



THE GRAPEVINE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | September/October 2023

GOD IN ALL SEASONS

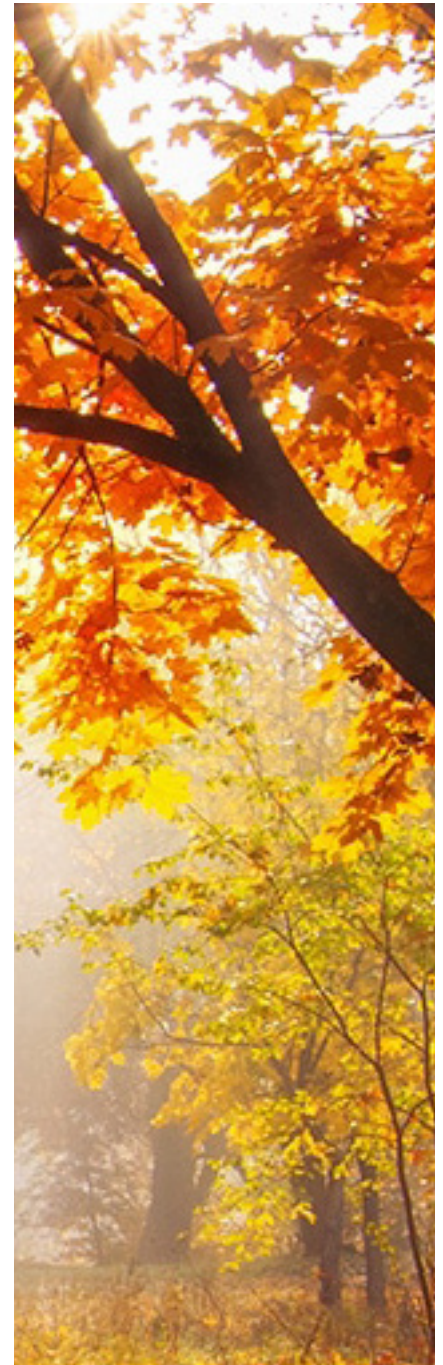
by Rachael Groeneweg

God led me to a Lutheran Church in San Diego when I was 13 years old. I came to be a part of this church family by first participating in their musical theatre program that Summer. In the Fall, following the end of their production of "Cinderella," (in which I played the Fairy Godmother), I started leading worship for Youth Group. Come Winter, I started helping out in the nursery on Sunday mornings. Then, in the Spring when I was 16 years old, I was invited to be a part of the adult worship ensemble, and was old enough to join the Choir. My involvement in the church kept growing until eventually, I became their Communications Specialist in my late teens/early twenties, and of course continued to participate in leading worship.

Do you notice a theme here? Yup, seasons. At a new member's retreat, where I helped to lead worship, I will never forget the exercise that my pastor at the time used to illustrate our ever-changing, non-linear relationship with the Lord. He explained that our life, and consequently our walk with God, can sometimes feel like the changing seasons: Sometimes, like the song "Bleak Midwinter," it can be hard to see God at work. It's cold, finances can be tight, and we miss loved ones a little extra during the holidays gone to be with the Lord. Then, we move into the Spring where there are new beginnings and transformation...just as Christ Himself is raised from death to life. Then, we move into Summer, which represents not only joy, optimism, and positivity, but also Sabbath rest from all of the hustle and bustle of school and work. Then there's the Fall, with its cornucopia of colors, which we associate with times of plenty and gratitude for the harvest, but also, change. The common thread amongst all these seasons is that God, whether you are struggling to see Him, or feel His presence as though he were sitting right next to you, is ever-present through the change.

We had to choose which season most reflected where we felt our relationship with God was at the time. I gave the same answer then as I do now: Fall. Much like the falling leaves, I see God all around me, even though I am continuing through a season of change. My family just made a big move, changing doctors, finding activities for our son...

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*Fall Life at Hope;
Call Team Update*

8-11

*September &
October Calendars*

12-16

*Council Highlights,
Birthdays + More*

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF “GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”

By Candy Paulsen

God’s Work Our Hands Day (GWOH) is celebrating 10 years of service through the ELCA in 2023. It is probably my favorite day at Hope. I love that children to seniors come together to serve our community in a myriad of ways. This year we will be offering a number of opportunities to serve.

