

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026

Hope Lutheran Church in Rossmoor

www.hoperossmoor.org 925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor

Judy Ryken, Director of Music and Cantor

Prelude ***Instrumental Music*** **Carlyn Obringer**

Welcome & Introduction **Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

All: Amen.

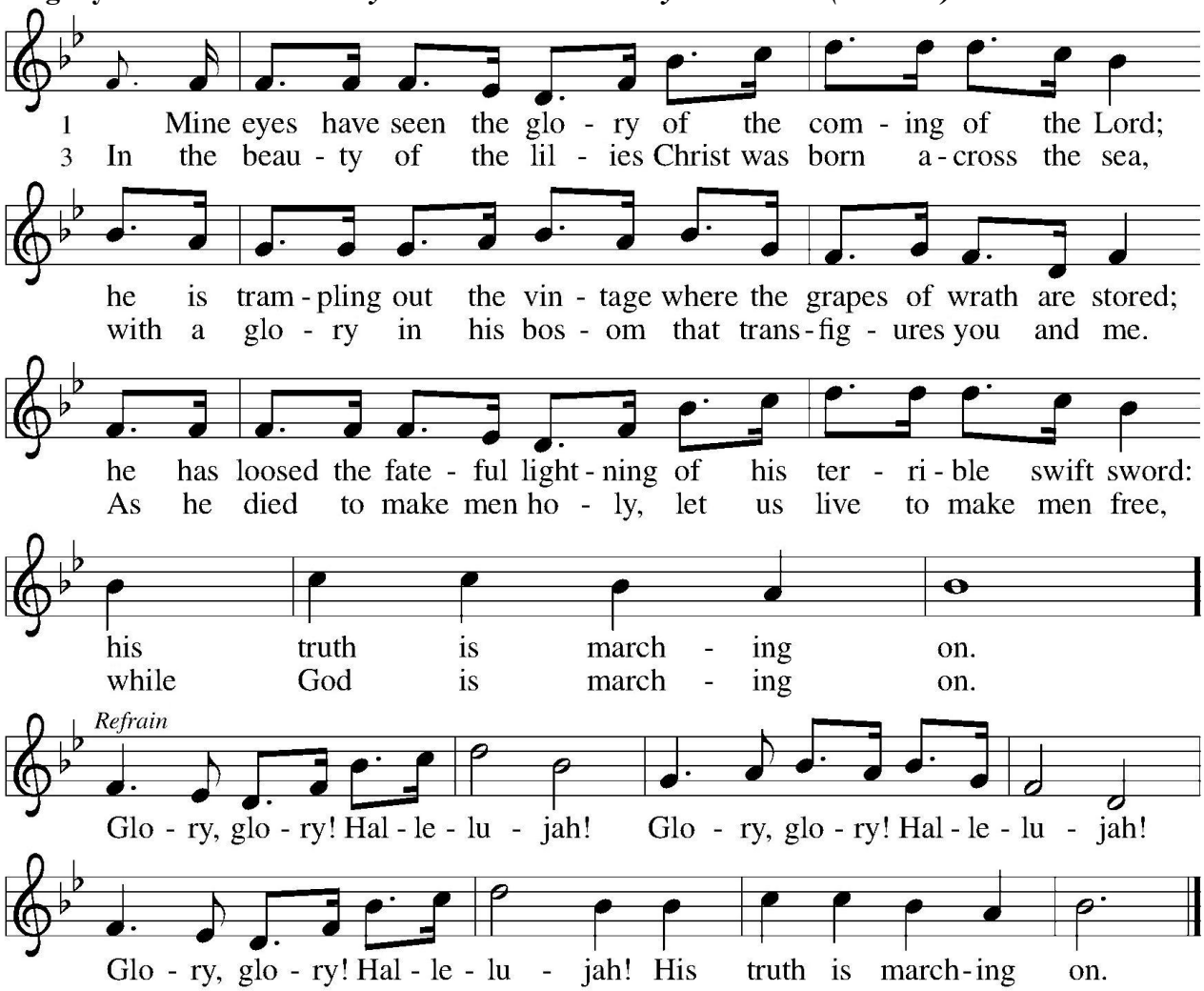
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *[pause for reflection]* Holy God,

