



newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

July, 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

We all want to return to “normal” and resume worship in our church. The old “normal” may not be back for a long time, until there is effective treatment and a vaccine for CoVID-19. In the meantime, there are restrictions to what we can do, in order to keep churchgoers, visitors, and staff (including the pastors and deacon) as safe as possible.

The County of Los Angeles has issued an extensive checklist of requirements that will limit our use of the building for worship or use by groups such as Bible Studies, Confirmation and the many outside groups that we support. For now, church programs, meetings, and worship are being held online. Other groups that normally use our building are meeting online or by phone conference.

If we were to open the building for worship right now, this is what things would look like:

- You would call the church office to reserve one of the 40 spaces for worship in the sanctuary. The maximum number in the room is 50 people, and we'll need to count worship leaders, musicians, AV techs, and front door screeners as well as support staff.
- At the front door on Sunday morning, someone will meet you to confirm your reservation. You and the person meeting will both be wearing masks, and they will be wearing gloves. Your temperature will be checked, and you'll be asked four questions about your health and exposure to COVID 19. After using hand sanitizer, you'll be directed to a pathway into the sanctuary and be led to a chair six feet from all other chairs (except those of family members who live in the same house.)
- If your family includes children, they will sit with you at all times; no Amplify, Playground, nursery, or “Wiggle Room”. Drinking fountains will be turned off, and restroom use limited to keep distancing in place.
- The service will be short. There will be no hymnals out, no bulletins, and no group singing. Music will be limited to piano or keyboard, and 2-4 singers at the front, spaced safely apart. There will be no spoken pieces that we say together, like prayers, liturgies, or creeds. There will be a welcome, readings, a sermon, prayers at the front, and a blessing and dismissal.
- Under the checklist we need to follow, there's no safe way to do wine or juice for communion. Even prepackaged liquids are a problem. Communion would be wafers,

carefully handled with tongs with no touching between you and the server. We'd still need to keep six feet of distance between people.

When the service is over, you will leave the sanctuary by a different door than the one you entered and leave the building by a different door as well. There will be no visiting, no food or drink, just people going quietly to their cars to go home.

No doubt many of you may be reluctant to return to "live" services because you are in a "high risk" group and our recorded services have and would continue to satisfy your needs. We know that even those who choose to return will find these changes create a less satisfying experience.

For the time being we will be continuing our online worship services and ask that you complete a survey so that we can better understand your expectations and further plan to reopen the building. Please remember that while the building might be closed, the people of God are the church, which means the church is always open, sharing God's love with our neighbors. Please let us know how we can help you be engaged in the life of our church at this time!

In Christ,

New Hope Church Council



Making our way through a time of social distance by faith, beauty, love.

Certainly some of you introverts are thriving during this time of physical distancing. While the extroverts, typically at home in gregarious American society, are working to keep their focus and positive energy. Given its length of time, I suppose most people are struggling with the impact of prolonged physical distancing. Some aren't faring so well and those poor souls become viral video stars who's fame arrived with an angry confrontation caught on camera at Trader Joes. I always cringe...oh, a bad moment captured forever on camera! So, in order to keep yourself from such infamy here are some great, lively, positive activities you can do right at home. If you are familiar with Zoom or other meeting software you can share the experience with a friend or a grandchild. Also, if you have some wonderful links you'd like to share send me an email: craig@newhopeagoura.com

1. Independence Day at Monticello Where else better to celebrate July 4th weekend than at the home of Thomas Jefferson? Each year they host a party, including a naturalization citizenship event. Tune in at:

<https://www.monticello.org/exhibits-events/calendar-of-events/july-4-at-monticello/>

2. Hubs Family Art for Kids. The Hubs family are super fun and energetic and make art projects simple. They provide a step-by-step process including how to draw, painting and origami for kids. The Middle School Confirmation class use this regularly and they love it!

<https://www.artforkidshub.com/>

3. Lunchtime Doodles with Mo Willems. Every weekday at 1 p.m. ET, the award-winning children's book author and illustrator virtually hosts young people in his studio, leading art projects as part of a special Kennedy Center Education Artist-in-Residence at Home program.

