



newhope *news*

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

August, 2020

On remembering Arnold and other ways to build community in age of Coronavirus

Arnold Reuter, our friend and long-time member of New Hope/Westlake, died in July. He had just turned 94. He is remembered for his honesty and integrity, hard work, commitment and love for his church, community, family, and friends. We all know his commitment to our church family, serving as head usher and financial secretary for decades. There are smaller acts of kindness and personal generosity specific to individuals in the church that are less known. We've missed him after he moved closer to family.

Arnold also had a remarkable commitment to the wider community. He served as a volunteer at Los Robles Hospital and, after retirement, worked at Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks Mortuary and Memorial Park.

Many of you, like me, have so many memories of Arnold we would need a much larger format than this newsletter and bigger setting than a single memorial service to adequately remember him. Remembering and celebrating Arnold is not a challenge; gathering to do so is.

The family will gather to remember their father and grandfather on August 22, 2020. Due to restrictions instituted on July 17th, we will not be able to have a public gathering in our sanctuary for a service. The family will gather for prayer at the church building on that morning and then have a public graveside service at Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks Cemetery in Westlake Village (current limitations are 50 people) at 11:00 AM. You are invited to the public service at the cemetery just remember the 50-person limit, plan to wear masks and practice physical distancing.

I would like to create a video memorial service for the family from New Hope. What would be involved? Chiefly, those who would want to provide a brief tribute could video record or be recorded in advance and be edited together (much like how we do our Sunday worship virtual worship). We would also pre-record music for the service as well. If you would like to provide a brief tribute to Arnold, please let me know and we can either record you or let you know how to send us the video. We will gift the family with a video tribute to their dad and make it viewable from our website at some time following the public services.

Our community of faith is a family with many amazing members. We will remember Arnold, a person with many facets:

- A churchman – did you know he was a member of a church Natalie Larkin's father served?
- A Veteran – did you know he is a WWII veteran, serving under General George Patton?
- A family man – did you know he had a reunion with a brother in occupied Berlin during WWII?
- A husband – did you know, according to plan, Arnold will be next to Dot at Valley Oaks?
- A father and grandfather – did you know his 4 children and many grandkids live all across the U.S.?

Many of you know and love Arnold Reuter and certainly want to join in celebrating his life. Let us help you do that with a video tribute! If you would like to be a part of it, please contact the church office (818-889-8700). We will need to have your commitment no later than August 9th to insure enough time for recording and editing.

We celebrate our life together and the promises we share in Christ. Even in a time of physical distancing we can be inspired by the lives of the saints, like our practical and trustworthy friend, Arnold. Let's continue, in new ways, to give comfort to his family and celebrate his life!

We will continue to look forward to building community in new ways during this strange time of physical distancing and virus precautions.

The building may not be open, but the church is alive and very active! Be a part of it!

We are still in one peace,

Pastor Craig

If you would like to send his family a card, you can send it to - Kathy Molnar, 11850 Mt. Gunnison Court, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737



From the Deacon

Thank you to the 57 people so far who have taken the survey we put out about how and when we eventually reopen to worship together in person. And a big thank-you to Wayne Rickert, who shared a similar survey from another church, so that we didn't have to come up with questions out of the blue.

We're all anxious to get back together when the time is right. But there are a lot of things keeping us from doing that now, including keeping everyone: congregants, the pastor and deacon, and all the service volunteers, safe and healthy. Forty of the 57 people who answered our survey are 65 or older, putting them in an at-risk category simply because of age, and a few of the younger folks have some other challenge that puts them at risk.

So, it's no surprise that 2/3 of those who answered the survey said they will continue to watch services online and ease back into activities when they happen, or that it will take a while before they re-enter the church building. A third of people still say they'll be there with bells on. Believe me, we're all hoping for that day, and working toward it being a safe one when we can do that.

Most have the technology to watch our YouTube service on a television, computer, or phone and do so. (Note: if you know someone who needs help to access services, let us know and we'll work on getting them a way to worship, whether it's by DVD or the loan of a device to watch on.)

Forty out of 57 were not working, or retired, before the quarantine started. Seven are working from home, and eight continue to work as normal. Only two reported losing their job so far. Again, if you know someone where that's the case, let folks at the church know so that we can help as we can.

Our online service is reaching people who might not walk in our doors if we were open. I give thanks to God that we've been able to do this, and share other activities, like Amplify kids' activities, Bible study and adult class with folks who might not have the opportunity in other times. Again, thank you for answering our questions, and know that Pastor Craig and I continue to pray for you all and hope that you will do the same.



Youth Director Article

Philippians 4: 10-15

¹⁰ I rejoice^[a] in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it.^[b] ¹¹ Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress. ¹⁵ You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone.

In this reading Paul talks about some of the ups and the downs that he has experienced in his life. He tells people of Philippi that he knows what it is like to have little and to have plenty. Some of us know one of those feelings and some of us have experienced both at different points in our life. But have we ever been in the “have plenty” category and it still wasn’t enough? I think we have all been discontent with something in our lives, whether it was our job, salary, living situation, love life, body, health, and more. And where does this come from? Where does this lack of contentedness come from? I think it comes from comparing ourselves to others. Comparison is the thief of joy.

