

# Hope Happenings

## March 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](http://www.hopetemecula.org)



# Cherished by God



## Be Still!

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, **“Let us go over to the other side.”**

Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, **“Quiet! Be still!”** Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, **“Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”** They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” ~ Mark 4:35-41 (New International Version)

In these moments of turbulence, when the winds of uncertainty howl and the waves of fear crash against us, we are presented with a profound opportunity for growth. It is our vulnerability that we can cultivate a deeper relationship with God, one that transcends our immediate circumstances and worries. Instead of relying solely on our own understanding and capabilities, we can lean into the spiritual truths that remind us we are never alone.

Just as the disciples called out to Jesus in their moment of desperation, we too can reach out in prayer, surrendering our worries and anxieties. This act of faith shifts our focus from the storm to the steadfastness of God’s presence. It is a reminder that even in the darkest moments, He is our anchor, guiding us through the tempest and offering peace that surpasses all understanding.

As we navigate life’s unpredictable waters, we are invited to practice trust not only as a concept but as a daily choice. Each decision to let go of our need for control and embrace faith in the unseen strengthens our spiritual resilience. We may not always receive immediate answers or solutions, but we can find peace in knowing that God is making a greater plan, one that often unfolds in ways we could never have imagined.

Moreover, this journey of trust encourages us to reflect on the lessons learned amid trials. Each challenge can become a stepping stone, paving the way for a deeper understanding of God’s character—His faithfulness, His sovereignty, and His unfathomable love. These realizations transform our hearts, enabling us to witness the beauty of divine intervention in our lives.

Ultimately, embracing trust in God invites us to live with a sense of expectancy. We begin to anticipate the ways He will work in our lives, even when circumstances seem bleak. This shift in perspective can illuminate the path ahead, revealing glimmers of hope and opportunities for growth that we might otherwise overlook.

In the end, it is through our willingness to trust in the unseen that we cultivate a faith that can weather any storm—a faith that not only anchors us but also inspires others to seek the same unwavering hope in their own lives.

In peace with faith,      - Pastor Dan Cole

It's kind of like "in-between" time. Looking back on Christmas—looking forward to whatever the new year will bring. I get caught with lots of "in-between" stuff. In between sadness and joy, sharing and being selfish, anger and gratitude, faith and doubt. God gives us peace in these "in-between" times.

We pray for God's peace and guidance as we experience the "in-between" times here at Hope. Our church family is blessed with faithful people who have faced all the challenges that have occurred in the past few years. We can look forward to the future and all the opportunities with grace, knowing that God will provide and our prayers will be heard.

The council is so grateful for the encouragement and support that we experience from all of you. We thank Karen Jansen and Doren Swenton for their hard work and devotion. We welcome our new members Paul Davis and Kathleen Kovich and returning member Tom Schwalbe.

Thanks to all of you from,  
Cheryl, Bruce, Elsa and Lou  
Hope Executive Council

### **2025 HOPE CHURCH COUNCIL**

Bruce Hodgkinson—**President**

Lou Long—**Vice President**

Elsa Aguilar-Arbues—**Secretary**

Cheryl Morg—**Treasurer**

#### **Members at Large**

Thomas Schwalbe

Kathleen Kovich

Paul Davis



## **PRIME TIMERS**

*(Hope's Senior 50+ Ministry)*

**THURSDAY,**

**MARCH 13TH, 2025**

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

*In Fellowship Hall*



Our next meeting and luncheon will take place on Thursday, March 13th, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be Corn Beef, Cabbage, Vegetables and Dessert. The cost of the meal will be \$13. Our program will be by Mark Bellnap, who will give an educational presentation on trade policy and tariffs. The presentation will provide an overview of what effects trade policy and tariffs might have on the economy. Please sign up on the easel located in the Church entryway so we have a head count for food.



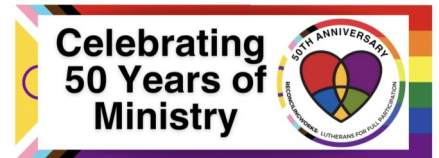
## RIC—Did You Know?