All: w*e confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.*

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ***Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory - ELW 890 (vs 1 & 3)***



Greeting

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

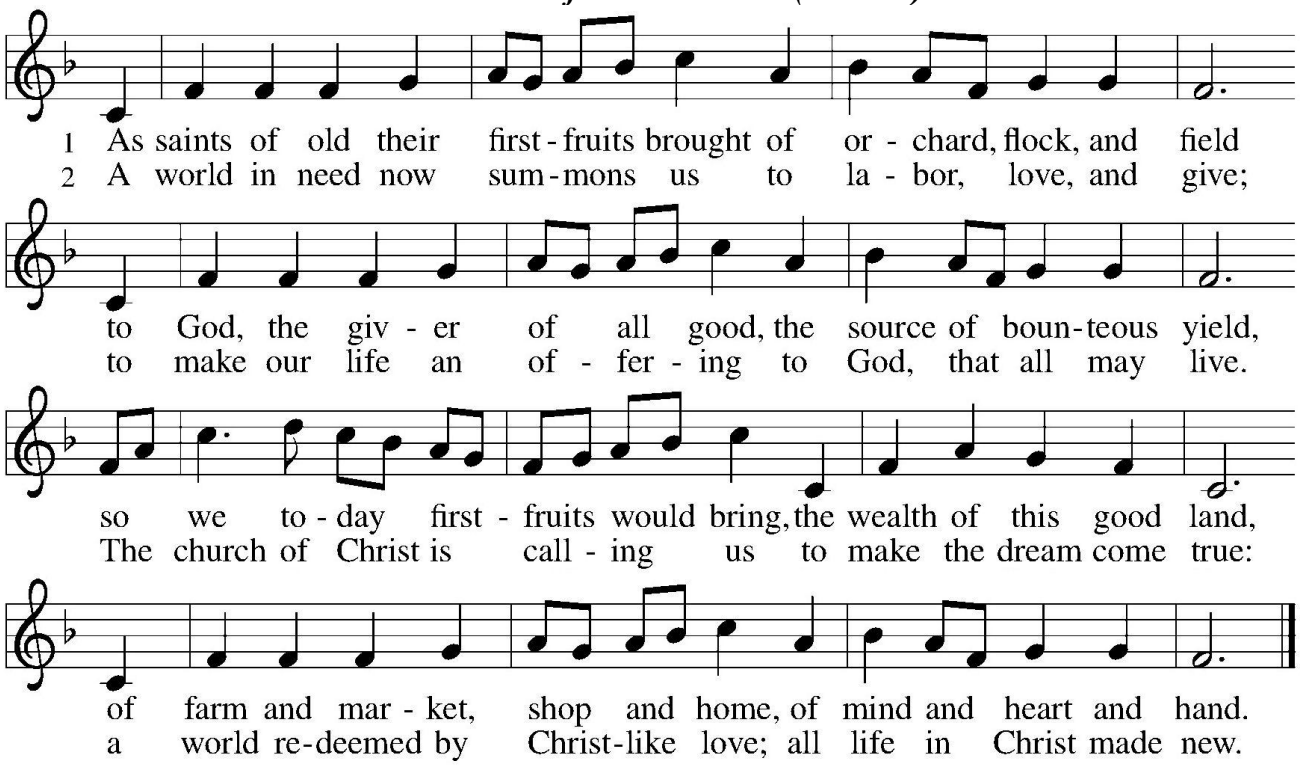
P: For this holy house, and all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All: Amen.

Hymn of Praise ***As Saints of Old - ELW 695 (vs 1 & 2)***



Prayer of the Day **Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

P: Let us all pray together.

All: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 **Nancy Conrad**

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has
consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who
settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit
them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day
will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and
gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his
passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the
earth.

