



# newhope *news*

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

September, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are living in changed times 6 months into the physical distancing guidelines of Coronavirus. Our students have returned to schools in less than optimal conditions. The church in Los Angeles County continues to protect members and the wider community by keeping worship and learning in an online setting. We've been learning that church is not a building but a social network of followers of Jesus. As difficult as the times are, we have been learning much.

We continue to do well in the online environment, and many have found their way into our online community groups via Zoom. All of our open online classes continue to grow – this Sunday morning our discussion group topped 20 (typically 5-7 in-person class) and our Tuesday Bible Study has topped 26 persons this week (typically 15 in-person). We've added a Sunday evening discussion group to accommodate others. We continued to meet weekly with our middle school students by Zoom throughout the summer (typically we do not have Confirmation class in the summer). We continue to have a strong financial year because of your faithful giving and lower expenses. As an attempt to assist families in their grief for loved ones, we've produced a video of the memorial for Arnold Reuter – you can see that on our YouTube channel. Yet, with all these positive things being true, we still miss seeing each other.

We will be having that opportunity this month because of the Congregational Meeting on September 27th. The council is currently working out details of the meeting. We will most likely host the meeting on Zoom. Please watch for more information and details to be released soon.

A good way to stay in touch with happenings within the congregation are:

1. Friday Email – our Parish Administrator, Laurie Scott, sends out a Friday email each week detailing the events of the week, Zoom schedule, Sunday study details, the bulletin, and often a greeting by a staff member.
2. Website posts on Saturday night will include information about how to find the Sunday worship video, bulletin, and announcements.
3. Worship Videos always have an announcement section that will alert you to upcoming events.
4. New Hope Facebook page will give up-to-date information also. Membership in Facebook is NOT required to access our Facebook page.

Upcoming event: We invite you to participate in a webinar led by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center on the topic of managing conflict entitled “The Use of Language: Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love.” This event, hosted by New Hope, will be held on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> in the morning. More information on the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center see <https://lmpeacecenter.org/> With the current hyper-political division within our country your church staff thought it may be a helpful tool for having conversations within families around the Thanksgiving Table. Please join us for the webinar on October 10th, cost is \$15 per person.

We are also planning a parking lot pick-up service of Holy Communion within the next month. Stay tuned for more details on this event too!

Following guidelines can be frustrating and exhausting but having seen this virus up close, I want to stress the importance of following the guidelines. This is a horrible disease. We are doing our part and together we can keep one another healthy and well. I believe in the human spirit, ingenuity, the divine calling of scientists who are working tirelessly on a treatment and vaccine. We will make it through, we must simply stay the course. I want to encourage you to help each other out and, without complaining too much, follow the guidelines as an act of Christian love for your neighbor. Your church continues to do its part in keeping you safe. But know we tremendously miss seeing each other! With God’s help, we will see one another soon!

Still in one peace,  
*Pastor Craig*



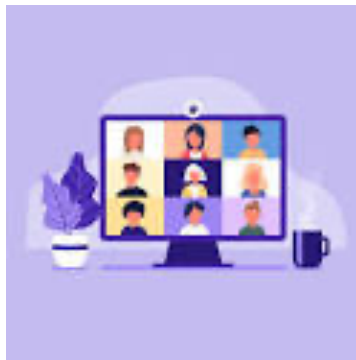
## From the Deacon

August 22<sup>nd</sup> had to be one of the warmest “Celebration of Life” services I’ve ever been a part of. The 35-or-so of us who were remembering the life of Arnold Reuter were all warm when we started and just plain hot by the time we ended. Still, it was good to gather, even in the strange way we had to gather, to remember a grand gentleman.

The thing that struck me the most was how good it was to see some of the folks there that I hadn’t seen in months. Every Wednesday a few of us gather to record the parts of the service that go together for worship on YouTube on Sunday morning. Outside of those eight or so people, there are very few New Hope folks I’ve seen in person since March. We gather on Zoom for Bible study, and the congregational council also meets on Zoom once a month. Obviously, that’s not the same as gathering together in person, but it’s something.

