



# Hope Lutheran Church Atascadero, CA October 2023 Newsletter

## **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

8005 San Gabriel Road

Atascadero, CA 93422

805-461-0340

[ourhopelutheran.net](http://ourhopelutheran.net)

Pastor: Aaron Smith

Pianist: Greg Zocher

Youth Director: Rebecca Evans

Office Administrator: April MacLean

[office@ourhopelutheran.org](mailto:office@ourhopelutheran.org)

### Church Office Hours:

Tuesday –Friday 9:30 am to 1:30pm

# PASTOR'S UPDATE

By Pastor Aaron Smith

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith (Rom. 1:16a-b).*

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to restart a regular newsletter! We will continue to try to keep folks informed of what is going on at Hope by emailing the bulletin each week, sharing announcements on Sundays, using the “groups” feature of our online directory, sending occasional emails with special reminders, updating the calendar on our website and in the church office, and posting events and other information on our Facebook page. But distributing a newsletter at least every-other-month allows us one more medium to share church happenings, and to do so in a more comprehensive format.

It also gives me a chance to offer perspective on particular seasons of the church year as we go through them. Each newsletter begins with a note like this from me on the first page.

We are coming into one of the church’s busiest seasons: Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving (not a church holiday, but one that can be observed toward the promotion of grateful hearts!), and the start of a new church year with Advent and Christmas – all in less than a two-month stretch. But it’s a holy busyness that we’re about this season!

The Reformation recalled the church to the foundation of the Gospel – that the work of Christ and not any extra contribution on our part brings God’s salvation to everyone who has faith. Martin Luther cited Rom. 1:16-17 as central to his “breakthrough” in understanding the liberating truth of grace through faith.

On All Saints Sunday, we commend loved ones not to their just desserts or to our best hopes, but to the eternal love of God in Christ. We give thanks two weeks later for God’s many gifts that sustain us in this life, especially God’s never-failing mercy. And during Advent and Christmas, we celebrate the Good News that God has decided from all eternity to be with and for us; to come to us no matter how low we have sunk or far we have wandered.

This is a time of great joy grounded in the Gospel, the good news of God’s eternally-redeeming presence. I pray that, as a church, we may experience this joy and share this news with a renewed sense of its importance to us and to others.

Pastor Aaron

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# INSPIRATION FROM THE FAITHFUL

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By: **Pastor Ellen Ayres**

## Francis of Assisi

Everybody loves St Francis. What’s not to love? He loved animals, the beauty of nature, he was kind, he was a Hallmark movie come to life. October 4th is the day we remember him—even we ELCA Lutherans. Francis is in our list of Commemorations. His reverence for the natural world sits well with our environmental interests. However he also stands in rejection of a favorite American heresy: the “Prosperity Gospel”—if you do everything to please God (or the universe because even some non spiritual Americans have been infected with this belief), then you will have the material and physical possessions you want. Everything will work out for you. Kate Bowler, a theologian who wrote and studied this extensively, realized how deep it was in her own psyche when she was confronted with a Stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Most of us recognize the lie but may cling to a hope that it is possible. Francis was born into prosperity. His family was rich. He was the only child. He had all he wanted—enough food, comfortable clothes, a pleasant home, servants, but one day in church, the Gospel stunned him: give up possessions and follow Jesus. He did. He adopted a life of poverty and humility, his family was not pleased. The establishment was not pleased. Francis persisted. People began to follow him. The Franciscan Order and the Poor Clares grew from his example. They still exist today. There is even a Lutheran version: the Order of Lutheran Franciscans.

Francis is a hard act to follow.

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Hope Lutheran Church, Atascadero

September 13, 2023

## Council Meeting Highlights

Call to order – 7:08 pm

-----Opening prayer – Pastor Aaron

Approval of August 2023 minutes- approved Jen K. motion, Alden second.

Amend/Adopt agenda-

### **Strategic Plan Update** – Step 1- Jen

Some changes made to remove items that no longer apply

Financial goals and objectives were added to stabilize finances

Next steps: changes made to objective to grow the church to 140 regular members by 2028

Council to be assigned sections of plan to update and review.