Psalm 90:1-12 **Nancy Conrad & Congregation**

[1] Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**
[3] You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
[4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**
[5] you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
[6] **in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
[7] For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
[8] **Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
[9] When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
[10] **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
[11] Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
[12] **So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 **Nancy Conrad**

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th Chapter **Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your

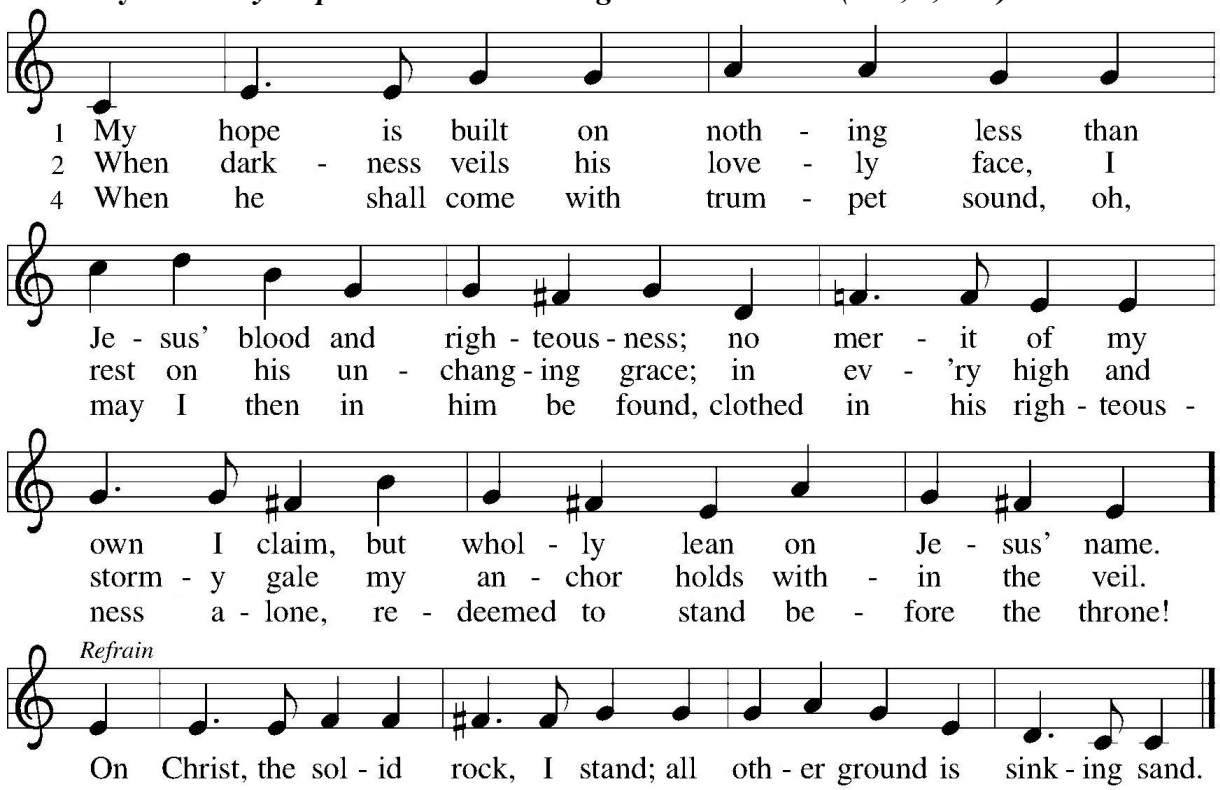
master.’ [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ [23] His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26] But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord
All: Praise to You, O Christ.

