Good Morning People of Hope. My name is Amanda Berryhill, and I am your Council President. Thank you Pastor Mike Zurek for being with us today! Our church council met this past Tuesday night. Here are a few highlights from that very busy meeting.

* We reluctantly accepted resignations from our Intentional Interim Pastor Rick Hall, our organist Marguerite Crownover, and our Choir and Creative Arts Director Rachael Groeneweg. The good news is that Rachael will continue to do as much of her Creative Arts Director position as possible remotely after her move to San Diego until a replacement is found for her. Thank you Rachael! Please join us as we say farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Rick next Sunday, May 28; to Rachael on June 4; and to Marguerite on July 9 during services and receptions following.
* Your council, personnel team, and strategic planning team are working together to fill our staffing vacancies. We have a special combined meeting planned this coming Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 to identify our hiring priorities so we can approach this work in a more organized manner. Work on updating job descriptions to be in line with current duties and new California laws has already started. After consulting ministry experts here, the synod, at other ELCA churches, and Fresno Pacific University, we have decided to wait on hiring a Children’s Ministry Director until our new settled pastor arrives and can have input on who is hired, particularly since this congregation has voiced a desire for a pastor skilled in Youth and Family ministry. In the meantime, one of our top priorities is to hire an Interim Youth Ministry Assistant.
* I am happy to say that Hope’s Ministry Site Profile has been approved by the Synod. The Call Team is now working on learning the interview process. We are at least four months, and please note I say “at least” four months, from having a new settled pastor join us. In the meantime, the Synod is working to find a bridge pastor to fill the gap between when Pastor Rick leaves and our new settled pastor arrives.
* God is working through the many opportunities for new beginnings that we currently have at Hope. One thing that is becoming increasingly obvious is our need to build our volunteer base. We need more Helping Hands at Hope! This morning as you came in, you received a Volunteer Skills Survey. I intend to build a database of Hope’s talents. Please fill out the survey and leave it with our usher or me on your way out to enjoy the beautiful weather and some treats in the courtyard after service.
* There are two ways you can help right now:
  + If you have any audiovisual skills or a willingness to learn, our AV volunteer, Jason Hoff, needs some folks who are willing to substitute for him on Sunday mornings and for special events so he can take some well-deserved time off. Fair warning, if you turn around to glare at him when he is half a beat off getting a slide up on the screen, you just signed yourself up as a sub!
  + Our Campus Administrator, Myra Squeo, also needs some well-deserved time off. She is currently working seven days a week when you include the time she spends hosting events on weekends. We need people age 18 or older to open the community center or rooms being used by renters, provide support to them while their event is taking place at Hope, and ensure the facilities are cleaned up and locked securely at the end of the event. Event Hosts will earn minimum wage. This is the perfect job for a college student! Please see Myra Squeo to sign up.
* Two last things for your calendars:
  + We are canceling Vacation Bible School due to an underwhelming response to student registration and volunteer sign-ups, and the fact that Fresno Unified School District is providing concurrent, free programming. Instead, the Youth Advisory Team will be focusing their efforts on a one-day carnival event towards the end of July. More details are forthcoming, so please keep your eyes and ears open for that. We still want to have some Summer fun! To those who have donated physical items or money, please email [rachael@hopelutheranfresno.org](mailto:rachael@hopelutheranfresno.org) with what you would like to see happen with those donations. For monetary donations, if you would like to reallocate those monies towards the carnival event, that would be a much-appreciated.
  + Please save the date for God’s Work, Our Hands, Sunday, September 10. Delaney Wright has graciously volunteered to coordinate our community service project Sunday this year. More information is forthcoming over the summer. Please start thinking about how Hope matters to our community and what service project you would like to lead.

Thank you, and Happy Sunday!