

April 11, 2026

Today we celebrate the life of



Stephen James Chew

May 13, 1948 - January 28, 2026

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Today we celebrate the life of
Stephen James Chew

Service Leadership:

Rev. Steven Simpson, presider

David Cohen, pianist

Bernadette Lingle, soloist

Dorr Looman, guitarist

Jamie Papish, percussion



Order for Today's Service

Welcome

Rev. Steven Simpson

Gathering Hymn

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

ELW 817, vs.1-2, 4

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Rev. Steven Simpson

Prayer of the Day

Special Music

Bernadette Lingle

I Can Only Imagine

Readings

Natalie Larkin

Matthew 11:28-29

Psalm 147:7-11

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Remembrances

Kristen Chew

Kevin Chew

Pastor Craig Beeker (by video)

An invitation to those who wish to share

Hymn

Amazing Grace

ELW 779

Sermon

Rev. Steven Simpson

Remembrance Video

Thanksgiving Prayer

Marilyn Long

Psalm 23

Marilyn Long

Commendation Prayer

Rev. Steven Simpson

Blessing

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord with love.

A: Thanks be to God!

Sending Hymn

ELW 423

Shall We Gather at the River



For Dad

From Kevin and Kristen

Thank you for the life you gave us, and for the many sacrifices made along the way. For your selfless heart that always put family first, and for teaching us to slow down, step outside, and find wonder in the natural world and in life's smallest, quiet moments.

From grandson, Ryder

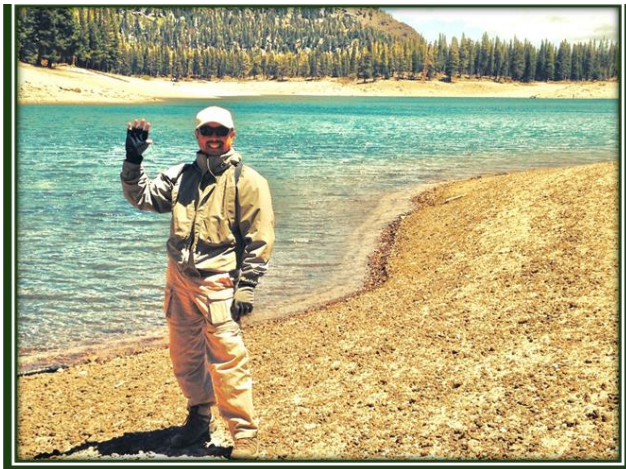
Thank you for playing chess with me and making mistakes so that I can win.

From son-in-law, Randy

Thank you for being such a loving and supportive father-in-law, and for the special bond you shared with your grandson.

Thank you for the BBQs, the way you could fix anything, and for showing me what it means to be a great father and husband.

Thank you for everything—for the love, the lessons, and the memories. We love you.





A Life Remembered

After a courageous battle with cancer, Stephen James Chew passed peacefully at his home in Westlake Village, California, on January 28, 2026, with his loving wife Marsha and family by his side.

Steve was born in San Diego to Bill and Ruth Chew and was the oldest of their two sons, with a younger brother, Gary. While he was still young, the family moved to Los Angeles, where large family dinners became a treasured weekend tradition. He later attended Los Angeles City College and Cal State University, Pomona, before pursuing a Master's in Public Health at UCLA.

It was through church youth groups that Steve met Marsha, and in June of 1972, they were married. Their honeymoon was anything but traditional. While attending UCLA, Steve was invited to participate in a mosquito taxonomy project in the Everglades and the Bahamas as part of a larger study on the mosquitoes of Middle America. That six-week research trip became their unforgettable "honeymoon," marking the start of a partnership that would last more than five decades.

In 1974, Steve and Marsha moved to Westlake Village, where they began raising their family. Life quickly centered around their children, Kevin and Kristen, and the family's two cats, creating a home filled with love, laughter, and countless cherished memories.

Steve built a long and respected career in microbiology. He began working in medical laboratories before joining Kaiser's Southern California Regional Laboratory and later retired from Baxter International, where he served as Director of Quality Control. Over the course of his career, he supervised microbiology departments, designed two microbiology laboratories, and reorganized departments to improve productivity. His work also took him to different parts of the United States and Europe. Throughout it all, Steve showed genuine care for the people he worked with and was widely respected for his leadership, integrity, and careful attention to detail.

Steve, Marsha, and their family began attending Westlake Lutheran Church (now New Hope Lutheran) in the early 1980s and became official members in 1992. Steve remained an active member for many years, serving as Council President, Vice President, and Treasurer, and most recently leading the Audit Committee.

Steve loved the outdoors and enjoyed spending his free time camping in their trailer, skiing, and exploring the western United States on family road trips. National Parks—especially Yosemite—were among his favorite destinations, where he enjoyed hiking, fishing, and sharing time in nature with family and friends. Fly fishing became one of Steve's greatest passions, especially the annual guided trips he shared with Kevin and friends in the more recent years. He also treasured time with Kristen, including a memorable week-long baking class they attended together at the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone in St. Helena.

After retiring, Steve enjoyed playing more golf with two different groups, tackling home projects, and lending a hand with church

maintenance. Whatever he took on, he approached it with care and thoughtfulness, always seeking to improve not just his projects, but friendships, family relationships, and his community.

During the last eight years of his life, Steve and Marsha traveled monthly to Northern California, primarily to spend time and share special moments with their grandson Ryder, while also enjoying time together with Kevin, Kristen, her husband Randy, and Randy's parents Marshall and Elaine, who became dear friends over the years. As "Grandpa S," Steve loved watching Ryder grow up while guiding him and teaching important life skills with patience, wisdom, and care—creating experiences Ryder will carry with him for a lifetime.

Steve and Marsha shared a happy marriage for 53 years, a testament to their love, partnership, and the life—and countless memories—they built together.

Steve is survived by his wife, Marsha; son Kevin; daughter Kristen and her husband Randy; grandson Ryder; and extended family members who will miss him deeply.

The Chew family extends a heartfelt thank you to dear friends, family, the church community, Kaiser caregivers, and Pastor Steve Simpson for their love, support and sympathy during this extremely sad season.






The Chew family wish to thank you for your presence today and invite you to a reception in the Social Hall following the service.

If you would like to make a donation in remembrance of Steve, please consider New Hope Lutheran Church or Cast Hope (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to giving kids the gift of the outdoors by connecting them with mentors through flyfishing. Through guided trips, clinics, camps, and conservation activities, they provide positive screen-free experiences that build relationships, teach skills and inspires lifelong stewardship of nature. <https://casthope.org/>)



New Hope Lutheran Church
29295 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
www.NewHopeAgoura.org 818.889.8700