We will have something for those who prefer the outdoors, those who have the gift of hospitality, those who love animals, those who have a heart for our unhoused neighbors, those who are gifted in sewing, arts and crafts, and cleaning. We will be blessing college students once again with a box of treats, school supplies, and more. We will be blessing first responders with cookies lovingly decorated by little ones. Best of all, we will gather afterwards to share our stories. We will share how doing God’s work with our hands blesses us. We will share how we met someone new from church. We will share a meal and fellowship. We might learn of a need in our community we didn’t even know existed. We will serve locally and globally. And we will be changed. Our hearts will be fuller. When we are the hands and feet of our Lord, when we come together as the body of Christ, when we share the gifts we have been given we can’t help but grow in love. When we let the Spirit in, when we follow God’s call to serve, we show we are “... Christians by our love...”

Delaney Wright has listened to God’s whisper, or maybe it was a shout? She is our GWOH coordinator this year. I was so thrilled to hear that she wanted to take this challenge on. We have had several coordinators over the years and each one brings new ideas, gifts, and talent to the position. Delaney will too. But, she needs our help. It is a big job! So, what will you sign up to do this year? What? You have never participated in GWOH? What are you waiting for? You have an idea for a project? Great! Want to be a team leader? Or would you rather be a worker bee? Do you have a Thrivent Action Grant you can request to support a project? There is something for everyone. Maybe you have participated in the past but want to try something new this year. There will be many options. And though it is helpful to sign-up in advance, you can also just show up that day and be “plugged in” on the spot.

Hope has participated in all of the GWOH days with the exception of 2020 in the height of the pandemic. Many people have been blessed locally and globally; here are a few: Breaking the Chains received a garden makeover at their safe house (a place of transition for those saved from human trafficking), the Marjorie Mason Center enjoyed a luncheon with a little carnival for the children, the Learning

Tree has been freshened and cleaned, pregnant moms on other continents have received baby kits, countless fleece blankets and quilts have gone out to warm and comfort, and foster children and youth received handmade duffels and pillowcases, many people have been gifted with a special woven cross. There are too many projects to mention, but you get the idea.

Hope will celebrate GWOH day on Sunday, September 10. Sign-ups will begin, Sunday July 30. We will also be asking for donations of items needed for a few of the projects. Please check the weekly email blast and bulletin for more information. GWOH day is a reminder that EVERY DAY is GWOH day. It is a time to reflect on how God may be calling us to serve Him by serving others. It is a time to remember the purpose of Hope Lutheran church and to live out our mission statement of Extending Hope in Jesus.

“God’s Work Our Hands” Hymn
Set to “Earth and All Stars” (Vs. 1)

*“God’s work, our hands:
working together,
building a future,
repairing the world,
raising up homes,
planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry
and shelt’ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands
as we work in your name,
sharing the good news
of your Gospel.”*

Text: Wayne L. Wold
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Volunteers needed



SCAN ME!



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10, 2023

REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER for GWOH by scanning the QR code above.

Questions?

Contact Delaney Wright:
delaneysinging28@gmail.com



Please bring any of the following items with you to church on Sunday and place in GWOH Box in the Narthex, or to the office Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Supply Donations Needed

Thank you for your generous hearts!

College Blessing Boxes

- Notebooks
- Pencils/Pens
- Granola bars
- Sticky notes
- Snacks (goldfish, etc)

Pet Food for Westside Rescue

(Please purchase at Costco)

- Kirkland brand: Dog + Puppy food
- Cat food
- Gallon size freezer Ziploc bags
- Quart size freezer Ziploc bags
- Dog Beds-please bring fabric scraps

WINGS Baskets

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Toothpaste *(full size preferred)*
- Toothbrushes
- Ziploc bags
- Garbage bags
- Dish towels
- Kitchen sponges
- Oven mitts/potholders
- Dishwasher pods
- Dishwashing liquid
- Hand soap-full size please
- Shampoo-full size please
- Small scissors
- Disposable razors

Dog Beds

- Please bring fabric scraps

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

--Acts 20:35

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

hopelutheranfresno.org/sundayschool

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2023-24

Registration is now open for Sunday School for the upcoming 2023-24 school year! Please sign-up your child(ren) at hopelutheranfresno.org/sundayschool. Please note: If you have more than one child, you will need to register each one individually.

Sunday School Teachers are needed for 2-3 weeks at a time. Sunday School will start on September 17th. This is a great way to have an impact on a child's life. All materials are provided.

Contact Abby Hicks at happyabby03@hotmail.com or call/text her at 559.765.1852



OTHER YOUTH UPDATES

Confirmation: If you have a child entering 7th or 8th grade this year and would like them to participate in Confirmation, please contact Kristina Garabedian. We are looking at a schedule that would work best for the families involved which will probably mean meeting on Sundays.

