



newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

December, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

A blessed First Sunday of Advent and a joyful new church year to each of you!

2021 will be a Year of Prayer emphasis for New Hope. It is my prayer for the new year that we grow strong in the practice of Daily Prayer. Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith; Prayer and Scripture are the foundation stones for a life of discipleship.

2021 will be devoted to prayer. Of course, 2022 will be devoted to Scripture.

Our Year of Prayer memory verse will be Philippians 4:6 "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." When we are together in Zoom or (eventually) in person, I would love to hear you recite this beautiful verse!

Advent is a season marked by waiting in expectation, hoping for the promise to come, serving out of the love we receive from God, and living at peace with ourselves and others (Advent candles represent hope, peace, joy and love). We will light a candle each Sunday and pray for and work at making God's hope, peace, joy, love to be manifest, made real and tangible, among us. You have been given a weekly Advent Devotional book as a reminder to keep a holy Advent season. We have framed the season of Advent with the theme: "Let There Be..."

As we prepare to deepen our prayer life, lead the Year of Prayer in families or shape the life of our church family, I will commend to you a couple initial opportunities for growth and conversation.

How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People by Pete Greig (currently \$13.50 paperback at Amazon... remember to use Amazon Smile for a donation!) How to Pray easily divides into 5 sections that I would like to discuss once per month (5:30 PM) like this:

Wednesday, December 30 – How to Pray (Introduction, chapter 1 & 2 or intro and pages 1-31)

Wednesday, January 27 – Step 1: Pause (pages 34-49)

Wednesday, February 24 – Step 2: Rejoice (pages 50-69)

Wednesday, March 31 – Step 3: Ask (pages 72-129) (if back in person, this date will shift due to Holy Week)

Wednesday, April 28 – Step 4: Yield (pages 131-222)

Secondly, Prayer Ventures - These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social, and outreach ministries of our whole church, the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities, and world. There is no better way to learn to pray than to engage in prayer itself. This monthly guide will keep you praying each day of the year. See attached document: Prayer Ventures December 2020.

As we close a year unlike any other we have experienced, ever, I encourage you to do the inner work that leads to outward fruitfulness. This year we choose to unwrap and experience the gift of conversation with God (what we call prayer). Prayer, among other gifts, helps us engage in the humble task of truly learning how to live with God. Prayer helps by developing skills for a real and consistent relationship with God. Paul Marshall (Barefoot Revolution, Paraclete Press 2018) wrote The Christian response to the onslaught of secular ideologies and science-based “new atheism” isn’t just a dogfight over philosophies, but to cultivate a vital spiritual life that generates authentic power and radical love. Maybe you have not been able to go to the gym for a while, but I invite you into a discipline that is as difficult and even more fruitful: spiritual discipline. Join us in the various activities planned for The Year of Prayer.

I also encourage you to join us for worship online and encourage your leaders. We’ve all had an unusual and difficult year and many are left unsure where they stand in relationship to their community, their friends, and community organizations. Let us know you are out there engaging by posting a note to our You Tube post or on our website or Facebook page.

Finally, get engaged in our life together. For the size of our church, we offer a surprising array of experiences, studies, and discussions:

- Sunday: 9 AM The Wired Word – Morning (by Zoom)
7 PM The Wired Word – Evening (by Zoom)
- Monday: 10 AM Women’s Bible Study and Prayer (by Zoom)
- Tuesday: 10 AM Tuesday Bible Study using series in Gather Magazine (by Zoom)
11:45 AM Monthly Book Club (First Tuesday of month by Zoom) (See Gail McGinnis)
5 PM Confirmation Class for Middle School age student (by Zoom)
- Thursday: 7:30 AM Men’s Group (by Zoom) (See Dr. Terry Paulson)

Upcoming Events:

- New Hope Book Study on Dear Church by Lenny Duncan. Pick up your book and join us for a discussion of race in our culture and church. Pick up a copy on Amazon or other book sellers. More information to follow in the January Newsletter.
- Estate Planning: Lutheran Social Services Southern California has put together a series of workshops on estate planning. You can sign up for them at <https://www.lsssc.org/estate-planning/>

As we complete the year, we work to keep a holy Advent season filled with anticipation. Together we will pray that God uses the words of creation “Let There Be...” to make hope, peace, joy, and love flourish within and among us. I hope you will join us in building our life together even while we are apart. The church itself is not a building but a community gathered around Christ, centered in Christ’s love, and serving the world in Christ’s name – join us!