### **Council Reports:** -

**Pastor's report** – Pastor Aaron – Online directory was hacked and is currently off line.

We may need to update our IT security and on-call service. May need to increase costs spent on our IT services. Corrective steps: remove family and friends that are not members, reduce administration access to 5 people, change all passwords, provide written directories to those requesting, relaunch with new password protections with possibly two factor verification. Message to be provided to members. Emails have been going into junk files of members. Land use meeting with city council regarding an update on the general plan. Hope had not applied for general plan amendment. This has been corrected and our application is now in. Habitat for humanity is going to make architectural plans for our property subdivision of 1-2 acres. Pre-approved building plans to be used. Meeting in October to address the application. Applications to be approved by July 2024. Budget process – need to get committee budgets into Alden, need carpet replaced not sure how to finance it. 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be combined with the Thanksgiving dinner. Trudy to pull together a team to address both. There are a few people interested in being members. Proposal to have council and or a sponsor for potential new members.

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**President report** – Steffen – no report

**Treasurer report** - Alden - Income this year is above last year by 5%, Expenses were above budget due to resealing the parking lot. Expenses \$11,000 above budget. Discussion regarding an appeal to reduce the budget to help pay for large property repairs.

**Vice President report** – Bill McCall

Visioning team – September 21 , purpose to build inspiration and improve marketing.  
Partnering with Thrivent, Retirement campaign, Legacy project.

**Secretary report** – Diane Schmidt

Nominations and new officers for 2024 – we need a new core council team. Next council meeting Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

## ATTENDANCE & FINANCES

### Financial Summary:

January —August 2023

Actual income = \$168,195.64

Budgeted income = \$160,394.00

Actual expenses = \$178,277.57

Budgeted expenses = \$174,302.96

Ending actual balance = **-\$10,081.93**

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

**September**

Attendance Inside: 203

YouTube: 325

# YOUTH MINISTRY



Please join us for our annual Hope Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 28th from 4pm to 7pm. There is a volunteer sign up sheet located in the Narthex. There will be game booths, Trunk or Treat cars, and much more. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca, Director of Youth Ministry at (619) 459-4702.

# UPCOMING AT HOPE....



## What's on Tap with Pastor Aaron?

Love and War

5:30p-7:30p Thursday, November 16, 2023

MEA Winery (4405 Traffic Way)

## Thanksgiving/30th Anniversary Celebration:

Sunday, November 19th at 4pm for our

Thanksgiving Dinner followed by our 30th Anniversary Celebration.

## ADVENT—Mark your calendar for Mid-week

Advent Services on December 6th, 13th and

20th. Dessert, Coffee & Tea at 6pm followed by 7pm Worship.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## October

3 Pat Leece  
10 Lynn Mosher  
10 Erin Johnson  
10 Mona McCall  
15 Rebecca Evans  
16 Katy Sage  
17 Rori Perry  
21 Julie Cross  
22 Dennis Schmidt

## November

1 Christine Sage  
3 Steffen Peuker  
7 Darla Hunt  
10 Martha Shiers  
12 McKenzie Werner  
19 Mat Tornquist  
21 Bent Daugaard-Hansen  
25 Russ Collins

*Happy Anniversary!*

**Ed & Jan Naretto 11/2**

**Carol & Lyn Mosher 11/11**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Calendar

October 28: Hope Harvest Festival 4-7pm

November 4: Quilting 9:30 am -12

November 14: Women, Wine & the Word -7pm

November 16: What's on Tap with Pastor Aaron at Mea Winery 5:30-7:30

November 19: Thanksgiving / 30th Anniversary 4pm

Dec. 6, 13 & 20: Advent Wed. 6pm Dessert, Coffee/Tea followed by 7pm Worship



## Social Media

Did you know that our worship services are livestreamed and recorded on YouTube. Subscribe to Hope Lutheran Church Atascadero! And follow us on Facebook [hopelutheranchurch!](https://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranchurch/)



## Ministry

### Updates

Do you have an update on your area of ministry at Hope for our next Newsletter? Please let us know. Please email the office at [office@ourhopelutheran.org](mailto:office@ourhopelutheran.org) or call at (805) 461-0340. Thank you.

**Lost and Found** items are now available for pick up by the Mailboxes in the Narthax. Have you lost your reading **glasses, sweater, coffee mug, or hat** this year? Please come by before the items are donated.

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of Hope Lutheran Atascadero is to live in and proclaim Christ's love through worship, faith formation, fellowship, and service to the community.