- 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.
- Being welcoming to all means to accept and celebrate all as their authentic selves.
- 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 Hodkinson (815) 404-8385 or [aniewinnie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aniewinnie@sbcglobal.net), Mona & Bryan Dirkes.



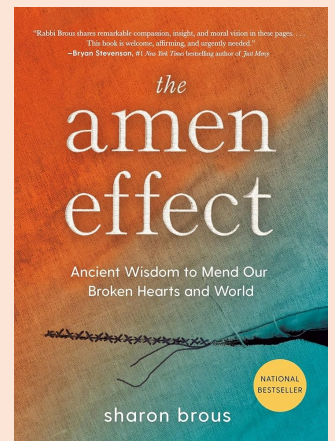
**HOPE'S MENS GROUP:** Our next meeting is on Saturday **March 15th**, 2025 at **8:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall as well as on Zoom. We will continue our study of the New Testament book of Galatians. You are encouraged to read Chapter 3 as we will continue our line by line study of the book of Galatians. Paul wrote the letter of Galatians to 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. The words Paul used writing Galatians have very specific meaning and the information in Galatians is foundational to our understanding of Christianity. 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)



Our March book club selection is: ***"The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World"*** by Sharon Brous. From one of our country's most prominent rabbis, an inspiring book about the power of community based on one of her most impactful sermons. We will meet on **March 24th** at **4:45pm** at the home of Marta Bills. 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.

Previous books read by the group are available to borrow! You can find the "library" in the narthex.



# Hope Hysterical History

In the past two months, you have read the words of former pastor Lyle Peterson (“You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you can never count the number of apples in a seed”). You now appreciate the fine-looking table that holds the Communion elements; the table hand-crafted by our first-called pastor Werner P. Welchert, when he was a high school student.

This month our focus is on the prayer kneeler which is to the left of the chancel. Delving into Temecula history can be very unsettling, but it is the backstory for the kneeler. On a tragic night in 1983, a family was murdered, along with a visiting child. One son, 10-year-old Josh, was seriously maimed, but survived. Dr. Mary Howell, Josh’s grandma, took Josh under her wing.

Fast forward to when Dr. Mary was downsizing, and Josh was able to leave the nest. The kneeler had been in Dr. Mary’s home for many years; she used it every morning for prayer and meditation. Desiring a good place for the kneeler, she gifted it to Hope. It has been used by Shirley Lee for Confirmation Rites, and by Linda Allmon for prayer vigils. Shirley, led by a creative urge, recovered the kneeler to match our chairs.



Portrait of Doug and Peggy Ryen with their daughter Jessica, 10, and son Joshua, then 8-years-old. Joshua was the only survivor of the 1983 incident. (File courtesy photo, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)



Starting March 5th, choir rehearsals will change to:

**Wednesday after Service**

from

**7:00pm-8:30pm**

We will resume Tuesday nights on May 6th



**JOY CIRCLE**

**WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 19TH, 1:00 PM**

Our March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the home of Patsy LeGro. The Bible study leader will be Sally Glahn.



## 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 February: Carrol Kent, Kathleen Kovich, Karen Hansen.
- ◆ Thanks to the following for volunteering as Reader for Worship in the month of February: Ken Wertz, Heather Haworth, Philip Hansen.
- ◆ Thanks to Thomas Schwalbe, Philip Hansen, Mike & Heather Haworth for volunteering as Music Leader in the month of February.
- ◆ Thanks to Paula Arlich for always promoting Hope on Facebook.
- ◆ Thanks to Bruce Hodgkinson and the property team for all the maintenance done at Hope.
- ◆ Thanks to all who showed up for the Church Work Day, thanks for cleaning and maintaining the facility.
- ◆ Thanks to Holly Hartman for her abundant work, as she goes above and beyond to maintain Hope's beautiful landscaping.