Holy Advent, Merry Christmas. God is with us!

Pastor Craig



PRAYER VENTURES

DECEMBER 2020

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 - World AIDS Day Pray for compassion, understanding and healing for individuals, families and communities worldwide that are living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. Give thanks for the dedicated service and skill of doctors, pastors, public officials, health care educators, care providers and researchers who treat the infected, bring hope to the discouraged and weary, and respond to the disease's spiritual, physical, emotional and social impacts.

2 - The Spirit is at work in times of anticipation and yearning, reminding us of God's promises and activity, helping us stay calm and patient, and redirecting our attention from ourselves to our neighbors in need — nearby and around the world.

3 - Give thanks for the new ELCA social message "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy." Pray that it will help us understand how government is a gift from God but can also be abused and misused. Ask the Spirit to guide us as we prayerfully reflect on how we can view civic engagement as Lutherans.

4 - What do you anticipate and watch for during this season of Advent? Pray for what you yearn and hope for, and give thanks that God is faithful to God's promises, especially through the gift of life to the world through Jesus Christ.

5 - As we are immersed in the joy, festivities and busyness of Advent and Christmas, pause to pray for our global neighbors who have suffered through devastating natural disasters and need our support, generosity and assistance. Pray particularly for the many nations that have experienced drought and for those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey and Greece, Typhoon Goni hitting the Philippines and multiple hurricanes impacting Mexico, the Caribbean region and the United States.

6 - Pray that the Spirit will give us a measure of John the Baptist's boldness, commitment, humility and resolve as we share the good news of Jesus Christ and the promise of God's love and mercy with everyone we encounter or approach throughout our baptismal journey.

7 - Give thanks for caregivers, staff and nurses in senior communities, nursing homes, rehabilitation hospitals, and memory-care and assisted-living facilities. Ask God to grant them strength, wisdom, skill and a spirit of hope and joy as they go about their difficult and often tiring work.

8 - Pray for patience, caution and concern for our neighbor during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic; pray that the Spirit and our siblings in Christ will help us cope with and adjust to the implications of the pandemic for this season in which we are accustomed to gathering in person for meals, celebrations, worship, family gatherings and community events.

9 - Pray that God will help us lead lives of holiness, godliness, peace and active engagement with the world as disciples of Christ who wait patiently for the day of the Lord.

10 - This has been, and continues to be, a very difficult year of coping with and recovering from natural disasters across our country and around the world. Pray that the presence and hope of God will be evident where there is despair, grief and uncertainty over how to begin rebuilding and healing. Pray that neighbors, communities and nations will work together to provide assistance, resources and relief workers where the needs are most critical.

11 - Ask for God's forgiveness and take to heart God's word of love, peace, healing and guidance that restores our faith and spirit as children of God.

12 - Give thanks for the church traditions that remind us of God's actions throughout history and inspire our faith, generosity and commitment to serve our neighbors in need. Pray that we will carry these meaningful traditions forward and create new rites and traditions that inspire and strengthen all generations in today's changing contexts.

13 - Pray that we might passionately witness to the light of Jesus Christ and boldly invite others to believe and to be baptized into the body of Christ and the community of all believers.

14 - ELCA Good Gifts provide an opportunity for you to support the ministries and programs — domestic and global — that mean the most to you and the people you love. Give thanks that our church believes God is calling us into the world together and that, through our generosity and love, we can make a difference.

15 - What do our gifts mean, and what impact do they have? Pray for thoughtfulness when we buy gifts, for awareness of who we include and exclude, and for mindfulness of how the money we spend during this time of thanksgiving might fulfill God's loving, merciful and generous promises.

16 - Los Posadas This traditional celebration, popular in Mexico and observed by some ELCA congregations, uses lighted paths and processions to follow Mary and Joseph's journey through Bethlehem in search of lodging. Pray that our recollection of Mary and Joseph's experience might prompt us to welcome strangers, immigrants and neighbors in need.

17 - "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Pray that we will support and encourage each other in these good works and disciplines that keep our spirits, minds and bodies healthy and whole.

