



# newhope *news*

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

June, 2020

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## From Pastor Craig

“Can I get a refund on 2020? This year has not lived up to expectations and I’d like to return it” – sentiments like this are flooding social media and for good reason. There is no need to review the details. Frankly, I find myself mourning all the complications and losses associated with Corona virus, and I mourn the long history of racial injustice that continues to plague us.

Our national situation is so serious, and our race problems so deep, that they awaken our global Lutheran partner churches’ concern for us and our people’s welfare as reflected in the prayer by the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation: “We pray for you and stand with you in your ministry, asking you to let us know how we can, as your communion of churches, walk with the ELCA as it addresses this deeply traumatic incident, speaks out and works against racism to heal communities and nation.” <https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/united-states-grave-concern-over-racism-and-violence>

We may be overwhelmed by it all and wonder what, if anything, we can do when the problems seem so large and daunting. The answer is in the prayer from the LWF General Secretary”

- We pray for
- Stand with
- Ask (how we can help)
- Walk with
- Work to heal

There are many losses each of us has experienced in the last few months. But one thing we have not lost is our church community — in fact, for those who have chosen to engage with us, we are finding paths to a more vital community that prays, stands with, seeks to understand, and walks with each other. Though we have a building that is “closed,” the Bible studies, book clubs, prayer groups, and classes have had record attendance and many of us are learning and using new skills we could never imagined a few months ago. Something vital is happening, the Spirit is moving, our ability to reach out and touch others is growing, our community is expanding locally and beyond, our finances are solid, and new gifts are being discovered and employed. A vision of kinship has become clearer in pandemic and kinship may be the way to address issues of injustice and race. See a locally sponsored Ted talk with Fr. Greg Boyle of Homeboy Industries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipR0kWt1Fkc>

One way we can engage a group of members of our church that is simple and immediate was given to you on the weekend of Pentecost (5/30/2020): cards for our high school graduates. These students have had significant events taken away from them or completely altered: athletic competitions cancelled, musical competitions and performances lost, no prom, no senior skip day, and altered graduations. Think back to your high school days and

the significance of that senior year experience and all those amazing events – now imagine your memories of high school without them. Our hearts go out to the class of 2020. As a church we have a significant way to encourage them with our love and care by flooding them with graduation cards from their church family. Many of you won't know these students, but that is of no consequence for your compassion will be felt. I'd love to present these students with 100 graduation cards each from members of New Hope congratulating them on this accomplishment, encouraging them to push forward, and praying for their success.

We can do this – let's

- Pray for them,
- Stand with them,
- Seek to understand what help they may need, and
- Walk with
- Work to heal (restore the celebration to) our graduating seniors
- AND send them a card. If you need cards please contact the church office and we will send them out to you ASAP.

While you are at it, keep up the good work of caring for, calling, helping, and serving each other! We've had a great example of creative generosity and service from two of our confirmation students, Taylor and Avery Mansmann, with the food drive to help hungry and needy in our local community. May their creativity, hard work, and desire to help others become a rallying cry for our church to pray, stand, seek, walk, heal, and work together as a force for the greater good.

Maybe we don't need to return 2020, maybe we need to redeem it. I'm beginning to see the possibilities.

In the Spirit of the Risen Christ, all things are possible.

*Pastor Craig*

*Welcome to*



During this season of physical distancing due to COVID-19, we have taken our worship services exclusively online. Although we are not meeting physically, we are still the church together!



We encourage you to join one of our New Hope ZOOM groups to cultivate your spirit!



**WATCH US ONLINE**

 [newhopeagoura.com](https://newhopeagoura.com)

 [newhopelutheran](https://newhopelutheran.com)

 [newhopeagoura](https://newhopeagoura.com)

## From the Deacon

“Getting back to normal.” It’s a phrase that I’ve heard a lot lately, and it makes me a little sad. That’s because the “old normal” that we remember from before March of this year is just not going to come back any time soon, if at all. COVID-19 has changed the landscape of how we live and especially how we “do” church.

Not everything that has changed is a bad thing. Yes, I miss everybody terribly, talking in person, worshiping and singing together, having Communion together. But a lot of those things aren’t going to happen even when we start in-person worship again, not right away.

Some things that we’ve started doing are things we should have been doing for a long time. New Hope, and other congregations, are now providing worship in your living room, on your computer or TV, every Sunday. Bible studies and Sunday school classes, group meetings and the business of the church are all being done via ZOOM or other video-conferencing methods. This is great! It means that folks who are homebound, either temporarily or permanently, can be a part of the church in ways they couldn’t be before. I hope we keep offering these ways to be church even when we gather together in person again.

