

# Hope Happenings

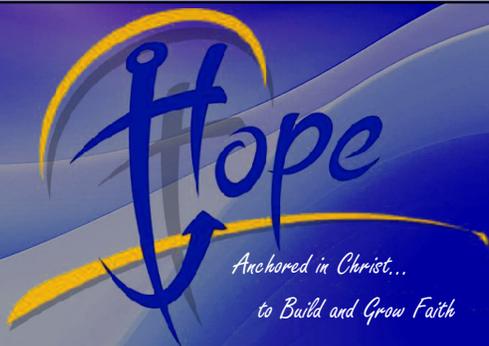
## March 2026

*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*



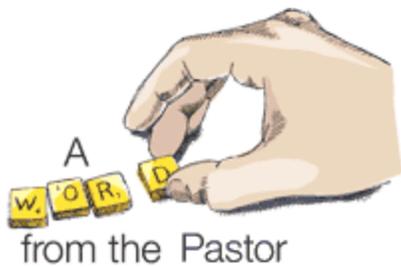
**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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)



*"Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace."  
(Prayer for Mission, Morning Prayer II, The Book of Common Prayer 1979, The Episcopal Church)*

**But we proclaim Christ crucified...**

Some things just don't make much sense. Water doesn't become wine, bread and fish do not suddenly multiply, the lame do not jump up and walk. And most certainly, dead people stay dead, especially those who experience the horrific death of crucifixion!

And yet, where Jesus is involved, all kinds of things that don't make much sense...happen.

In those earliest years of the Jesus Movement, his followers didn't wear crosses around their necks or hang them in the homes in which they worshipped. They had other symbols, certainly, but not crosses. Crucifixion was not a historical curiosity, but a still-present reality, and an agonizing and shameful one at that. To be crucified was to be executed as a common criminal. Worse, according to the Hebrew Scriptures, cursed was one who hung on a tree, on the wood of a cross.

So to speak of "Christ crucified" didn't make sense to many. It was a stumbling block, something foolish or offensive. But Paul said otherwise. Yes, Jesus could have avoided the cross, found some other way around it. But instead he faced the worst the world could throw at him, and then broke through death itself, and leave an empty cross behind as witness to his astonishing victory.

Some things don't make much sense. The cross is one of them. But it stands now and forever as our rallying cry that God—not injustice, not suffering, not even death—has the final, victorious word.

Lenten Reflections—March 4, 2018

Source: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lentenreflections/lent-3-but-we-proclaim-christ-crucified/>

## Wednesday's During Lent

**4:00 PM**

Join us for our Lenten Gatherings, Wednesdays during Lent starting at 4 PM. We will enjoy soups (please sign up on the Yellow Response Sheet to bring soups) and a Holden Evening Prayer.

Anyone willing to share their faith story during these meetings are encouraged to contact Bruce Hodkinson (815) 404-8370 or [bruhod54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bruhod54@sbcglobal.net) to sign-up.



## PRIME TIMERS

*(Hope's Senior 50+ Ministry)*

THURSDAY,

MARCH 12TH, 2026

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

*In Fellowship Hall*



Our meeting and luncheon will take place on Thursday, March 12th, from 11:30 AM to 1 PM in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be Corn Beef & Cabbage, Potatoes and Dessert. The cost for the meal will be \$13. Our speaker will be Dan Garrison. He will speak about the "History of Crime in Vietnam". Please sign up on easel located in Church entryway so we have a head count for food. If you just want to come for the program, you may come at 12:30 PM.

## Cherished by God

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ from your Hope council. As we enter the holiest time of year for Christians, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This will be a different Lent season as we will not have our regular midweek services. However, we will preserve the spirit of Lent as we gather to share the Word, share a meal and anticipate our Lord's resurrection together. This will be a very special time of fellowship and perhaps will be reminiscent of the times of the early church when there were no pastors, no formal worship places, rather just His flock gathering to remember the death and rebirth of the Lord. Please join us in the fellowship hall weekly on Wednesdays at 3:00 PM.

The council would like to express its gratitude for the hard work of Cheryl Morg for the past six years. Although Cheryl will no longer be on the council there is no doubt that she will continue to work diligently towards a bright future for Hope Lutheran Church and the Hope Children's Center. Thank you, Cheryl! You will

be missed.

We are happy to welcome Brian Dirks as a council member and look forward to his term in office. He has been a faithful servant to the church, and we look forward to his participation on the church council. Our heartfelt thanks also to Bruce Hodgkinson who has volunteered to continue the council for another term.