When we think that the grass is always greener on the other side it is exceedingly difficult to be content with what we have and where we are. Because there is always going to be someone who is better or has more of something that we for some reason then decide that we not only want that but maybe even convince ourselves that we need it.

So then how has Paul found a way to be content in what seems like any situation? Well one interesting line in our reading is when Paul says to the Philippians, “In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.” I think there is something valuable in that verse. What happens when instead of looking at ourselves and what we have and do not have, we notice the distress of our neighbor? The needs that our neighbors go without every single day, what if we all spent a little more time worrying about others. Then wouldn’t everyone’s, at least basic, needs be taken care of? This can be difficult as we have been told over and over that we need to look out for number one and things of that nature. It is not often that we hear the genuine message that we have to live as a community and help one another without the instant backlash from those who see help as a weakness.

I hope that we can follow the example of the Philippians and be a community that shares, that partakes in the practice of giving and receiving, because sacrifice and service are two major callings we have as people of faith.

How can we live out that call in this time?

Would you call yourself an optimist, a pessimist, or a pretty even keeled person?

Would you say that you are generally content most of the time or not so much?



Caring Corner

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

Jill Fisher is recovering from neck surgery.

Natalie Larkin is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

John Bell broke his collarbone.

Arnold Reuter passed away.

Pat Henkel is recovering from surgery.

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



I would like to give thanks to everyone for all the lovely cards and phone calls for when I had knee cap surgery. Physical therapy is still to be started but all is going well. Thanks.

Rose Topliss



Church Directory Update

Please make the following change to your church directory:

Jeff and Jax Rains-Turk
501 Clubhouse Drive
Sunset, South Carolina 29685



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 NHLHC. Just email her at Kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com or call her at 818-889-4048. Above are some examples.



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.



Vacation Bible School in a Box

Watch for Vacation Bible School in a box delivered to families of the church with activities to build faith and have fun with the whole family.



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 Ashamalla at (818) 613-6818.

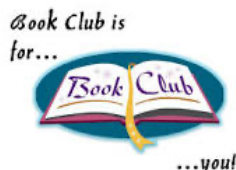
Top Priority Items

- 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>



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, August 4th to discuss "The Oysterville Sewing Circle" by Susan Wiggs. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

September 1st - "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides
October 6th - "The Secrets of Mary Bowser" by Lois Leveen

From the Treasurer



Thank you for your amazing generosity in 2020! Your giving through June amounted to \$247,343, which is significantly above our budget expectations. This does not include the PPP loan/grant amount. Our expenditures were \$207,404 which is about 2% below budget.



Join Our Heavenly Hiking Fools

For over a month, we have been doing a morning hike every Tuesday and Saturday from 7:00 – 8:30 AM. We are calling ourselves the Heavenly Hiking Fools, and we are a fun, uncompetitive group of Christian hikers. Because the Conejo Valley is blessed with a number of amazing hikes with beautiful views, we go on a variety of hikes. Whether experienced or new, all are working to get in shape and maybe lose a little weight. We take

rest stops to give new hikers a chance to catch up and get in shape. We hike for 45 minutes and then go back the way we came so people can get on with their day. If you would like to join us when your schedule allows, send an email to Terry Paulson (terry@terrypaulson.com). You'll receive a regular email update on our next hike and how to get to that trailhead. We may not be able to worship together, but we can hike together and maintain physical distance.

Supporting Our Lost Hills Sheriffs

In the midst of the turmoil in recent months, there has been much criticism about law enforcement. Certainly, those officers who commit crimes need to be accountable and held to a higher standard because of the power we give to them. But the vast majority of our police and sheriffs who help maintain order and keep us safe deserve our support. I have contacted Captain Brecerra from the Lost Hills Sheriffs' Station. I will be doing a program for their Field Training Officers in August. I am also collecting Thank You cards to give them from members of our community who appreciate their service. If you would like to write a card or get involved in any way to support our local Sheriffs, please email me at terry@terrypaulson.com. You can send any cards to my home address in the church directory. I will be taking the cards to the station on August 19th.



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 10:00 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.

Confirmation



Confirmation continues to meet as our Middle School Youth Group with activities planned each week on Zoom including: art projects, cookie baking, games, prayer, and good conversation. We meet each Wednesday at 5:30 PM. Contact Pastor Scott or Pastor Craig for Zoom access information.

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



August Birthdays

- 1 Robbie Gwartney
- 4 Marsha Chew
- 5 Jack Powledge
- 8 Eilene Green
- 10 Kristine Beeker
Tom Powledge
- 13 Craig Beeker
- 17 Joe Bullock
- 18 Stan Fisher
Rob Taschereau
- 19 Tom Beddingfield
- 20 Del Hultgren
Aleta Braxton
- 23 Bethany King
Leila Mader

- 24 Alison Rowe
Sandy Hansen
- 25 Faith David
- 28 Zac Beeker
- 31 Zack Niebolt



Prime Timer Ladies

Another month to link to our "Ladies" on Tuesday, August 11th after Bible Study. Let's have a prayer and a beverage in our houses and salud each other. Keep smiling and praise our Lord, give thanks for our church leaders and all members.

Rose Topliss



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.

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

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