The list from the governor of California, and a similar list from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) our denomination, regarding having in-person worship as lists that are seven or eight pages long and have a lot of restrictions. Among the things they agree on:

- People 70 and over, or with serious health problems, should not plan to gather at church.
- Spacing between people or family groups in the sanctuary should still be six feet or more.
- We should be wearing masks when we’re together. Group singing and praying (reciting anything together) is going to be limited.
- There should be little or no food served in the building, especially something like a potluck or goodies where things are shared from a common plate or dish.

For me, this doesn’t all sound like something I’m eager to start up again right away. Time together without touching, singing or praying together, and limited Communion would be a challenge for me. I’m a huggy-touchy person to begin with and enjoy the kind of face-to-face socialization we’re going to have to limit for quite some time as the body of Christ. As I said in my welcome during our Pentecost service on Sunday, we are still church together. The building may be closed, but we are being church together out in the world where we are supposed to be! I pray we can keep that up long after we’ve gone back to what will be the new normal.



## Caring Corner

Let us remember the following people in our prayers.....

The Blair Family on the death of Steve.

Charlie Croft on the death of his mom, Barbara.

Rose Topliss fell and broke her kneecap and will be having surgery.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Floyd Bealer, Irene Bright, Elisabeth Brown, Evelyn Colby, Sandy Cowden, Holly Dolliver, Jill and Chris Fisher, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Bob Green, Sandy Hansen, Del Hultgren, Denny Koons, Joyce Lawson, Reeta Leland, Ava Grace O'Connell, Cheryl Merrill, Nick and Cindy O'Hare, Ahoo Pilehvari, Sharon Pryor, Arnold Reuter, Wayne Rickert, Jane Taschereau, Jax Rains-Turk, Britt Tsumpes, and Susie and Fred Turner.

Prayers for our servicemen - Landen Anderson, Gerren Blair, Taylor Blair, Heather Brown, Keith Brown, Patrick Clohessy, Cynthia Colby, Jonah Hershman, Kyle McCarley, Ikenna Olelewe, and Jason Retter.



We rejoice with Evelyn Colby on the birth of her great-great-niece. Posie Eileen was born on May 14th and weighed 5 lb. 8 oz. and was 18 inches.

Sue Poulson is happy to announce that Ryan and Gracie have adopted a baby girl named Seraphina born on Memorial Day. Please pray for good health for the baby.



Thanks to all the people that sent me cards and flowers for my birthday.  
Evelyn Colby



Thank you so much for everybody who participated and helped in May with the canned food drive. We collected hundreds of cans of food as well as dry foods too. With your help, together we made a big difference in many people's lives.

Taylor and Avery Mansmann

### Update on Mansmann's cans -

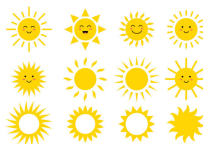
"CONGRATULATIONS to New Hope Lutheran for supporting the canned food drive for Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSSSC). With everyone's generous contributions and support, Avery and Taylor exceeded their goal (over 500+ cans and other food/health items collected). Together, we all made a difference. THANK YOU ALL!"

The Mansmann Crew



## New Hope in a Mug!

While we are spending more time at home, we can all use some daily encouragement. New Hope mugs are designed with a positive, uplifting faith-based message to enjoy in your home. If you would like to reserve a mug for yourself or anyone that can use "New Hope," email [laurie@newhopeagoura.com](mailto:laurie@newhopeagoura.com). (Mugs are \$5 each.)



## Directory Directory Update

Please make the following changes to your church directory:

### Irene Bright

Sage Mountain Senior Living  
3499 Grande Vista Drive - #257  
Thousand Oaks 91320  
805-716-3445

### Mary Ann and Lou Fiore

no more land line -  
use Mary Ann's cell - 805-559-4380

### Kara Nelson

3235 Hanover Court  
Newbury Park 91320

### Terry Paulson

cell phone is 805-907-0616 not 818

## Do you need a facial covering?

Kathy Rogers will make you a custom mask. For \$5 the money will be donated to Lutheran Social Services and to NHLC. Just email her at [Kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com](mailto:Kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com) or call her at 818 889-4048.

Here are some examples.





## MANNA FOOD PANTRY

Manna will gladly accept ANY unexpired (within 12 months prior to the "sell-by" date), non-perishable food items that are unopened and in good condition. Donations can be taken directly to Manna. Any questions, call Ann Ashamallah at (818) 613-6818.