18 - Pray that, in anticipation of Christmas, we will invite others into the joy of our meals, celebrations, community events and faith. Pray that the Spirit will move us to reach out with acts of love, hope, inclusion and good news to people who are alone, incarcerated or homeless.

19 - "The Lord has done great things for us." Rejoice, laugh and shout with joy!

20 - Pray that we will be receptive to angels and divine beings sent by God to guide us and bring us good news, as the angel Gabriel did to Mary and Elizabeth. Pray that we will hear God's assurance that "nothing will be impossible with God" and that our response will echo Mary's: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

21 - Winter solstice On this day with the least amount of daylight, observed as the beginning of winter, pray that we will be drawn to the eternal light of Christ born into the world — a gift for all people and all generations that illuminates God's redemptive love for us and God's desire and intent for how we might live together.

22 - Remember in prayer the approximately 26 million refugees, immigrants and asylum-seekers around the world and at our borders, awaiting entry into safe, welcoming countries and communities so that they can rebuild their lives without threats of conflict, persecution, violence or economic crisis. Pray for their safety, that their spiritual, physical and emotional needs will be met, that they will find caring advocates, and that their faith and hope will be strengthened and sustained by siblings in Christ and our faith communities.

23 - With prayerful sighs of relief and expressions of gratitude, give thanks for God's covenant to grant humankind love, forgiveness, new life and redemption through the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

24 - Remember and give thanks for the people in your life who taught you the nativity story and recounted the promise God made to us and fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

25 - Christmas Day Give praise and thanks for God's boundless love, mercy and grace, revealed to the world and all humanity through the light of Jesus Christ — son of God, son of humanity; our source of truth, salvation, new life and wholeness.

26 - Beginning of Kwanzaa Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration of African culture and traditions that stresses family, community and shared principles. Give thanks for the rich and meaningful traditions, celebrations and practices of our African American siblings and the global African community.

27 - Pray for the Spirit to help us understand and have faith in Jesus as the son of God, born to walk among us, live through our daily struggles and needs, teach us God's ways and word, and restore our relationships with God, one another and creation.

28 - Pray that we will carry forward the story and significance of Jesus and their implications for our daily actions, relationships and decisions as loved and reclaimed children of God. Ask the Spirit to guide us in responding to God's call to proclaim the gospel, make peace, work for justice, propagate hope and serve our neighbors in need — without partiality, foot-dragging, embarrassment or expectation of reward or credit.

29 - Let our prayers, creation and all living things give glory and honor to God, our creator, sustainer, guiding light and redeemer.

30 - Pray that the light, celebration and blessings of community we experience as followers of Christ will continue far beyond the Christmas holidays and permeate our daily lives as we participate in God's life-giving work and witness in the world.

31 - New Year's Eve A new year can offer hope and enthusiasm for starting anew, or it can bring fear and despair stirred by our human weaknesses and failures. Ask God to help us achieve our new endeavors and resolutions and regroup ourselves in God's grace, forgiveness and newness when we fall short of our expectations and goals. Ask the Spirit to help us encourage, assist and surround with grace people who stumble or whose confidence is unsteady.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

From the Deacon



How was your Thanksgiving? Ours was very quiet. We stayed home, stayed inside, and cooked for two. The closest we got to our family was a couple of Zoom sessions, one while all three households were cooking, and one after dinner but before pie. And honestly? It wasn't a lot of fun. I was reminded, for the second time in forty-two years of marriage that cooking turkey and dressing for two makes just as much mess in the kitchen as if you were doing it for seven, or even twenty-seven. The only thing that there were less of were dinner plates, and those go in the dishwasher.

There was one more thing, actually, that there was less of; there was less chance of illness, and sharing illness. This year might not have been fun, but it was probably wise. I'm still trying to track down who said the phrase I've been using most: "A Zoom Thanksgiving is better than an ICU Christmas." It seems to have been said first among doctors who are working in our nation's hospitals, who see up close how COVID-19 ravages the human body.

If we all keep working for good, in loving ways that keep ourselves and others safe, this Thanksgiving will be one of a kind. By next year this time we should be back at work, back at school, and back to gathering together as families and as a congregation. That's the kind of hope I hold onto.