Special Music ***Gift of Music*** **James Greening-Valenzuela Violin Ensemble**

Message **Make Good Use of the Gifts Provided for You** **Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

Hymn of the Day ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less - ELW 597 (vs 1, 2, & 4)***



Apostles' Creed **Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession **Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

Each petition ends with: God, in your mercy, **Response: Hear our prayer.**

Offering

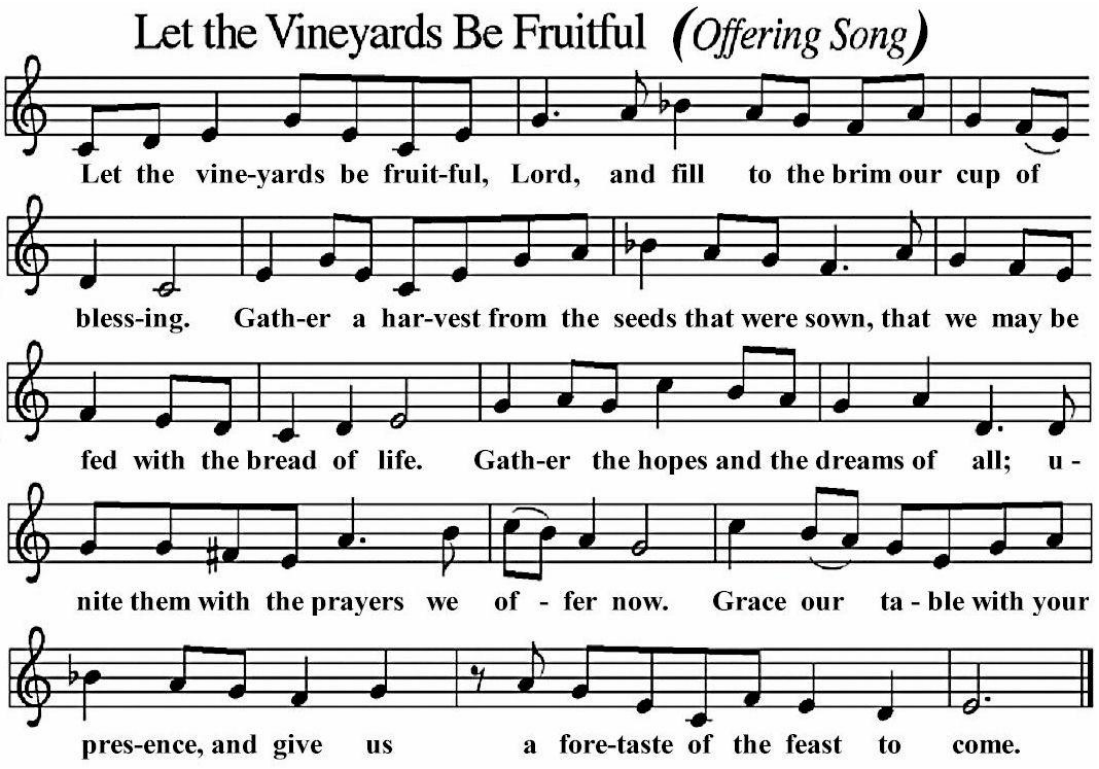
*We invite you to place your **Offering** in the offering plate as it is passed.*

Special Music ***Gift of Music*** **James Greening-Valenzuela Violin Ensemble**

Offering Prayer

P: As we lift up our offerings to the Lord, let us pray.

All: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Holy Communion: Words of Institution **Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

At Hope we practice Open Communion. We believe the invitation to the table comes from Jesus Christ himself. Therefore, you do not need to be a member of this or any other congregation to join in the meal. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please let the pastor know you prefer one when your turn comes. To preserve the solemnity as guests at Christ's table, please return silently to your seat and refrain from talking while others receive Holy Communion. There will be plenty of opportunities afterwards at our coffee hour.

Instrumental Music **Carlyn Obringer**

Prayer after Communion **Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

P**:** Let us pray.

All: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

All: Amen.

Peace I Leave With You

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth,
give I unto you; Not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled; Neither let it be afraid.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Amen.

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

All: Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

A warm welcome to all who are here for the first time! We are delighted to have you join us for worship.

Pastoral Needs - For any pastoral need, you can call or text Pastor Andreas Pielhoop at 415-577-5461 or via email at pielhoop77@earthlink.net.

Meet with Pastor Andreas – Pastor Andreas will have office hours on November 19 from 1pm-3pm in Card Room 1 upstairs at Stanley Dollar Clubhouse. You can make an appointment but walk-ins are welcome too.