National Youth Gathering (NOLA): Do you have a child who will be entering 8th grade through 12th this year? Would they be interested in spending a couple days with other Lutheran Youth worshipping, learning, and having fun in New Orleans July 15th-21st? Then consider sending them to the National Youth Gathering next year! The theme is "Created to Be." *Note: There is also a young adult gathering for the 18-35 age group that will run alongside the National Youth Gathering.*

For more info, contact Kristina Garabedian via email at kristina.garabedian@gmail.com or 559.970.1838.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT IS COMING TO HOPE!



SUNDAY AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

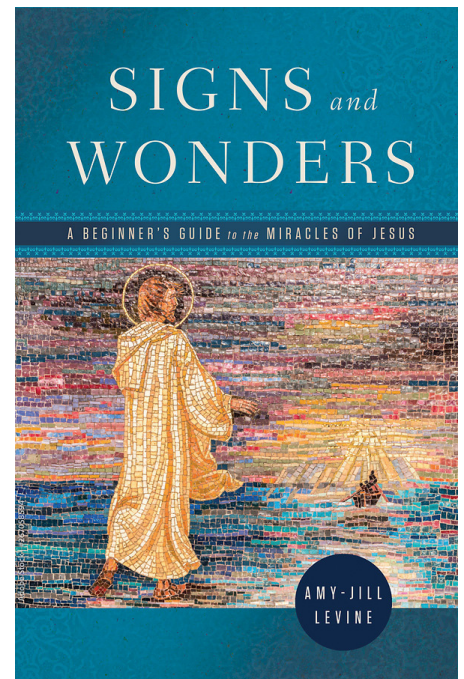
Starting Sunday, Sept. 3 @ 10:45 am | Hope Conference Room

Please join us on September 3 when the Sunday morning adult class starts a new series on *Signs and Wonders: The Miracles of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine.

“What a rich and accessible resource for anyone who wants to grow their understanding of the Gospels and the claims they make about Jesus! AJ Levine teaches us how to learn from the miracle stories, marvel at them, worry about them, and respond to them in our own lives.” *(from book jacket)*

Levine is Professor of New Testament at Hartford Seminary and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She has written on the parables of Jesus, Advent, Lent, the Sermon on the Mount, and most recently on the difficult words of Jesus.

If you miss a week, don't worry about it. Just join us when you can. We meet at 10:45 on Sunday mornings. It's a hybrid class with some of us meeting in Hope's conference room and others joining on Zoom. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Ed Nelson at ednelson@csufresno.edu. The Zoom link is emailed each week to everybody on our email list.



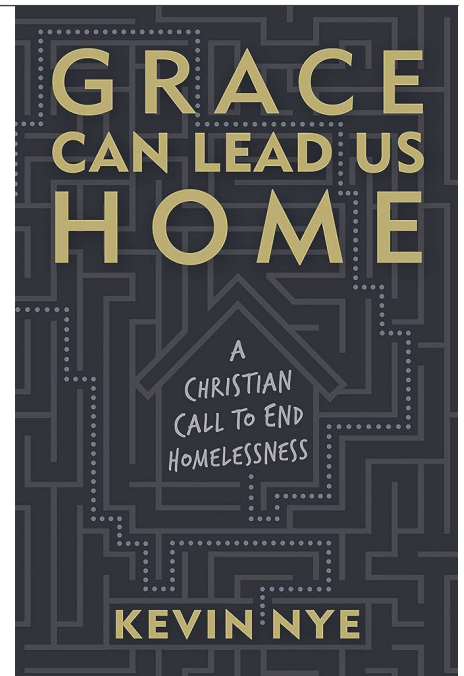
GRACE CAN LEAD US HOME - BOOK STUDY

Wednesday Nights | September 6, 13, 20 + 27 @ 6:00 pm | Hope Conference Room

This September, Candy Paulsen will lead a four session study based on the book *Grace Can Lead Us Home*-a Christian Call to End Homelessness by Kevin Nye. Kevin is a writer and advocate working toward ending homelessness by engaging best practices.

He has written on the intersections of homelessness and faith for Religion News Service, Sojourners, Red Letter Christians, and more. Kevin currently lives with his wife and son in Minneapolis, MN, where he works as Housing Director at an organization addressing youth homelessness.

In this hybrid (Zoom and in person) class we will explore the causes of homelessness, ways to prevent homelessness, stories of unhoused individuals, how we as Christians can make a difference, and more. Candy has been in touch with the author and he will be joining us on Zoom for one of the sessions.