We pray that your Lent season is filled with the awe of things to come,

In Christ,

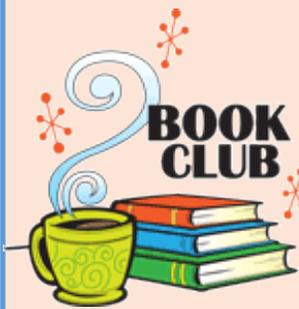
Elsa Arbues

Council Secretary

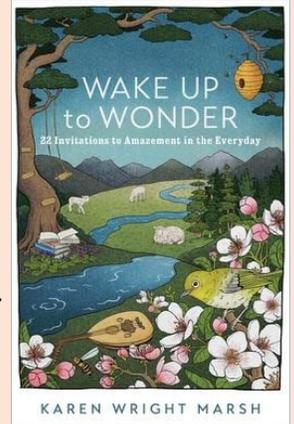


**HOPE'S MENS GROUP:** Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, March 14th, 2026 at 8:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. We have reviewed the introduction, Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 of the study. This study is available for download on the interweb at [ELCA500.org](http://ELCA500.org). Martin Luther wrote the treatise "The Freedom of a Christian" in 1520 that the study is based on. The actual treatise is available in the Study Guide itself. We will go on to Session 8 "Misunderstandings, Misuses and Abuses" on pages 32-34 of the study guide. Please prepare for the information in Session 7. This study is available for download on the interweb at [ELCA500.org](http://ELCA500.org).

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: *"Wake Up to Wonder: 22 Invitations to Amazement in the Everyday"* by Karen Wright Marsh. We will meet on Monday, **March 16th at 4:45pm** at the home of Holly Hartman. If you're joining us for the first time, please text or call Diane Anderson (951-834-3191) to be added to our e-mail group and/or to get further information.



**JOY CIRCLE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1:00 PM**

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18th, 2026 at 1:00 PM at the home of Rosalie Hayward. The Bible study leader will be Sally Glahn.



**MARTHA CIRCLE**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH, 10:00 AM**

The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19th, 2026 at 10:00 AM—Noon at the home of Ella Loschky. The Bible study leader will be Karen Lloyd.

## **Project T.O.U.C.H.**

Thank you to the groups that have committed to the Project Touch meals. We are hoping to finalize the host groups by the end of January. In addition we are looking to find individuals who are willing to provide breakfast items such as cereal, granola/protein bars, etc and/or cases of water for Project Touch. These items would be stored in the kitchen pantry at Hope to be used by the host groups. Please contact Karen Hansen for more details on host groups and providing these addition breakfast items. [Karen71781@verizon.net](mailto:Karen71781@verizon.net) or 909-615-2123

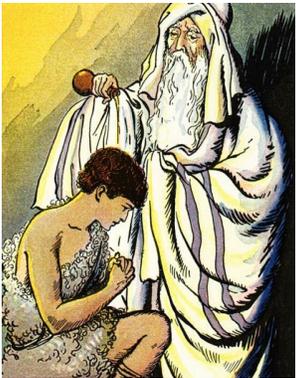
# Hope Hysterical History

You all remember the March Hare . . . Alice in Wonderland . . . tea party . . .

In 1980, while we worshiped in our first “It’s really ours!” building on Rancho California Road, we had hares all over the place. Point of fact, there was a pond – but no Oscar’s. There was no Target shopping center. No apartment complex. What we had was a deep storm drain that provided a safe area for burrowing owls, rabbits, coyotes, snakes, tarantulas, and the occasional puma/cougar/mountain lion. Yes, it was wild in “Rancho California,” but remember, our church had spent a year in the Long Branch Saloon in Old Town. We could face all the challenges, including wildlife!

When Shirley arrived, she was greeted by a snake and a tarantula. The earthquake, fires, and floods came within the same year.

## It's Our History!



# Shalom



Shalom. Shalom Aleichem.

We incorporate so many practices from the Jewish culture into which Jesus was born. A term that Jesus would have spoken often is “Shalom.”

Shalom means peace, as Jesus used it, but it is not just absence of conflict but holistic well-being, wholeness, and right relationship with God and others – community.

Richard Rohr explains that shalom produces change for the good of all. It is not a utopian destination; it is a constant journey.

God’s will and cosmic design is that no one suffer unjustly, but because human beings create unjust systems, shalom-type social parameters must serve as a social safety net to offset human disobedience. In order to create a shalom system of social harmony, no person could be oppressed for too long without hope of ease and eventual release; no family could remain in poverty for generations; no land could be worked until it was depleted and useless; no animals could go hungry for too long. Any of these violations of shalom that were left unmitigated for too long would upset the natural order of reciprocity fixed in all creation.