### Top Priority Items

- 1 - Peanut Butter
- 2 - Pancake Mix
- 3 - Red/Kidney Beans
- 4 - Hamburger Helper
- 5 - Ramen Noodles
- 6 - Tomato Soup - Canned and Boxed
- 7 - Tomato Paste/Sauce
- 8 - Canned Vegetables
- 9 - Canned Fruit
- 10 - Flavored Rice (Rice-a-Roni)



## Social Ministry

Happy June Church Family!

Thanks for the wonderful support during this time. Your love, kind words, cards, and prayers have kept me going!

We are seeing a little more flexibility in our lives but for many, that is not the case. The numbers needing help in our community still grows as job loss, uncertainty, and financial worries are still looming.

Please continue to support our Social Ministry partners as we are the hands and feet of Jesus.

**The Mansmann Canned Food Drive - WOW** does not do justice to the food drive Avery and Taylor (plus Andrew and Carol) are heading!

Their videos, teamwork, and devotion to their faith, plus many, many hours of hard work, have created a highly successful campaign! Please join me by thanking them by email, call or text for being a shining example of WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) for us all. Thanks Mansmanns!

**LSS** - Needing cooked and heated entrees in disposable foil containers and also lunches. Please deliver on Friday mornings 8:30 - 10:00 AM. Pick up from your home can be arranged.

**LSS** - Summer Clothing - shorts, short-sleeved shirts and blouses, T-shirts, light-weight pants, Bermuda-type shorts, hats, ESPECIALLY deodorant and sunscreen.

**Harbor House** - I will be calling you for lunches when our next sign-up time is available. The number of people needed to make 10 lunches each varies. Also individually wrapped chocolate items and trail mix are appreciated. Delivery is at Holy Trinity Lutheran, T.O. from 1:00-1:30 PM daily.

I miss you all but we are New Hope together wherever we are! Blessings, Merylee Blair



## Support Our Military

Please continue to collect personal care items and treats to support our troops. Travel size

products such as soaps, shampoo, razors, lotions, deodorants, etc. are especially appreciated. Hard candies, lifesavers, and breath mints make refreshing treats to share too. Contact the church office at 818-889-8700 or by email to [laurie@newhopeagoura.com](mailto:laurie@newhopeagoura.com) to make arrangements for drop off.

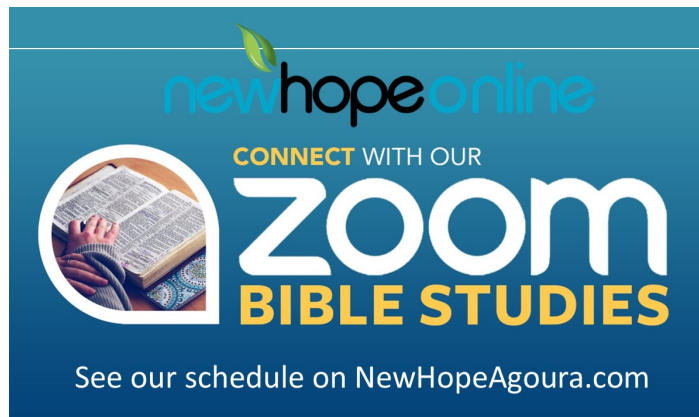


SCRIP gift cards are easy to give and fun to receive plus a percentage of every gift card purchased through New Hope comes back to New Hope! While we are unable to join together during this time of physical distancing, we have temporarily suspended our SCRIP gift card program. We look forward to resuming this fundraising program soon!



## Prayer Shawl

It has been asked, "What makes knitting so therapeutic?" Some research has shown that it may be that the repetitive movements are relaxing and can take ones mind off of the current news. You might want to give it a try, especially during these days of the pandemic orders. We are quite busy getting shawls to those in need this past month. We appreciate all of you for your contributions as you knit away! Thank you!



You are invited to participate in our weekly New Hope Bible studies using ZOOM meeting. Each week the schedule is posted to the New Hope Lutheran Face Book page and it's on our website at [newhopeagoura.com](http://newhopeagoura.com). If you haven't tried ZOOM yet because you feel you are not "techy" enough, rest assured it is easy to do and is safe to use! How-to ZOOM details are available on our website at: <http://newhopeagoura.com/resources/zoom-what-is-it/> or you can contact the church office if you would like assistance in using ZOOM to connect to our online community.



Join us on ZOOM on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 - 11:45 AM. We are currently using the study from Gather Magazine from the Women of the ELCA.

### Monday Bible Study

Open to all women of all ages. We meet on ZOOM at 11:00 AM on Mondays for prayer study and fellowship.