Here is a review of *Grace Can Lead Us Home* by Camden Morgante on Goodreads. “With a Masters of Divinity and a job in homeless services, Kevin Nye is ideally suited to lead us on this journey of the Christian response to homelessness. Indeed, *Grace Can Lead Us Home* combines the heart and theological wisdom of a pastor with the empathy and trauma-informed perspective of a social worker. Throughout Nye’s book, he cites research and statistics while interweaving public policy and his personal stories of working with unhoused people. Nye always brings it back to the words and example of Jesus.”

We would love to have you join us for this study. The cost of the book is \$17, it is also available on Kindle for \$9.99. Please register by August 18, 2023 if you would like us to order a book for you. Register using the link in the email blast, or visit <https://hopelutheranfresno.churchcenter.com/calendar/event/132536587>.

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

AT OUR ANNUAL 2023

Christmas Market

CRAFT FAIR

Homemade crafts, baked goods,
and more will make perfect gifts for
your loved ones this holiday season!

Friday,
NOVEMBER 17
4:30 - 8:30 pm



Saturday,
NOVEMBER 18
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
5435 N Fresno St | Fresno, CA 93710

Invite a friend!

FREE ADMISSION

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS FOR OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

A number of individuals and families have signed up over the summer to provide a meal for a small group of unhoused members of our community. We usually make meals for 12. Each to-go box holds some kind of sandwich or main dish item, fruit, cookies/brownies/cupcakes, and usually some kind of summer salad-coleslaw, pasta salad, etc.

Through funds from Lutheran Hunger Network (LHN) we also provide drinks and an assortment of chips. So far 10 families/individuals have signed up to help, some have made dinners on multiple occasions. We have also had others donate drinks, snacks, and homemade treats.

If you would like to sign-up to provide a meal or get more information, please call Candy Paulsen at 559-313.9567. Our young delivery driver ended up taking a job on the east coast, so Candy and Jim Paulsen make the deliveries most weeks. We have monies through LHN to reimburse you for the cost of your ingredients. You would just save your receipts and give them to Jennifer in the office. This hearty weekly meal is very much appreciated by those who not only struggle with shelter, but also with food insecurity. Making the meal can be a good one-time family ministry, perhaps opening a conversation about service, those in need, and more.



Many thanks to all of you who have provided a meal. We have daily opportunities to be God's hands and feet. We have daily reminders to be grateful for our many blessings.

CALL TEAM UPDATE

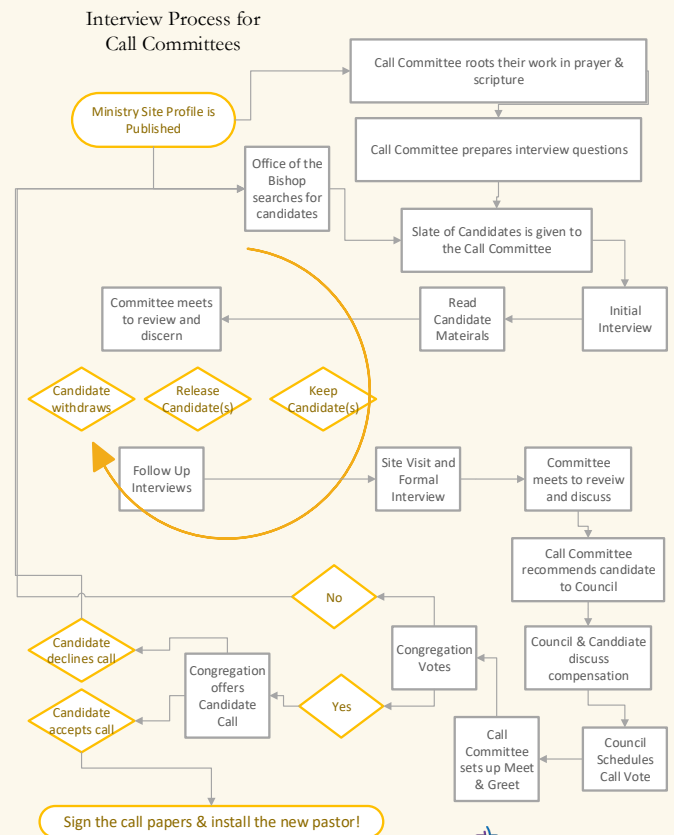
August 1, 2023

The Call Team has started the interview process.

To protect the confidentiality of all parties involved, the names of any candidates will not be given to the congregation until the call team has a recommended candidate to meet the congregation. This will be after multiple interviews with the call team. Please keep the call team and all candidates in your prayers.