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



Ash Wednesday Service

March 5th, 2025

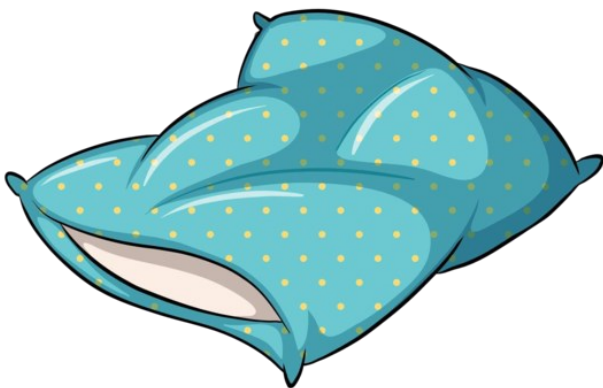
6:00 PM

Lent Service

Wednesday's March 12th-April 9th

6:00 PM

Join us at 5 PM for Lent Soups



## Project Pillowcase VIII

**Saturday, March 8th, 2025**

**9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Please come help us make 50 pillowcases to bring comfort to children entering the foster care system.

The event will take place on Saturday, March 8th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Women ages 12-112 are welcome and **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY!** We need measurers, cutters, pinners, ironers, and sewers (with their own machine). Materials and instructions will be provided. Sign up on the Worship Response Sheet (Yellow Sheet) or contact Barbara Meinke (951) 312-0458 (talk or text) or email at [tb.meinke5@verizon.net](mailto:tb.meinke5@verizon.net).



## Hope Temecula-Financial Report AS OF JANUARY 31, 2025

|                | INCOME    | EXPENSES  | BALANCE                         |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| <b>JANUARY</b> | 22,995.00 | 28,023.50 | (5,028.50)                      |
|                | 22,995.00 | 28,023.50 | (5,028.50)                      |
|                |           |           | YTD MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL 2,512.50 |
|                |           |           | NET INCOME (7,541.00)           |
|                |           |           | YTD BUDGET 388,500.00           |



**Preschool Helpers Needed:** Occasionally a preschool teacher is unable to come in at the last minute. This requires our Director, Paulina, to step into that teacher's classroom. That leaves Hope Children's Center's front office unattended and it also impacts teachers' breaks. If you are willing to help occasionally in Hope Children's Center, please contact the Church Office by phone or email and leave your name and contact information. Blessings.



### Bells of Hope:

Our bell choir will resume rehearsing on Monday,

**March 3rd, 6 PM to 9 PM,**

and we will continue rehearsals through the end of May.



To ensure the safety & security of our staff and preschool children and families, we ask anyone or any groups that will be meeting at Hope to notify the church secretary so the event can be added to the Master calendar. This includes all meetings, practices, vendor activities, etc. As we have more facility use requests it will help all to manage the activities at Hope.

Thank you ~ Church Council

# Hope Children's Center

**NOW  
ENROLLING!  
AGES 2.5-5YRS**

## **PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

*Our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment.*

### **PROGRAM FEATURES :**

- ✓ Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- ✓ Full Time- Part Time Schedules
- ✓ Faith Based

📞 951-694-3607

🌐 [HCC@HOPETEMECULA.ORG](mailto:HCC@HOPETEMECULA.ORG)