As I write this, we are coming up on the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of hope. May we keep all four of the Advent candles lit this season: hope, joy, love, and peace. And may we do all we can to make this year one of a kind.



From the Youth Director, Pastor Scott

1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him —⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”^[b]

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”^[c]

⁸and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”^[d]

They stumble because they disobey the message - which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

In our Gospel reading this past Sunday, Jesus talked about the cornerstone and this message clearly stuck with the writer of 1Peter and is the driving force of our passage for this week's devotional. There are two parts to this that I want to focus on for this week and the first is the part of the passage that says “you are the chosen people.” This idea of being chosen is one that we crave even from a young age. How often do we hear the hypothetical or for some people actual story of being picked last for the team in elementary school. Being chosen last is not something anyone ever wants to happen and that’s because in our mind we actually don’t feel chosen in that moment.

In that moment we feel that we are only “chosen” because there is nobody else to choose from, that surely if there was someone else they would be chosen over us. There is something about us that desires to be chosen to feel like someone sees something in us, maybe they see potential or purpose. Sometimes it can be painfully clear when someone feels like they have a purpose compared to someone who maybe feels lost and unsure about theirs. Even the writer of 1Peter puts it in a way that I think speaks to how we really feel when we feel chosen, “God’s special possession.” We feel special when we have purpose, when we feel like we are doing “what we were born to do”

This sounds great, but I think that this is where we can start to go to a place that is problematic. I think that we often confuse being chosen and being special. Even though there isn't anyone else exactly like us in the world, we still share so many things in common that as humans there are many things that we have in common as well. But for some reason when we think about ourselves that way we think less of ourselves, because we are not as unique as we thought, we want to stand out, we want to be individuals. Now I do think that there is value to knowing ones self and being true to who you are, but we must also remember that just as we are chosen as the writer of 1Peter says, "a holy people" it doesn't say a holy individual and I think that really says something. We are called together and then I think within that community that is where we find our individualism, but the importance of community cannot be understated.

Well whatever way you want to look at it I hope that you know that you are chosen by God. God has given you gifts to use in this life and we are all on the journey to figure out what those gifts are and how we are called to use those gifts. And not only how can we use those gifts, but how we can use them in the communities that we are a part of? And what are some things that we share in common with those whom we are in community with? I think the most important thing that we all share and have the capacity for is to show and share love. We will all do this in different ways, but it is something we all can do. When we share this love that God has shown to us we, declare the praises of the God who calls us into a beautiful light. So if you take only one thing away from this, know that you have the capacity and ability to share love and even though everyone can do this, it is still truly special.

Amen.





Caring Corner

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

Wayne Rickert was in the hospital for tests but coming home soon.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Katie Jo Ash, Floyd Bealer, Merylee Blair, Irene Bright, Elisabeth Brown, Evelyn Colby, Sandy and Matt Cowden, Faith David, Holly Dolliver, Jill and Chris Fisher, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Bob Green, Sandy Hansen, Del Hultgren, Sue Koons, Diane Lawson, Joyce Lawson, Reeta Leland, Joan Looman, Elisabeth and Jorgen Makitalo, Cheryl Merrill, Kathryn Murray, Ava Grace O'Connell, Nick and Cindy O'Hare, Ahoo Pilehvari, Sharon Pryor, Wayne Rickert, Jane Taschereau, Rose Topliss, Jax Rains-Turk, Fred Turner, and Britt Tumpes.

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.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DRIVE- THROUGH COMMUNION!



We rejoice with Alyssa and Brett Taylor on the birth of Jordan Evan who was born on November 3rd weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 22" long. Proud grandparents are John and Linda Leland, great-aunt and great-uncle are Lorie and Terry Paulson and great-grandma is Reeta Leland. Congratulations to the whole family!



SCRIP gift cards are easy to give and fun to receive, but did you know that a percentage of every SCRIP gift card purchased through New Hope comes back to New Hope? Contact Kathy Rogers at kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com or call her at 818-889-4058 to let her know what cards you would like to purchase. You can also have a current list of the hundreds of gift cards that can be special purchased through New Hope for Christmas giving. Contact Kathy Rogers for more information, she will be happy to send you a current list of the cards that are available to order.