Your Call Team:

- Ainsley Berryhill (Secretary)
- Mark Dodd
- Kristina Garabedian (Chair)
- Becky Russler (Communications)
- Joe Squeo
- Bob Stenberg



SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3- 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Service (Delaney) 10:45 am Adult Education 7:00 pm Jazz Mass	4 - OFFICE CLOSED 	5 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters	6 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Grace Can Lead Us Home Bible Study 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal
10- God's Work Our Hands 9:30 am Worship Service (Piano/Hymns) 10:15 am GWOH Service Projects 10:45 am Adult Education - OFF 6:00 pm The Life Youth Group	11	12 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters 7:00 pm Welcome Team Mtg	13 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Grace Can Lead Us Home Bible Study 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal
17 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Svc. (Acoustic Band) 10:45 am Adult Education 10:45 am First Day of Sunday School!	18	19 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters 7:00 pm Council Meeting	20 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal
24 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Svc. (Acoustic Band) 10:45 am Adult Education 10:45 am Sunday School 6:00 pm The Life Youth Group <i>Coffee in the Courtyard after worship</i>	25 5:30 pm Learning Tree Board Meeting	26 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters	27 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Grace Can Lead Us Home Bible Study 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal

THANK YOU FROM KELLY DUNCAN

Words cannot express how extremely grateful we are for the support and prayers we've received during this difficult time. Thank you Hope Lutheran and Learning Tree family for your generosity which has made it possible for my family to be taken care of. We know that there is a long road ahead, but with God's presence, protection, and provision, we will use this storm as a testimony to glorify His name once again.

Thank you and blessings to you all,
Kelly, Donnis, and Sid

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2
7	8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Denny's 1110 E Shaw) Office Closed	9
14	15 7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Denny's 1110 E Shaw) Office Closed	16
	Women of Hope "Cup of Life" Retreat	
21	22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Denny's 1110 E Shaw) Office Closed	23
28	29 7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Denny's 1110 E Shaw) Office Closed	30 November/December Grapevine Deadline

Our next issue of the Grapevine will encompass the months of November and December. If you/your ministry has something to advertise, please be sure to submit it via email to rachael@hopelutheranfresno.org using a Communications Request Form no later than September 30 by 3:00 pm.

SEPTEMBER at a GLANCE

3- Jazz Mass @ 7:00 pm

Returning to Hope, just in time for Labor Day, the theme is "God's Economics," based on the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16. In this day of labor strikes, workers' rights, and fair labor practices, what is Jesus telling us? Some great jazz will be provided by the Jazz Mass Ensemble, directed by David Aus. Pastor Stephen Carlson will bring the message, and Holy Communion will be celebrated for all.

4 - Labor Day

The Church Office and Learning Tree will be closed in observation of Labor Day.

12 - Welcome Team Meeting

Hope's Welcome Team meets on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month starting in September at 7:00 pm. We meet on Zoom only. Email Ed Nelson if you would like the Zoom link: ed_nelson@csufresno.edu.

13 - Hope Book Group

The Hope Book Group will discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby VanPelt.

RECURRING OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bible Study

The Men of Hope meet Friday mornings at 6:45 am at the Denny's Restaurant, 1110 E Shaw Avenue, Fresno, 93710, located on Shaw Avenue just east of First Street in Fresno.

Please call Steve Richardson at 559.389.6689 for more information. We hope to see you there!



OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Svc. (Delaney) 10:45 am Adult Education 10:45 am Sunday School 7:00 pm Jazz Mass	2	3 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters	4 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal
8- 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Svc. (Piano Hymns) 10:45 am Adult Education 10:45 am Sunday School 6:00 pm The Life Youth Group	9	10 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters 7:00 pm Welcome Team Mtg	11 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 2:00 pm Book Group 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal
15- 20th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Matt Mueller Pancake Breakfast 9:30 am Worship Svc. (Acoustic Band) 10:45 am Adult Education 10:45 am Sunday School	16	17 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters 7:00 pm Council Meeting	18 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal
22 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship Service (Band) 10:45 am Adult Education 10:45 am Sunday School 6:00 pm The Life Youth Group	23 5:30 pm Learning Tree Board Meeting	24 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters	25 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
29 - Reformation Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service (Organ) 10:45 am Adult Education 10:45 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Trunk-or-Treat! 	30	31 7:30 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Hope Quilters	Notes:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” - Acts 20:35

At Hope Lutheran Church, we encourage a culture of giving. Every gift makes an incredible difference to our church, the Fresno community, and our work in the world. Give a single gift online by scanning this QR Code. You can even set up recurring donations. We are so grateful for your commitment and generosity.