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/>

4. Mid-morning Boogie with Laurie Berkner if you want to get up and move. Laurie Berkner is the gold standard of the children's music world. During quarantine, the singer, songwriter, and guitar player has committed to being on Facebook Live most weekday mornings at 10 a.m. ET

<https://www.facebook.com/LaurieBerknerBand/photos/rpp.40626363329/10158227599388330/?type=3&theater>

5. The Doctor is In is a YouTube Series with Dr. Hans Sues, the Smithsonian's curator of vertebrate paleontology. This guy is zany!

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTfZeq4M00Zv740Vh7Qd_YRiq_0n9sCb-

6. Take a virtual Museum Tour. Travel and Leisure magazine has compiled museums that provide an online tour. Want to go to the British Museum in London? No problem. <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

Always wanted to go to the Louvre? Well, go ahead right here:

<https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>

7. Spiritual resources for deepening your faith experience:

a. Lectio Divina (Praying Scripture) with Todd Spencer:

<https://lectiodivinatodd.wordpress.com/>

b. Ignatian Examen (daily meditation on seeing God in our daily lives):

<https://examen.libsyn.com/>

c. Zoom classes at New Hope (we have at least 3 weekly adult offerings, and 2 for kids).

To your well-being...Pastor Craig



A Message From Pastor Scott

Psalm 6^[a]

- ¹ Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.
- ² Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint;
heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.
- ³ My soul is in deep anguish.
How long, Lord, how long?
- ⁴ Turn, Lord, and deliver me;
save me because of your unfailing love.
- ⁵ Among the dead no one proclaims your name.
Who praises you from the grave?
- ⁶ I am worn out from my groaning.
All night long I flood my bed with weeping
and drench my couch with tears.
- ⁷ My eyes grow weak with sorrow;
they fail because of all my foes.
- ⁸ Away from me, all you who do evil,
for the Lord has heard my weeping.
- ⁹ The Lord has heard my cry for mercy;
the Lord accepts my prayer.
- ¹⁰ All my enemies will be overwhelmed with shame and anguish;
they will turn back and suddenly be put to shame.

Have you ever heard this psalm before? These psalms of lament are often reserved for times of great grief like funerals and memorials. Have you ever heard the first verse of psalm 100 that says, “Make a joyful noise to the lord, all the Earth”? I would venture to say that particular psalm is a little more well known than psalm 6. I think part of that is we hear Psalms of praise and thanksgiving like that in church on a regular basis, as worship is a time where thanksgiving and praise take place. So often we are called to be thankful and to give praise to God in all circumstances, but that’s just not an authentic way to live and honestly not a way that I think God expects us to live.

I think that giving praise and thanksgiving has its time and place, but also our laments and our cries have a place as well. Really, God wants us to make some kind

of noise, sometimes we cry out for mercy like the psalmist, sometimes it is expressing anger or aggression, sometimes it's a fearful noise, whatever it is life encompasses lots of different emotions and that is how God created us to be. There are many people right now who do not want to make a joyful noise, often they are trying to go about their daily life with immense amounts of pain that we cannot imagine for various reasons.

The importance and call of making a noise to God is possible because we know that God hears us. But this responsibility is ours as well, when we hear the cries of our neighbor and especially in this time, the cries of our black and indigenous brothers and sisters. These are cries that we cannot ignore, the history of our country has been taught through the lens of white people since the beginning. There is so much history from their perspectives that has been wiped out because it is both sad and horrific. These stories must be told and it is our job to listen to those stories and gain a greater perspective around our countries history.

When we hear peoples stories it helps us to gain a better understanding of not only how they have to live in the world, but how different that experience is from ours and when we realize that what is happening is unjust it is our job to cry out for justice. To use the privilege that we have to make the changes that are necessary. This coincides with the teachings of Christ to bring the kingdom of God to the here and now.

