who put the program together. Karen planned the craft event. Thanks to Scottie who in the end with Karen in the hospital pulled everything together for the program. Thanks to Sally, Scottie and Ella who filled in the role of readers and to Paula Arlich for playing for us. Thanks to Donna and her crew for setting up and taking down for the Pot Luck lunch. And a very special Thank You to all that attended and for all the wonderful food that was provided.

Watch Hope Happenings for our next event! Joy Circle meets the third Wednesday of the month and Martha Circle meets the third Thursday of the month. For more information call Ella Loschky at (951) 894-2372. Blessings upon you all in the New Year 2025!

MISSION HOPE

Thank you, Hope Congregation, for your donations to the Hope Mission Food Pantry located in Temecula. Hope member, Jim Wood's entire truck, including the cab, was filled to the top. The food pantry staff were happy to see the donation and were ready to restock their shelves, as there were 15 plus cars already lined up for food that day. Thank you, Holly Hartman and Karen Hansen, for organizing this worthwhile event. Thank you to everyone at Hope for your generosity.



THANK YOU MEMBERS OF HOPE



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.

The 12 Days of Christmas

The 12 Days of Christmas comes from the song of the same name, but it is far richer in meaning than meets the eye. It is a story not just of a Christmas carol but of how creatively the Christian church has had to teach and spread the Gospel in times of persecution. From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Sometime during that era this carol was written as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit. The eight maids a-milking were the eight Beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5). The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples. Finally, the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

12 Days of Christmas

(last verse)

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my true love gave to me
Twelve drummers drumming,
Eleven pipers piping,
Ten lords a-leaping,
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree!



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him





HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

2025

January Birthdays

01 - Liam Hayes
Salim White
02 - Catherine Zinna
06 - Abbey Sanders
07 - Janet Baasch
09 - Bryan Ito
Ruth Landosky
Gary Westad
10 - Bruce Orner
Andres Varisco
11 - Celia Lamke
15 - Allyssa Gallup
16 - Larry Gabrielson
Mark Madott

Cathy Seguin
17 - Jim Wood
20 - Philip Hansen
Bruce Hodkinson
21 - Leslie Riley
23 - John Hanson
Roger Hayward
24 - Craig Cotten
Amanda Enochs
27 - Catelyn Hanson
Madelyn Hanson
Abigail Strom
28 - Anthony Gallup
29 - Patsy Le Gro



January Baptism Birthday

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

01 - Hannah Dixon
Jim Gero
Carrol Kent
Bruce Orner
Carol Rosingana
Gloria Sullivan
02 - Sally Glahn
11 - Chuck Coe
15 - Adele Lindberg
17 - Karen Lloyd
19 - Matt Doty
23 - Ava Riesenber

27 - Laila Peralta
Ashlyn Reeg
Thomas White



02 - Matt & Jennifer Doty (15)
04 - Josh & Erica Kreske (23)
09 - Bob & Pam Danek (61)
14 - Bruce & Robin Orner (41)
31 - Tim & Nancy Miller (33)



January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Taking Down the Greens 10:30am-11:30am	6 Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 6:00pm-9:00pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	7 Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm-8:00pm	8	9 Prime Timers 11:30am-1:00pm	10	11 Mens Bible Study 8:00am-9:00am
12 Worship 9:30am-10:30am David Bradley Rehearsal 12:00pm-6:30pm	13 Counters 9am-10am Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	14 Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm-8:00pm	15 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am Joy Circle 1:00pm-3:00pm Council Meeting 4:30pm-6:00pm	16 JCS Pine Hills 8:00am-2:00pm	17	18 Memorial 2:00pm-4:00pm
19 Worship 9:30am-10:30am	20 Counters 9am-10am Hope Book Club 4:45pm-6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm-9:00pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	21 Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm-8:00pm	22 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Annual Cong. Meeting 10:30am-11:30am David Bradley Rehearsal 12:00pm-6:30pm	27 Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 6:00pm-9:00pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:30pm-8:30pm	28 Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm-8:00pm	29 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am	30	31	

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

An ELCA Congregation

PASTOR

Dan Cole - ext. 205

pastor@hopetemecula.org

MUSIC DIRECTORS

Paula Arlich

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Barbara Meinke

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IT TECHNICIAN

Justin Strom

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CHURCH SECRETARY

Soren Dockings

staff@hopetemecula.org

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Susan Garland

sgarland@hopetemecula.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs: 9 AM-2 PM

Closed Fridays

CHURCH PHONE

(951) 676-6262

EMAIL

staff@hopetemecula.org

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 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



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