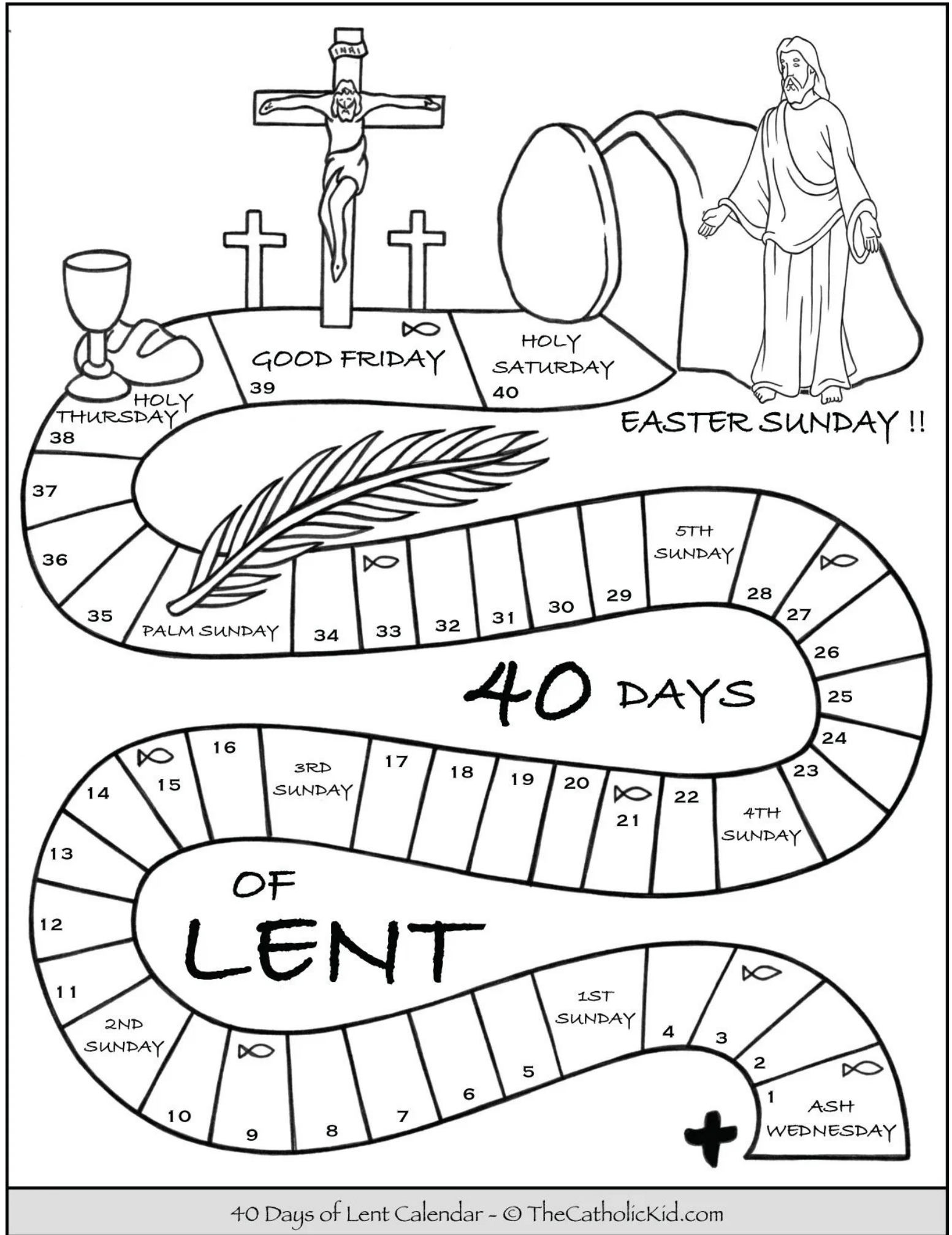
📍 29043 Vallejo Avenue Temecula, 92592  
Right off the 15 fwy

**New Hours 6:30 am-6:00pm**



**SERVING  
OUR  
COMMUNITY  
SINCE  
1996!**





# March Birthdays

02 - Jean Reed  
04 - Maddie Rebel  
07 - Lillian Brown  
Isaac Brown  
10 - Emily Revell  
12 - Annabeth Dobson  
13 - Philip Zinna  
14 - Ralph Sanzari  
Jim Riley  
15 - Ariaah Martinez  
Roslyn Knight  
Kristin Freiberg

18 - Chris Check  
Laila Peralta  
Thomas White  
19- Jim Seguin  
24 - Pastor Dan Cole  
25 - Maverick Hedges  
26 - Rose Marie Cathcart  
Jeanne Cole  
Lin Hodgkinson  
27 - Judy Feeney  
Eric Holm  
Jim Allmon

Terry Bills  
28 - Megan Wesel  
30 - Ruth Kaumeyer  
Dotty Petersen



# March Baptism Birthday

01 - Judy Feeney  
Sherry Ito  
Lou Long  
Jeff Moore  
Katie Prystash  
Terry Wood  
04 - Britt-Marie Varisco  
09 - Tom Torres  
16 - Breanna Freiberg  
20 - Vern Swearingen

