

Hope Happenings

May 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



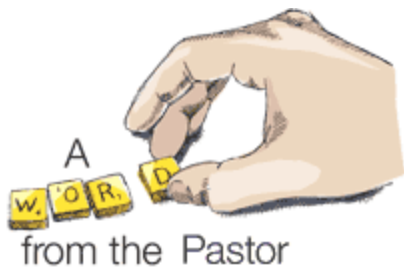
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hope Children's Center Preschool

An ELCA Congregation

29043 Vallejo Ave, Temecula, CA 92592-2307

(951) 676-6262 www.hopetemecula.org



In defense of Mother's Day *By Scott Stiegemeier*

It has been often remarked that, in Christian churches across America, Mother's Day is the second best attended worship service next to Easter. Many Christians who pay scant attention to the Church Year will observe Mother's Day with religious devotion. They may never hear about Epiphany or Pentecost, but they do expect a special Mother's Day message on the second Sunday in May. Despite this interesting state of affairs, Mother's Day remains a secular holiday, not a sacred one. So each year — as it did again this year in many congregations — the question arises: How much attention, if any, should churches pay to Mother's Day?

There will be differing opinions, but one thing is clear: Quasi-religious schmaltz that exists only to tug the heartstrings can be a distraction in church from the things that are of ultimate importance. The center of every Lutheran service is and must be Christ and Him crucified. Let's let nothing, no matter how wholesome, obscure the Gospel.

That being said, I believe we should take a little time to bless the mothers in our congregations, to thank them, pray for them, encourage them and support them.

Mothers play a vital role in church and society — a reality the world seems to despise these days. Very often, mothers are at the forefront of handing the faith down to the next generation. As Paul wrote to Timothy: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well" (2 Timothy 1:5). In the Church, a mother's influence can extend far beyond her biological family. Paul says in Romans 16:13: "Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well." In some way, God used this unnamed woman to nurture, to mother, the great apostle Paul. Let us be grateful for all the mother-figures in our lives — whether they're related to us by blood, or faith, or both.

There is a spiritual reason to remember Mother's Day as well. In these dark latter days, there is much confusion about the meaning of sexuality and family. While the Devil attacks marriage and children, the Church can stand firm on God's Word and resist the siren's song that leads to destruction. In particular, our ancient enemy hates pregnant women, remembering always God's primordial promise that the seed of the woman would strike the serpent's head and that a pregnant mother gave birth to the Savior who spelled his doom. It is thus fitting and right to give thanks to God — on Mother's Day and at all times — for the blessed motherhood of Mary, for our spiritual mother the Church and for all mothers who honor God with their lives by bearing and nurturing children.

This isn't to say that Mother's Day is all happiness and roses. We should remember that it can be uncomfortable for a lot of people. Some of us might not have sweet memories of loving Christian parents. Perhaps others have lost their mothers or been estranged from their children, making the day an acutely stinging reminder of their absence. Others desire to become mothers and fathers but remain bereft of children. These may never receive homemade cards and crayon drawings to post on the fridge, and this loss can be as painful as death. So pastoral sensitivity is cer-

tainly called for.

Still, Mother's Day represents a powerful opportunity to bless something good and beneficial in this polluted world. Our mothers are imperfect, like all people, but God has honored motherhood in the incarnation of His one eternal Son and continues to use faithful women to build His Kingdom.

On Mother's Day, then, don't forget to tell Mom you love her. (Actually, do this every day.) Make her a homemade card and sit next to her in church. More than this, though: Mobilize your congregation to assist a local crisis pregnancy center. Offer to babysit for the single moms in your community. Help organize meals for families with newborns. Especially if your own mother is far away, spend time getting to know the older women in your congregation and your neighborhood.

And in all these things, remember with awe that the Creator once chose a humble virgin to become a mother and be the means for bringing His saving presence into the world.

The Rev. Professor Scott Stiegemeier teaches bioethics and theology at Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.

Source: <https://witness.lcms.org/2019/in-defense-of-mothers-day/>

Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10th

Happy May Day for your council at Hope! And with the April showers we are seeing May flowers. Our Day care is still needing assistance with supplies and we need more kids!