So how can New Hope expand the ways we “see” each other, feeding the need to be community with each other? There are several ways we might be able to do that:

- A “coffee hour” at 11 or thereabouts on Sunday morning via Zoom. It requires wifi and a smart phone, or computer, or tablet, but it would be a way to gather.
- We are always looking for readers for the first lesson of the day for Sunday morning. If you’re willing to do that, you can contact Pastor Craig or myself and either come in on Wednesday at a set time to record your reading, or you can do it from home and be recorded either on phone, camera, computer, Zoom...there are lots of possibilities.
- Small group gatherings could happen via Zoom, or very cautious social distancing and wearing masks in a community park or other outdoor setting. There are still a lot of folks who have enough health challenges that even those small in-person gatherings wouldn’t be something they could do.
- We’re always open to suggestions for other forms of gathering. Creativity is welcome!



# *We have a new look!*



**Our New Hope website has been undergoing a make-over and you are invited to a preview before we go *live*!**

**[www.NewHopeAgoura.ORG](http://www.NewHopeAgoura.ORG)**

*\*be sure to enter .ORG rather than .COM to access our new website.  
(This is a temporary address until we go live)*

**Both websites will be available for a time to give everyone an opportunity to become familiar with the new format and all the content that is available. It is still a work-in-progress so please stay-tuned as we continue to add the finishing pieces.**

**Our New Hope website is another way for you to stay connected to your church community. It is also a tool that allows us to reach beyond our congregation to the community at large.**

**Our new website will be “evergreen” so be sure to keep coming back for current and relevant content including the weekly worship service.**

## From the Youth Director

### Romans 11:25-36

#### All Israel Will Be Saved

<sup>25</sup> So that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written,

“Out of Zion will come the Deliverer;  
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.”

<sup>27</sup> “And this is my covenant with them,  
when I take away their sins.”

<sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel they are enemies of God<sup>[b]</sup> for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; <sup>29</sup> for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now<sup>[c]</sup> receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

<sup>33</sup> O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been his counselor?”

<sup>35</sup> “Or who has given a gift to him,  
to receive a gift in return?”

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

Maybe you have heard the saying, “you don’t know what you don’t know” and when it comes to matters of God and faith that saying is applicable in abundance. When people ask me for recommendations about a church to go to and maybe I am not super familiar with the area that they are in and don’t know any of the pastors or churches in the area, one thing I will always tell people to look out for is churches that seem to have all the answers. I would be highly suspicious of places that seem to know answers to very difficult questions that have plagued humanity for centuries and are rigid about said answers as if they were the rule.

But if a place like this has all the answers, once you have them, then why would one need to come to church anymore? Why would one need faith or God in their life when the answers are there. Sometimes we claim to be wiser than others and it always comes back around to bite us, almost as if God is sending

a little reminder for us about how wise we really are. I think often we talk about being humble and not speaking too highly of ourselves and this kind of thinking can creep into our faith lives when it comes to our wisdom. I often hear people say “oh well I don’t know a whole lot about the Bible or I haven’t been a Christian for very long” and really this is just as bad as boasting it's just the opposite.

I don’t think that it is helpful to think that we are wiser than others, but also when we downplay wisdom that we have that too is a mistake. Paul even says in the reading that the “gifts and calling of God are irrevocable” it is not our job to downplay the gifts that God has given us and the calling that we have in this life whatever that may be. We must learn to embrace what God has given us because God’s wisdom and knowledge has great depth.

We are going to have times where we and our neighbor are going to fall into one of these categories, either thinking we are better than others or that we are not worthy and this is because life can be hard. We are all going to make mistakes, but in our reading Paul gives us hope. By the mercy shown to you they can now receive mercy. At the end of the day we will receive mercy from God and we should show one another that same courtesy. We know that everyone is going through something difficult that we maybe don’t see, maybe they won’t say anything explicitly that is going on but there will be signs. We should then be reminded of the difficult times we have gone through and show them a little grace, a little mercy.

Then we must remember to seek God for guidance in God’s great wisdom and use the gifts given to us to support those around us who are in need. The world is going to be hard enough on everyone as it is, let’s do our best to help one another get through it.

Amen







## Caring Corner

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

Katie Jo Ash is recovering from a broken wrist and leg.

Mimi Beals on the death of her sister, Lori.

Bulock Family on the death of Joe's mom, Louise.

Sandy Cowden is recovering from a bone bruise and torn ligaments in her left knee.

David Family on the death of Ron.