22 - Brayden Freiberg  
Scottie Lloyd  
23 - Alex Veron  
Brandon Veron  
27 - Brendan Freiberg  
29 - Jan Ritt  
Connor Edwards  
31- Brinley Freiberg

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



08 - John & Carol Rosingana (28)  
Jim & Linda Allmon (16)  
13 - Jim & Terry Wood (48)  
15 - Mike & Rae Rebel (6)  
21 - Ben & Karie White (15)  
23 - Scott & Susan Garland (33)  
25 - Dave & Jennifer Edwards (29)  
16 - Phillip Dong & Marigold Velasco-Dong (30)



# March 2025

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday                             | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|---|---------|--|--------------------------------------|--------|---|
| 2<br>Confirmation Meeting<br>8:00am-9:00am<br>Worship 9:30am-10:30am<br>Strove Breakfast<br>11:00am-12:00pm | 3<br>Counters 9am-10am<br>Bible Study Fellowship<br>6:30pm-8:30pm<br>Bell Choir Practice<br>6:00pm-9:00pm                                     | 4       | 5<br>Adult Bible Study<br>10:00am-11:00am<br>Ash Wednesday<br>6:00pm-7:00pm<br>Choir Practice<br>7:00pm-8:30pm   | 6                                    | 7      | 8<br>Project Pillowcase<br>9:00am-1:00pm  |
| 9<br>Confirmation Meeting<br>8:00am-9:00am<br>Worship 9:30am-10:30am  | 10<br>Counters 9am-10am<br>Bible Study Fellowship<br>6:30pm-8:30pm<br>Bell Choir Practice<br>6:00pm-9:00pm                                    | 11      | 12<br>Adult Bible Study<br>10:00am-11:00am<br>JCS Pine Hills<br>9:00am-1:00pm<br>Lent Soups 5pm-6pm<br>Lent 6:00pm-7:00pm<br>Choir Practice<br>7:00pm-8:30pm | 13<br>Prime Timers<br>11:30am-1:00pm | 14     | 15<br>Hope's Mens Group<br>8:00am-9:00am<br>Temecula Grape Stompers<br>5:00pm-10:00pm |
| 16<br>Confirmation Meeting<br>8:00am-9:00am<br>Worship 9:30am-10:30am                                       | 17<br>Counters 9am-10am<br>Bible Study Fellowship<br>6:30pm-8:30pm<br>Bell Choir Practice<br>6:00pm-9:00pm                                    | 18      | 19<br>Adult Bible Study<br>10:00am-11:00am<br>Joy Circle<br>1:00pm-2:00pm<br>Lent Soups 5pm-6pm<br>Lent 6:00pm-7:00pm<br>Choir Practice<br>7:00pm-8:30pm     | 20                                   | 21     | 22  |
| 23<br>Confirmation Meeting<br>8:00am-9:00am<br>Worship 9:30am-10:30am                                       | 24<br>Counters 9am-10am<br>Bible Study Fellowship<br>6:30pm-8:30pm<br>Hope Book Club<br>4:45pm-6:00pm<br>Bell Choir Practice<br>6:00pm-9:00pm | 25      | 26<br>Adult Bible Study<br>10:00am-11:00am<br>Lent Soups 5pm-6pm<br>Lent 6:00pm-7:00pm<br>Choir Practice<br>7:00pm-8:30pm                                    | 27<br>Bunco<br>5:00pm-7:00pm         | 28     | 29  |
| 30<br>Confirmation Meeting<br>8:00am-9:00am<br>Worship 9:30am-10:30am                                       | 31<br>Counters 9am-10am<br>Bible Study Fellowship<br>6:30pm-8:30pm<br>Bell Choir Practice<br>6:00pm-9:00pm                                    |         |  |                                      |        |   |



# 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

Debra Smith

## **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 2025 Church Council

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Bruce Hodgkinson, President

Lou Long, V. President

Elsa Arbues, Secretary

Cheryl Morg, Treasurer

### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Paul Davis

Kathleen Kovich

Thomas 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