Our finances are tied into the success of our daycare. 2 years ago their contribution of \$8000 a month was helping us meet the pastor's salary and benefits.

Last year we pulled money from every account we had to pay their salaries and ours. With use of supply pastors and the school adding some students, the council is improving our financial position. To bring it back to where we were 2 years ago the school needs to attract more students!

The council wants and needs the school to succeed. The school is going to extend its hours in the fall and the minimum to make this work is 10 more students!

Last fall I was asking for more participation. And now I am asking for more kids. Supporting our preschoolers brings more people to church. Which means we can support a full time pastor.

Yes, we are all connected to each other. Let's work together through all our ministries. Remembering children can be a big key for our future! Your servant in Christ. Lou Long, Vice President and coffee maker when Donna's not here!



PRIME TIMERS

(Hope's Senior 50+ Ministry)

THURSDAY,

MAY 14TH, 2026

11:30 AM – 1 PM

In Fellowship Hall

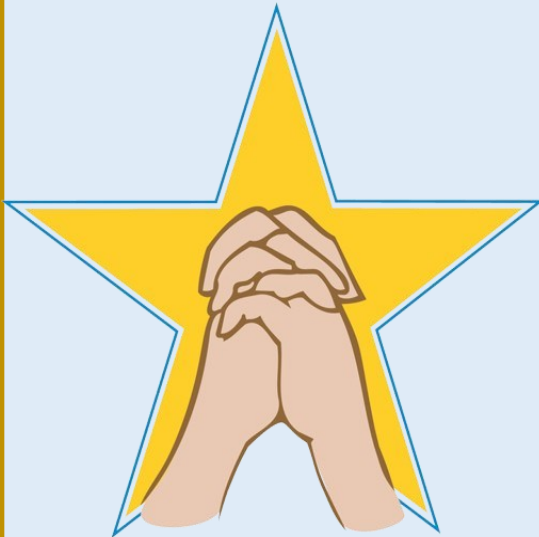


Our next meeting and luncheon will take place on Thursday, May 14th, from 11:30 AM to 1 PM in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be Enchilada, Beans, Rice, Salad and Dessert. The cost of meal will be \$13.00. Our speaker will be Tony Chavez, who will share his life story. Please sign up on easel located in Church entryway so we have a head count for food. If you want to come for the program only, you may come on or before 12:30 PM and no sign-up is required.

Prayer Vigil

Sunday, May 31st, 2026

Following Worship Service



Hope's Women Ministry will be hosting a Prayer Vigil on Sunday, May 31st, following the worship service. We invite all to stay and pray with us. We will be offering prayers starting with the needs of Hope and working outward from there to the world as time permits. The vigil will last no more than one hour. Each section will be led in prayers by someone and then opened to the congregation for additional prayers on that topic. Please join us as we lift our concerns for Hope and the other topics to the Father.



Our May book club selection is: *"The Glorians: Visitations from the Holy Ordinary"* by Terry Tempest Williams. Terry Tempest Williams is an American writer, educator, conservationist, and activist. She is Writer-in-Residence at Harvard Divinity School. We will meet on Monday, **May 18th** at **4:45pm-6pm** at the home of Marta Bills. If you're interested in participating, please get in touch with Mar-

THE GLORIANS

VISITATIONS FROM THE HOLY ORDINARY



TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS



HOPE'S MENS GROUP: Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, May 9th, 2026** at **8:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. We will continue the study of "The Freedom of a Christian" available for download on the interweb at ELCA500.org. Martin Luther wrote the treatise "The Freedom of a Christian" in 1520 as a letter to Pope Leo X, that the study is based on. The actual treatise is available in the Study Guide itself as well. We will go on to Section 10 "Righteous Like a Truck" on pages 37 & 38 of the study guide. Please prepare for the information in Section 10. We will also be executing our plans for providing the evening meal at Project Touch on Sunday May 10, 2026.