Bob Green was hospitalized but is now home recuperating.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Floyd Bealer, John Bell, Irene Bright, Elisabeth Brown, Evelyn Colby, Matt Cowden, Holly Dolliver, Jill and Chris Fisher, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Sandy Hansen, Pat Henkel, Del Hultgren, Karen Ingram, Denny Koons, Joyce Lawson, Natalie Larkin, 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, Susie and Fred Turner, and Britt Tsumpes.

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 Kara Nelson and Tom DeMelfi on their recent engagement. Congratulations to you both!

## Obituary for Ron David

The David Family would like to share Ron's obituary with New Hope.

*"It is with great sadness that the family of Ronald Martin David announces his passing.*

*Born January 30, 1948, in Alliance, Ohio, Ron moved to Los Angeles where he attended Cleveland High School as a golf stand out, burgeoning musician often being asked to record alongside radio personalities, and hard working young box boy at Gelson's family owned grocery chain. Ron went on to attend CLU where he met his wife, and later graduated from USC with a BS and Masters in Business.*

*Professionally, Ron dedicated his life to finance holding chief level positions at a number of companies. Personally, his dedication was to family helping to raise three boys alongside his wife. Favorite times together include their trips to Cabo, Africa, Europe, and their home away from home in Lake Tahoe.*

*Ron will be deeply missed by his wife of 51 years, Faith, their three sons Jeffrey, Andrew, and Jonathan, each of their wives Kate, Danielle, and Stephanie and six grandchildren."*



## 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. Above are 2 samples - pleated or more fitted.



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](mailto:laurie@newhopeagoura.com) to make arrangements for drop off.

*"Never let a problem to be solved become more important than a person to be loved."*

*- Barbara Johnson*



## 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)



## 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.)



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, September 1st to discuss "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

October 6th - "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo

November 3rd - "The Secrets of Mary Bowser" by Lois Leveen



## 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 July amounted to \$269,642, which is still above our budget expectations. This does not include the PPP loan/grant amount. Our expenditures so far this year were \$242,251 which is about 3% below budget.

## New Hope Mission Endowment Fund

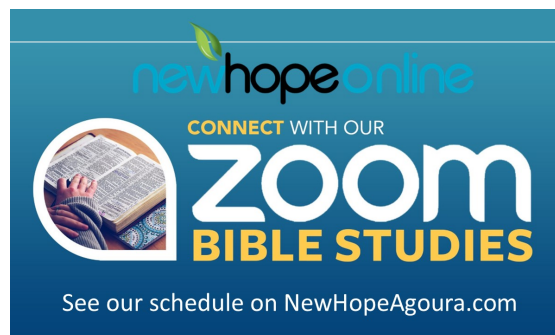
The Committee has designated \$5,000 for grants to be disbursed in 2020-2021, and will be accepting grant applications this fall to support religious, charitable, or educational projects.



## 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](mailto: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.





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 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 or 7 PM each Sunday 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.

### 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.

# 3 ways to give to support the work of New Hope

*Give*  
**ONLINE**   
SECURE GIVING WITH **PayPal**

Online donations can be  
made through our Website  
using the PayPal option

*Give*  
**ELECTRONICALLY**



Contact the church office for  
assistance in setting up  
automatic giving

*Give*  
**BY MAIL** 

**Address to:**

New Hope Lutheran Church  
29295 Agoura Road  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

*Visit our website*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

## PRAYER WALL

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST • PRAY FOR SOMEONE ELSE

*Praying together  
keeps us together*



## September Birthdays

- 1 Suzie Frye
- 2 Dixie Burton
- 5 Sharon Pryor
- 8 Kevin Barry
- 15 Kathy Ham
- 16 Mary Gallagher
- 17 Moeed Khan
- 18 Phyllis Rickert  
Debbie Chigaridas
- 24 Chris Fisher
- 27 Lou Fiore



***"The sun shines not on us but  
in us."***

**- John Muir**

***"Like wildflowers, you must  
allow yourself to grow in all  
the places people thought you  
never would."***

**- EV**

***"A friend is someone who  
reaches for your hand and  
touches your heart."***

**- Unknown**

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



## Jane's Cards

Jane Taschereau has been busy making her handmade 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, LSS, or MANNA. If you know of a children's charity that feeds kids, she would love to donate to them as well. Just let her know. Don't miss out on these beautiful cards. They are one of a kind!

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