OCTOBER at a GLANCE

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6 7:00 am Men's Bible Study <i>(Denny's 1110 E Shaw)</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	7
12	13 7:00 am Men's Bible Study <i>(Denny's 1110 E Shaw)</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	14
19	20 7:00 am Men's Bible Study <i>(Denny's 1110 E Shaw)</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	21
26	27 7:00 am Men's Bible Study <i>(Denny's 1110 E Shaw)</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	28

11 - Hope Book Group

The Hope Book group selection for October is to be determined. All are welcome to join October 11 at 2:00 pm.

29 - Reformation Sunday

Mark your calendars! We will be having one, "high church" service on Sunday, October 30 at 10:00 am for Reformation Sunday. Don't forget to participate in our Flat Lutheran Reformation photo challenge and, of course, wear red! We will also celebrate the Rite of Confirmation.

29 - Trunk-or-Treat!

Trunk-or-Treat is an outreach opportunity for our church to bless our neighbors and community. Please stay tuned for information on volunteering and candy donations.

RECURRING OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bible Study

The Men of Hope meet Friday mornings at 6:45 am at the Denny's Restaurant, 1110 E Shaw Avenue, Fresno, 93710, located on Shaw Avenue just east of First Street in Fresno.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUESTS

Need to advertise your ministry's event?
Have an update you want to share with the congregation?

Fill out a Communications Request Form and submit via email to Rachael Groeneweg, Creative Arts Director, at rachael@hopelutheranfresno.org or in person to the front office, and a volunteer, or Myra or Jen, can scan and email to Rachael.

DEADLINES: By 3:00 pm on....

Weekly Email Blast:
Fridays (Blast sent out following Tuesday)

Grapevine: Varies; please check calendar

Flyers, Posters, Slides, bulletin inserts, etc:
Mondays; 2 weeks in advance of "need by" date

To download the form, please visit hopelutheranfresno.org/communications. Forms can also be picked up in-person in the front office.

Please note that due to ever-changing circumstances surrounding personnel, the styles of music at our worship services, though advertised above, are subject to change.

If you have questions or concerns surrounding worship, please direct them to our Worship and Music Team (Chair: Jan Forbes), or to your Council, or submit them on the Connection Card insert in your bulletin on Sunday mornings.

JULY 2023 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran's Church Council was hybrid, held Tuesday, July 18, 2023 in Hope's conference room. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- Your council, personnel team, and strategic planning team are working together to fill our staffing vacancies. We have posted job descriptions for both an AudioVisual Technical Assistant and a Youth Ministry Assistant, have received many promising resumes, and look forward to interviewing candidates around the end of July.
- Your council is working to plan Fall activities. We would like your feedback on Wednesday Night Dinners. Very few people came to Wednesday Night Dinners after the New Year this year, and we would like to hear why you attended in the past, and if you haven't, why not? Please write your feedback on the blue card included in your bulletin, or talk to one of your council members.
- We are working to get the Homebound Ministers group restarted. If you would like to be part of this team to visit our shut-ins and those in the hospital, please contact Ed Nelson.
- Plans for Confirmation classes starting in fall are in the works. If you know a junior high age student who would like to learn more about and deepen their faith, please contact Kristina Garabedian for more information. For our Confirmands who completed eighth grade this past spring, we are planning the Confirmation Affirmation of Baptism service on Reformation Sunday, October 29th.
- Your council spent some time with incoming long-term pulpit supply Pastor Jack Damien to clarify his ministry here at Hope. We look forward to welcoming him back next Sunday, July 30th to lead services and preach for the foreseeable future. I am wondering if you will do both me and Pastor Jack a favor please? I am terrible with names, and Pastor Jack would love to learn everyone's name. Would you please pick up your name tag in the narthex and wear it on Sunday mornings? If you don't have one, I am sure we can get one made for you.
- We have had a lot of great events after services lately, so it's been a while, but I will be in the community center after service today if you have any questions or concerns or just want to chat. Come have coffee with your council president! Thank you.

JULY 2023 FINANCIALS

	June	YTD
Income	\$48,186.18	\$327,509.34
Expenses	\$34,477.54	\$314,111.62
Net Income (Loss)	\$13,708.64	\$13,397.72

	July	YTD
Income	\$66,568.29	\$394,077.63
Expenses	\$32,166.46	\$346,278.08
Net Income (Loss)	\$34,401.83	\$47,799.55

Stewardship isn't a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. After all, what is stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and his grace? In each case, he evaluates how we regard what he has entrusted to us and what we do with it.