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



Choir Practice
Tuesdays 6:30pm-8pm
Bell Choir Practice
Mondays 5pm-8:30pm



JOY CIRCLE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH, 1:00 PM

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20th, 2026 at 1:00 PM at the home of Jan Bolinger. The Bible study leader will be Rosalie Hayward.



MARTHA CIRCLE

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST, 10:00 AM

The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21st, 2026 at 10:00 AM—Noon at the home of Ella Loschky. The Bible study leader will be Karen Lloyd.

Project Pillowcase



Our next project date is tentatively set for September. It will be **Project Pillowcase XI: It's Raining Cats and Dogs!** All who wish to help, whether or not you sew, are welcome! We need folks to pin, sew, turn, iron and parade the finished cases. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us as we sew up some very fun donated fabrics featuring furry friends!

Materials and instructions will be provided. Contact Barbara Meinke (951) 312-0458 (talk or text) or email at tb.meinke5@verizon.net.

Hope Hysterical History

“When we sing, we pray double.” Saint Augustine

Martin Luther was a strong proponent of the power of music in worship. He used music to accentuate the message.

Hope Lutheran has truly been blessed with an outstanding music ministry. Before we were a bona fide congregation – still a Mission Church – we had a choir under the direction of Dagmar Klutz, wife of Mission Minister Pastor Frank Klutz. Our first called pastor, Werner Welchert, was part of the choir which was directed by Marcella Welchert (who was also our pianist). We had no church building, remember, so we rehearsed at their home. Strawberry season makes me remember the infused strawberries that added some real joy to one rehearsal. The strawberries were an offering from Dick Patterson.

Meeting in the Longbranch Saloon assured that we could have our own place to raise our voices to the rafters. When we moved into the “new little church” on Rancho California Road, we continued our robust music ministry. With some new members, we were blessed with a quartet (two couples) who developed the Temple Band. Dean Aamodt and Melanie Aamodt were trained musicians. Mike and Sherri Kreissig were naturals. We had Dave Efflandt who directed the brass band for some of our drama productions. Dave Bradley was involved in that, and now regales us with The Second-Hand Brass Band during Mardi Gras celebrations. Barbara Meinke has been our choir director, and is currently the director of Bells of Hope. Wanda Bledsoe was organist/pianist for many years. Milt Bledsoe was inspirational with his fine baritone voice. Harry and Dorothy Zimmerman were outstanding. Harry’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic” went straight to the heart. During this Easter Season, we fondly remember Dale Johnson who always sang, at the conclusion of the Good Friday service, “Were You There?”

There are so many others, but not enough space to mention them. But this is preface to our musicians who add so much to each service: Paula Arlich, pianist/choir director; Mike Cooper, song leader; musicians Kevin Pregovisk, Ruben Arbues and Rick Arbues; Don Jackson. Our cantors are liturgy leaders: Lou Long, Thomas Schwalbe, and Brian Glahn. We are so fortunate!

During March, Pastor Perla led us in singing “Amazing Grace,” which enhanced the Bible reading that Sunday. On Easter Sunday, Scott Thudium beautifully accented the opening hymn with the trumpet.

May is music appreciation month. Let our music ministers know how much you value their leadership.

Upcoming Memorials

Bob Mericle—Friday, May 8th at 1 PM

Gary Anderson—Saturday, June 13th at 10:30 AM

Pam Danek—Saturday, June 27th at 11 AM

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 April: Cherie Gero, Karen Hansen, Lin Hodkinson, Elsa Arbues.
- ◆ Thanks to the following for volunteering as Reader for Worship in the month of April: Ken Wertz, Philip Hansen, Sandy Sanders and Lynn Petroff.
- ◆ Thanks to Thomas Schwalbe and Lou Long for volunteering as Music Leader in the month of April.

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

CAN GOD USE YOU?

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember. . .