So may God give us the ability to not only make a noise of some kind that we know God will hear, but also to be a person who listens and makes sure to really listen, not to be thinking what our rebuttal will be, the ones that take the time to try and unpack the emotions that we feel in that moment and wonder why we are reacting in that way. Because we will hear stories that will make us feel lots of things, whether that is shock, disbelief, sadness, guilt, we must sit with those emotions and try to understand why we are feeling that way, what its purpose is and to then act on what we learn from that self reflection.

Knowing that in all of these noises and emotions God's love will never fail us, when we are worn out from groaning and grieving we believe that God draws near to us and when our souls are in anguish, God will hear our cries.





Caring Corner

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

Fred Turner was hospitalized with breathing issues and heart attack.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Floyd Bealer, John Bell, 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, Rose Topliss, Jax Rains-Turk, Britt Tsumpes, and Susie 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 were so surprised at the beautiful 60th Anniversary drive through party the church gave us. Avo said it was a bigger celebration than we had at our own wedding. Thanks for the cards, posters, balloons, flowers, the cake and even oatmeal raisin cookies (my favorite). It was so nice to see everyone in person even though it was at a distance. Thank you New Hope for a wonderful remembrance.

Avo and Barbara Artinian



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. (Mugs are \$5 each.)



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 or call her at 818 889-4048.

Here are some examples.

Prime Timers

Prime Timer Ladies of NHLC -

It is July already and yet no getting together for our monthly luncheons. Guest speakers are ready to come to our luncheons as soon as it is safe. Keep your faith and trust in our Lord and our caregivers for keeping as many people healthy and safe. Let's continue to communicate with everyone.

Have a wonderful summer.

*Blessings to all,
Rose Topliss*



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!



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 to make arrangements for drop off.



Jane's Cards

Jane Taschereau has been busy making her homemade greeting cards. Each one is individually hand-painted. If you are interesting in purchasing some, please give Jane a call (805-241-8070) and she will bring them to you to look at. All money collected for these cards will be donated to Food Share. Don't miss out on these beautiful cards.



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)



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>



From the Treasurer

Thank you for your continued generosity in 2020! Your giving through May amounted to \$215,802, which is 13% above our budget expectations. 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 \$173,522 which is about 2% below budget.

Pledge Updates

Second Quarter 2020 giving statements will be mailed this month. Please contact Joe Bulock if you have any questions.

PPP Loan/Grant

New Hope received funding via the second wave of the US PPP program in early May. The rules of using this money continues to change but it looks like the church continues to meet all the requirements for the loan forgiveness. Gaye Khan is tracking those expenses and we expect to apply for the loan forgiveness in July.



Freedom's Price

Today we celebrate freedom
thanks to those who came before.
Those brave men who fought and died in each and every war.
Freedom always comes at a price,
And while we celebrate
We should tip our hats to the heroes who made our country great.

A Nation Free

Today is a time for fireworks and fun
But we shouldn't forget its reason.
This is one of the most important days of the entire summer season.
Today's the day our nation became free and the date of the country's birth.
For so many years we have grown to be one of the best countries on earth.



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. 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 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.

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. 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



July Birthdays

- 1 Gary Alwood
- 3 Wayne Rickert
- 4 John Leland
- 7 Barbara Artinian
- 8 Tim Neal
- 13 Chriss Alwood
- Jane Taschereau
- Doug Harrell
- 16 Oliver Edens
- Luayne Valestrino
- 17 Jeanette King
- 21 Hannah Hersman
- 24 Merylee Blair
- 30 Denny Koons



"Keep choosing happiness daily and happiness will keep choosing you back."

- Fawn Weaver

"Faith is not belief. Belief is passive. Faith is active."

- Edith Hamilton

"Failure is not the opposite of success; it's part of success."

- Arianna Huffington

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

- Mother Teresa



The Daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, July 7th to discuss "Sold on a Monday" by Kristina McMorris. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

September 1st - "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides

The deadline for all articles for the August newsletter is July 25th. Be sure to email them to gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com.

New Hope Lutheran Church
29295 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
818-889-8700
www.newhopeagoura.com