We should strive to live out shalom every day.

## 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, Lynn Petroff, Lin Hodkinson.
- ◆ Thanks to the following for volunteering as Reader for Worship in the month of February: Ken Wertz, Bruce Hodkinson, Lin Hodkinson and Sandy Sanders.
- ◆ Thanks to Brain Glahn and Lou Long for volunteering as Music Leader in the month of February.

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



# Thank You!

Mardi Gras was awesome! Thank you for your participation, your friendship, and your willingness to do things differently if needed. We all want to thank the decorating crew, the kitchen volunteers, and all the people who helped clean up so quickly. A very special appreciation to the wonderful jazz band that led us into the fellowship hall and continued with their talented music during our meal. Thank you for blessing us with your talent.

Our volunteers included: Craig Cotten, Elsa Arbues, Lynn Petroff, Lin and Bruce Hodkinson, Cheryl Morg, Donna and Maverick Hedges. I know we are all grateful for their time and efforts. I wish I could name everyone who helped clean up, but please know how much you were valued for the extra time you donated. ♡

# BECOME A PART OF HOPE'S PRAYER GARDEN



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.



*Don't forget...*  
to **Spring Forward 1 hour**  
**Sunday, March 8th**

Or do it the night before,  
I mean who stays awake  
until 2 am just to change the time?



## Project Pillowcase X

**Saturday**

**March 14th, 2026**

**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 14th, 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).

Dear Church, the teachers at Hope Children's Center were asked to share a list of items needed for their classrooms. If you would like to donate to the children and teachers we greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Hope Children's Center Board

### Requested Items

watercolor paint sets	foam stickers	tissue paper
painters tape	Dot Art bottles	washable markers
Elmer's Glue	shaving cream	Clorox Wipes
Ziplock Bags (all sizes)	colored pencils	Pastel fabric paints

Astrobright Colored paper "Classic"-5 color assortment

The Astrobright paper is 8 1/2 x 11 brightly colored printer paper

There will be a box in the Fellowship Hall for donations.



# HOPE CHILDREN'S CENTER EASTER EGG HUNT

Wonderful Hope Parents, we are in need of your assistance. We will be having an Easter egg hunt on Thursday and Friday March 19&20. We kindly ask for 12 pre-filled eggs per child. If you can drop them in the office by this Monday March 16.

\*Please No Chocolate.\*





# 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  
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



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

# 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



08 - John & Carol Rosingana (29)  
    Jim & Linda Allmon (17)  
13 - Jim & Terry Wood (49)  
15 - Mike & Rae Rebel (7)  
21 - Ben & Karie White (16)  
23 - Scott & Susan Garland (34)  
25 - Dave & Jennifer Edwards (30)  
16 - Phillip Dong & Marigold Velasco-Dong (31)



# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	2 Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 5:30pm-8:30pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	3 Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm	4 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am Lenten Gathering 4:00pm-5:00pm Bradley Practice 5:30pm-9:30pm	5 AA Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm	6 Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	7 Edwin Johnson Memorial 11:00am-1:00pm
8-Time Change (+1hr) Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	9 Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 5:30pm-8:30pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	10 HCC Chapel 9:30am-10:00am Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm	11 HCC Chapel 9:30am-10:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am Lenten Gathering 4:00pm-5:00pm Bradley Practice 5:30pm-9:30pm	12 Prime Timers 11:30am-1:00pm Bunco 5:00pm-7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm	13 Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	14 Hope's Mens Group 8:00am-9:00am Project Pillowcase X 9:00am-1:00pm
15 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	16 Counters 9am-10am Hope Book Club 4:45pm-5:45pm Bell Choir 5:30pm-8:30pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	17 Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm	18 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am JCS Pine Hills 11:00am-2:30pm Joy Circle 1:00pm-2:00pm Lenten Gathering 4:00pm-5:00pm	19 Martha Circle 10:00am-12:00am AA Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm	20 Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	21 Temecula Grape Stompers 5:00pm-10:00pm
22 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	23 Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 5:30pm-8:30pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	24 Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm	25 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am	26 AA Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm	27 Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	28 Love Church 8:00am-12:00pm
29 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	30 Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 5:30pm-8:30pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	31 Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm				

# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*An ELCA Congregation*

## **PASTOR**

- 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)

## **CHURCH SECRETARY**

Soren Dockings

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

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Debra Smith

[financeminister@hopetemecula.org](mailto:financeminister@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 2025 Church Council**

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Bruce Hodkinson, 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