Noah was a drunk—Abraham was too old—Issac was a daydreamer—Jacob was a liar—Leah was ugly—Joseph was abused—Moses had a stuttering problem—Gideon was afraid—Samson had long hair and was a womanizer—Rahab was a prostitute—Jeremiah and Timothy were too young—David had an affair and was a murderer—Elijah was suicidal—Isaiah preached naked—Jonah ran from God—Naomi was a widow—Job went bankrupt—John the Baptist ate bugs—Peter denied Christ—The disciples fell asleep while praying—Martha worried about everything—Mary Magdalene was. . .well, you know—The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once—Zaccheus was too small—Paul was too religious—Timothy had an ulcer...

AND...

Lazarus was dead!

No more excuses now. God can use you to your full potential. Besides, you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

In the Circle of God's love, God is waiting to use you to your full potential.



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.





May Birthdays

02 - Gary Check
03 - Carol Goetting
 Jenna Martin
10 - Abby Knight
 Bella Knight
11 - Grant Holm
12 - Sarah Martinez
 Thomas Schork
13 - Donna Wulff-Davis
14 - Mary Ann Mericle
16 - Elsa Arbues
18 - Olivia Orner-Haun
 Dan Pearson
20 - Oliver Campos

Marilyn Dobson
21 - Heidi Orrell
 Terry Prelgovisk
22 - Janet Van Every
23 - Brinda Jarratt
 Wes White
24 - Brandon Veron
25 - Elliott Bills
 Alyson Enochs
 Suzanne Holm
 Myrna Swearingen
28 - Susan Garland
 Donna Hedges
30 - Marge Anderson

Nancy Frommling



May Baptism Birthday

01 - Steve Prystash
 Rae Rebel
 Jim Sequin
05 - Kyle Salesky
09 - Jean Reed
10 - True Hartman
 Chris Lindberg
11 - Cheryl Morg
12 - Matthew Schork
 Tasia Schork
14 - Pam Danek
18 - Janelle Garland

19 - John Rosingana
21 - Philip Zinna
23 - Kristin Freiberg
 Betsy Schork
24 - Rose Marie Cathcart

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 - Chuck & Nancy Coe (50)
14 - Soren & Janell Dockings (4)
17 - Josh & Amanda Knight (18)
27 - Jim & Leslie Riley (39)
27 - Terry & Marta Bills (36)



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 HCC Spring Fling 11:00am-1:00pm Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	2
3 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	4 Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 5:30pm-8:30pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	5 Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm	6 HCC Chapel 9:30am-10:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am Bradley Practice 5:30pm-9:30pm	7 HCC Chapel 9:30am-10:00am AA Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm	8 Bob Mericle Memorial 1:00pm-3:00pm Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	9 Hope's Mens Group 8:00am-9:00am
10-Mother's Day Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	11 Counters 9am-10am Bell Choir 5:30pm-8:30pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	12 Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm	13 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am	14 Prime Timers 11:30am-1:00pm Bunco 5:00pm-7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm	15 Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	16 Love Church 8:00am-12:00pm Temecula Grape Stompers 5:00pm-10:00pm
17 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	18 Counters 9am-10am Hope Book Club 4:45pm-6:00pm Bell Choir 5:30pm-8:30pm Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	19 JCS Pine Hills 9:30am-4:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm	20 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am Joy Circle 1:00pm-2:00pm	21 Martha Circle 10:00am-12:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm	22 JCS Pine Hills 9:30am-4:00pm Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	23 Love Church 8:00am-12:00pm
24 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm	25 Counters 9am-10am Bible Study Fellowship 6:45pm-8:15pm	26 Choir Practice 6:30pm-8:00pm	27 Adult Bible Study 10:00am-11:00am	28 AA Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm	29 Love Church 7:00pm-10:00pm	30
31 Worship 9:30am-10:30am Prayer Vigil After Worship Love Church Worship 1:00pm-6:00pm						

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

An ELCA Congregation

PASTOR

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MUSIC DIRECTORS

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Barbara Meinke

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Soren Dockings

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FINANCE DIRECTOR

Debra Smith

financeminister@hopetemecula.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs: 9 AM-2 PM

Closed Fridays

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Hope's 2025 Church Council

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Bruce Hodkinson, President

Lou Long, V. President

Elsa Arbues, Secretary

Paul Davis, Treasurer

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Bryan Dirkes

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 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