Birthday Blessings go out to **Sara Wood** who celebrates her birthday on Nov 19; **Gerda Peterson** who celebrates her birthday on Nov 21.

Anniversary Blessings go out to **Forest & Diane Borene** who celebrate their 36th anniversary on Nov 18.

Thank you to **the James Greening-Valenzuela Violin Ensemble** for providing special music for today's worship!

Our Hope Church Council meets both in-person and via Zoom on Wednesday, November 18, at 1pm at the Stanley Dollar Clubhouse in the Garden Room (downstairs). This will be a hybrid meeting.

Friends Feeding Friends – Next Sunday is the 4th Sunday of the month and we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Concord. A collection box will be located by the welcome table. Not only can providing food to others help sustain life, but it can also bring a spark of hope.

Warm Coats Needed – Do you have warm heavy sweatshirts, coats, and jackets for men and women in your closet that are no longer being worn? On Nov 22 & 29, bring your warm clothes donations to church. Lois Nelson & Pastor Andreas will ensure they move on to someone in need through the outreach program at our sister congregation St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Pleasant Hill.

Our **Hope Choir** rehearses AND sings at worship on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Join us on **Nov 22** at 9:15am for rehearsal and then singing at worship. All are welcome.

Bible Study with Pastor Andreas – On Tuesday, November 17, we will meet at 2:00pm in the Bunker Room at Creekside. Please bring your own NRSV or NIV Bible.

~~**Fourth Wednesday**~~ **Third Tuesday Lunch Group** – Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we will meet on the THIRD TUESDAY, November 17, at The Golden Pear at Creekside at 11:30 a.m. Carole Weyand is coordinating. Call Carole at 925-788-6499 by Nov 15 so she can make a reservation.

St. Nikolaus Day/German Christmas Service – Our German Christmas Service will be held on Friday, December 4, at 1:30pm in the Fireside Room. This service will be in German. All are welcome.

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – November 15	**Next Sunday – November 22**
Altar Jean, Gerda, Kathy	**Altar** Jean, Gerda, Kathy
Greeters Ann Gillette, Kathy Odne, Robin	**Greeters** Dee Reichert, John Moilan, Robin
Lay Reader Nancy Conrad	**Lay Reader** Jacqui Ewing
Communion Assistants Mark & Beth Vance	**Communion Assistants** Lois Nelson, Stella Tang
Ushers Carol Heath, Robin	**Ushers** Stella Tang, John Moilan
Livestream Chase	**Livestream** Alyssa
Special Music James Greening-Valenzuela Violin Ensemble	**Special Music** Hope Choir

Readings for next Sunday, Nov 22: Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24; Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23; Matt 25:31-46

Anchor Newsletter – If you are not currently receiving Hope's Anchor newsletter and would like to, please give Robin your email address so you can be added to the distribution list.

Fellowship – Immediately following worship, please join us for a time of sharing coffee, goodies and great fellowship. Thank you to those helping with the set-up and clean-up. We ask one person from each table to bring their tray up to the counter at 12:15pm. This helps the clean-up tremendously. You are welcome to stay, socialize and drink coffee beyond that but we must have the clean-up completed by 1pm.

Rides to Church – Our volunteer drivers to worship are Sally Lionetti, Nancy Conrad (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays only). If you need a ride to church, please contact them for the possibility of a ride.

Our Worship Service is available to live-stream and view online each week on our website. The link to the live-stream worship service is https://bit.ly/3v6JTXm The bulletin is available on the Hope website under the tab "Worship". Select "Worship Bulletin" and click on the desired week.

Your Offering – If you would like to mail us your offering (including QCDs), please send it to: Hope Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek CA 94598 (This is Hope's mailing address, not our worship location).

Please remember in prayer: Lina & Wally Hale, Brent Granado (Padley's son-in-law), Thom Faulkner (Jacqui Ewing's son), Cheryl Murphy (Everett Arnold's sister), Sigrid Beach, Jason Niemi, Sharon Lubkeman, Michael Bess (Barrie's son-in-law), Steve Peterson, Alexandra & Adrienne Fraser (Marilyn's daughters)