Randy Alcorn

www.idlehearts.com

AUGUST 2023 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran's Church Council was hybrid, held Tuesday, August 15, 2023 in Hope's conference room. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- The personnel team has been hard at work vetting resumes and scheduling interviews for the AudioVisual Technician and Youth Ministry Assistant. They will soon start working towards filling the organist and creative arts director positions as well.
- The Strategic Planning Team is working on creating mission and action plans to develop and improve opportunities for worship, education, fellowship, outreach, and our facilities.
- The Founding Documents Team has put together a handout for all committees and teams to clarify term lengths, duties, and relationships between committees and teams under the constitutional changes that take effect September 1st. If you are a committee or team leader, please make sure you get a copy of this document, which will help improve communication here at Hope.
- The first phase of our landscaping project is complete. Please take a few moments to appreciate Hope's new look along Fresno Street

HOPE COUNCIL RESIGNATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I resign my presidency and position on Hope Lutheran's church council effective Monday, August 21, 2023. I am doing so for personal and family reasons. This is not good-bye. I hope everyone will continue to accept my family and me as part of the life and service at Hope. Thank you all for your support of me and my family over the four years we have called Hope home. Our current council vice president, Ryan Groft, will finish out the last four months of my term as council president. He is a great leader, and will make an excellent and effective president. Please support him as you have supported me. Thank you.

In His Peace,
Amanda Berryhill



THE LEARNING TREE
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
a ministry of Hope Lutheran Church



Taking root in a child's education
Serving the Fresno Community since 1974



NOW ENROLLING
Ages 6 weeks to 5 years old

☎ 559.439.8143 🌐 LEARNINGTREEFRESNO.COM



CUP OF LIFE: WOMEN OF HOPE RETREAT

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I shall take up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

- Psalm 116:12 -13

You won't want to miss the 2023 Women of Hope Fall Retreat Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17 at ECCO in Oakhurst.

We are thrilled to announce our retreat speaker is Linda Rube, a special former member of Hope. If spending a full weekend away isn't possible, there are openings for Saturday-only participation.

Not comfortable driving in the mountains? Not to worry, car-pooling is available. We hope you will join us for this special time of deepening our faith, sharing our sisterhood in Christ, laughing and playing, and enjoying God's creation.

The cost of the full weekend is \$250. The cost of the program and two meals for Saturday only is \$60. Payment is due by Sunday, August 27. Payment can be made online with a credit card when registering. If writing a check, please make it out to Women of Hope and be sure it is in the church office by Sunday, August 27. Register using the link in the email blast or on the event page on the website.

Questions? Contact Candy Paulsen at 559.313.9567 or Donna Lippmann at 559.779.1661.

ON THE PRAYER BOARD

Pray for healing for our loved ones who are ill and recovering; we offer thanks for the caregivers among us:

Liz Allen	Mary
Todd Anthony	Donna & Bruce Lippmann
Kenneth Booth	Ken Maul
Dorothy Brewer	Sonja McHale
Margaret Bruland	Grace Miller
Jeff Clark	David Nelson
Jaxon Cruiel	Xavier Ortiz
David Dent	Robert
Don Donaldson	Becky Russler
Kelly Duncan & Family	Sharon Quay
Carolyn Ehn	Mary Smith
Earl Elrich	George William Southwick
Robert Fleming	Chloe Torres
Chase Glosier	Joyce Tucker
Betty Green	Janet Unruh
Rebecca Henkelmann	George VanPelt
Annie Hickman	Kathy Vercoe
Brent Huntsman	
John Johansen	<i>If you or a loved one would like</i>
The family & friends of	<i>to be added to the prayer board,</i>
Shirley Kreul	<i>please call the church office.</i>

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged -*

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Hope family members in the military & their families:

Victor Barbato	Justin Prado
Matthew DeGraw	Veronica Prado
David Epperson	Nicholas Pruneda
Evan P. Ferguson	Nathan Southwick
Chris Fisher	Emily Stenberg
Tymon Groeneweg	Justin Stenberg
David King	Ben Sweeney
Mitch Lombard	Zachary Sweeney
Jeffery Lusk	Michael Sweetman
Steven Lusk	Timothy Wright
Brett Moran	Nathanael Wright
Tom Novak	Rylie Wyneken
Michael Peterson	

Help us update our list of family members in the military. Please notify the office of any additions or corrections.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

...and all this while we anticipate the birth of our daughter, becoming a family of four! Some people say that my having two under two is crazy, and some say it will be a beautiful thing for our kids' relationship and bond as they grow older. Some acknowledge both sides of this coin. All I know is that despite my moments of anxiety in how we will handle this season, is that God is in the midst of it all.