Join us on Thursday mornings for Men's group from 7:30-9 AM on ZOOM. We are continuing in our stimulating DVD series featuring Rev. Andy Stanley from North Point Community Church near Atlanta, Georgia. His programs are fun, thought-provoking, and Biblically based. Come and help stimulate some great conversations about current issues involving life and faith. Come when you can to enjoy fellowship with some great men of faith.



Join us at 9 AM each Sunday morning on ZOOM when we delve into a current event taken from the "Wired Word." If you would like to receive a preview of our weekly discussion, email Pastor Craig at [craig@newhopeagoura.com](mailto:craig@newhopeagoura.com) to be added to the mailing list.



### Amplify

Amplify is a Sunday School program designed for children ages 4 years through 4th grade. Join us each Sunday morning on ZOOM at 9:30 AM.

### Middle School Confirmation

Join us each Wednesday at 5:30 PM on ZOOM.



# CONGRATULATIONS!



Jesse Cerone will graduate from Camarillo High School and will attend Moorpark College in the fall.

Darian Kamali will graduate from Agoura High School. He plans to attend college in the fall but has not decided where.

Clarashea Le Roos will graduate from Westlake High School. She wants to study medicine and will attend UC Davis next year.

*Thanks to the ladies of the church who made the beautiful quilts that our high school seniors will receive: Kathy Rogers, Alison Rowe and Bonnie Schulze.*

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## From the Treasurer

Thank you for your amazing generosity in 2020! Your giving through April amounted to \$176,202, which is 8% above our budget expectations, and very similar to giving in 2019. This high level of support is due to the large percentage of families that have maintained their pledge giving and some that were able to accelerate their yearly giving. Our expenditures were \$131,819 which is about 2% below budget.



## PPP Loan/Grant

New Hope received funding via the second wave of the US PPP program in early May. The majority (75%) of this money has to be used for salaries in May and June, the rest can be allocated to payment of utilities and mortgage (non-principal). Gaye Khan is tracking those expenses for the loan forgiveness process. Please contact Joe Bullock if you have any questions.

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## Disaster Preparedness



As we enter into the fire season, now more than ever is a good time to review the Disaster Preparedness resources that have been compiled by your Church Council and posted to our website. <http://newhopeagoura.com/resources/disaster-preparedness>

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"FAITH IS NOT BELIEF.  
BELIEF IS PASSIVE.  
FAITH IS ACTIVE."

- Edith Hamilton



## GIVING OPTIONS

For all those who have continued to support our church while we have been physically apart, WE THANK YOU! Our online giving options have been expanded to include PayPal and credit card donations. A DONATE Link has been added to our website at [NewHopeAgoura.com](http://NewHopeAgoura.com). Or if you prefer, donations can still be made by mail to the church building at: 29295 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301.

### Welcome to New Hope Lutheran Church

Donate



Donate to  
New Hope Lutheran of Agoura Hills ✓

\$0.00  
USD

☐ Make this a monthly donation ?

Donate with PayPal

or

Donate with a Debit or Credit Card

Cancel and return to New Hope Lutheran  
of Agoura Hills



## June Birthdays

- 2 Jill Fisher
- 5 Lisa Huntsinger
- 6 Kailey Vitt
- 12 Chris Chigaridas
- Sam Church
- 14 Ahoo Pilehvari
- 15 Sandy Cowden
- 17 Caity Fisher
- 18 Harper Neal
- 20 Bonnie Bell
- Lynn Bulock
- 22 Hengameh Kamali
- Jenny Powledge
- 26 Karen Orefice
- 29 Stella Chudleigh

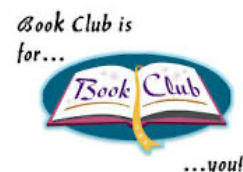


*God took the strength of a mountain,  
 The majesty of a tree,  
 The warmth of a summer sun,  
 The calm of a quiet sea,  
 The generous soul of nature,  
 The comforting arm of night,  
 The wisdom of the ages,  
 The power of the eagle's flight,  
 The joy of a morning in spring,  
 The faith of a mustard seed,  
 The patience of eternity,  
 The depth of a family need,  
 Then God combined these qualities,  
 When there was nothing more to add,  
 He knew his masterpiece was  
 complete,  
 And so, he called it Dad.*

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!**

~Anon.

*The deadline for all articles for the July newsletter is June 25th. Be sure to email them to [gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com).*



The Daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, June 2nd to discuss "Becoming" by Michelle Obama. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

July 7th - "Sold on a Monday" by Kristina McMorris

August 4th - "The Oysterville Sewing Circle" by Susan Wiggs

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