If you think about it, when the leaves change from a verdant green to an amber yellow, and eventually reddish brown, they are technically in a state of death and decay; yet, we don't see it that way. We marvel at God's beauty in the beautiful colors and shapes that cover the trees, and then fall to the ground which get raked into big piles that kids find endless joy playing in. That is how I strive to see change: not as the death of something that once was, but the transformation of what can be. When I struggle to see the transformation, I try to seek God's hand in the change, and then the beauty of His plan emerges.

You see, the change may not be what we had in mind or what we had planned - but God is in control, and always has something bigger and better planned than you or I could ever imagine. As Hope continues to experience change - whether it's the new landscaping outside, or pulpit supply pastors, or styles of worship, I pray that this Fall, as you see the kaleidoscope of autumnal colors, you would ask God to help you seek the beauty in the midst of change. After all, the only thing that is constant, besides change, is Him.

FALL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays

1. Pam Geraci
Diane Yocum
2. Alexa Croseen
Shirley Kreul
3. Debbra Henry
Ada Mazzeo
4. Pamela Lewis
5. Tashara Hoff
Sandy VonBerg
6. Earl Elrich
Tony Fabbian
7. David Dent
Don Peterson
Kim Tanksley
Diane Zander
8. Jacob Little
9. --
10. --
11. Kristina Fabbian
Paula Jordan
12. Jacqueline Trafton
Cecil Ward
13. Alice Millhollen
14. Samuel Duggins
Carolee Hansen
Dan McNicholas
15. --
16. Robert Fleming
Chuck Swanson
Michael Woods
17. Kay Suddath
Sierra Tomlinson
18. Quinn Landeros
Mark Woods
19. Chelsea Haydock

20. Matthew French
Audra Hanson
Makiyah Hines
21. Robert Forbes
22. Ruth Andersen
Callum Lafferty
Emily Zimmerman
23. Ryan Licciardello
Eileine Schneider
24. Rachael Groeneweg
Dillon Lafferty
25. Bill Jordan
26. Kjerstin "KJ" Fellerer
Scott Scheller
27. Joan Dalgety
Dennis Hanson
Vicky Harris
28. Dee Schlegel
29. --
30. --

October Birthdays

1. Krystal Shipman
2. Kathleen Bowsher
Sonja Robinson
Kate Scramstad
3. Richard Malzahn
4. Beth Thompson
Barbara VanDeVelde
Emily Winn
5. Susan Brunkhorst
Cathy Dodd
Valory Gonzales
Wendy Hess
Ryan Scheid
Wilma Shore

6. Robert Ehn
Holly Sundborg
7. Joshua Artea
Julianne Berryhill
Ron Marhenke
McKenzie Paulsen
Barbara Pierpont
8. Hamish Hansen
Jeffrey Little
9. Audrey Holmes
10. Grace Carlock
Roth Gulseth
Laurie Zimmerma
11. Janine Quisenberry
Lesli Zander
12. Allison Quinn-Rangel
Giovanni Squeo
13. Sarah Dent
Mark Dodd
Hilda Johnson
Ellen Woods
14. Pr. Stephen Carlson
Donna Wesselius
15. Addison Meeker
Kathy Vercoe
Nancy Willis
16. Joan Hinrichs
Joshua VanDeVelde
17. Kevin Green
18. --
19. Marlene Romeo
20. Jamie McGrath-Castro
Steven Russler
21. Charles Dodd
Charles Dodd
Sophia Legere

22. Carol Roberson
23. --
24. --
25. Dawnette Woods
26. Ernest Shipman
27. Marlene Jensen
28. Linda Dougherty
Nicholas Wing
29. --
30. Seth Dougherty
31. --

September Anniversaries

- 6 - Kristin & James Haydock (20)
- 11 - Eric & Katty VonBerg (10)
- 13 - James & Candy Paulsen (37)
- 26 - Terry & Kathy Cazzell (53)
- 29 - Bill & Lynette Jordan (50)
- 29 - Jeff & Donna Little (32)

October Anniversaries

- 4 - Scott & Jackie Trafton (26)
- 5 - Tom & Paula Jordan (27)
- 17 - Sara & Abe Terian (58)
- 25 - Jason & Amanda Smithberg (20)



Want to submit an article for the November/December combined issue of the Grapevine?
The deadline is September 30. Please submit to rachael@hopelutheranfresno.org.

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Rachael Groeneweg, *Creative Arts Director*
Jennifer Hurt, *Administrative Assistant*
Myra Squeo, *Campus Administrator*

LEARNING TREE PRESCHOOL

Myra Squeo, *Director*
Vonda Calhoun, *Assistant Director*
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