From the Treasurer



Thank you for your continued generosity in 2020! Your giving through October amounted to \$346,772, about 6% over budget. This does not include the PPP loan/grant amount. Our expenditures so far this year are about \$17,000 below budget. The new mortgage

at the lower monthly premium took effect in October.



New Hope Mission Endowment Fund

Accepting Applications for Grant Money!

New Hope Lutheran Church's Mission Endowment Fund was established in 2017 to support outreach, locally and around the world, above and beyond the programs supported through our annual budget. The Mission Endowment Fund is supported through gifts and bequests and is a legacy of our faith in New Hope's role with future generations.

This year, the Committee has designated a total of \$5,000 for grants to be disbursed in 2020-2021, and is now accepting applications for those grants through the end of this year. We will consider any proposal that supports religious, charitable, or educational projects, and we need you to let us know how we can support **YOUR FAVORITE** non-profit that meets these objectives. Please direct your contact to complete a Grant Distribution Request form found at <http://www.newhopeagoura.org/new-hope-endowment-fund/>, scroll down to "Submitting a Request for Funds" and click on the "Download Here" button. Once completed, the form can be sent by email or regular mail to New Hope Lutheran Church at the addresses on the form.

We look forward to receiving additional requests to enhance our ministries in the surrounding communities and around the globe.

Gail Beeker



MANNA FOOD PANTRY

With holiday distribution programs, we help over 20,000 people each year throughout the 101 corridor cities from the Calabasas Grade to the Conejo Grade.

Please drop off your donations at Manna Food Bank located at:

3020 Crescent Way
Thousand Oaks 91362

Donation Drop Off Hours -

Monday – Friday 7:30 AM – 4 PM

Saturday 9:30 AM – 1 PM

Any questions, call Ann Ashamallah at (818)-613-6818.

Top Priority Items

- 1 - Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate
- 2 - Baking Items - cookie/cake mix, flour, sugar, etc.
- 3 - Canned/Boxed gravy
- 4 - Boxed Stuffing
- 5 - Granola Bars
- 6 - Pancake Mix and Syrup
- 7 - Condiments - Ketchup/Mustard/Mayonnaise
- 8 - Mac and Cheese
- 9 - Drinks - Juices/Almond Milk/Protein Drinks, Soft Drinks
- 10 - Eggs



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, December 1st to discuss "The Lager Queen of Minnesota" by J. Ryan Stradal. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

February 2nd - "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson

March 2nd - "Runaway: stories" by Alice Munro

"Dear Church" Book Discussion

ELCA Pastor Lenny Duncan has written "Dear Church: A Love Letter From A Black Preacher To the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.". It is a frank discussion of race and the ELCA's role (our role) in addressing racism while helping our congregation meet the needs of our community and grow. The book is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com. We are discussing the book via Zoom on Thursday, January 28th at 10 AM. Hope to see you there! For more information, contact Karen Ingram.



Prime Timers

Cooler weather, warmer clothes, and the wonderful season of Christ's birthday. On Tuesday, December 8th at noon, be sure to hold up your cup of coffee, tea, water or a glass of good

cheer and wish a "Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus." To our church family, please join with us to give a toast to our Lord and Savior.

We all have so much to be grateful for this year; let's welcome 2021 with a big blast of **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Rose Topliss



Join Our Heavenly Hiking Fellowship

For over a few months, we have been doing a morning hike every Tuesday and Saturday from 7:00 – 8:30 AM. We are calling ourselves the Heavenly Hiking Fellowship, 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.



Community Conscience Needs a "Lift"

Our organization has owned, operated and maintained the 2-story building at 80 E. Hillcrest in T.O. for over 30 years. We house 13 nonprofits including LSS that pay NO RENT. Last year the entire roof plus 12 air conditioners had to be replaced. Our main fundraiser, Mardi Gras Ball, had to be cancelled for 2021 due to Covid-19. Now our original elevator must be replaced.

We have started a GoFundMe page to help repay the loan of \$150,000 we obtained to cover this expense. It is very important that Community Conscience continues supporting these 13 nonprofits that help those in need from Camarillo to Agoura Hills.

For more information on our organization or to donate, please go to <https://communityconscience.org>

Thank you.
Phyllis Rickert, Board member and Past President



Social Ministry Update

Happy Different Holidays Everyone! While we can't be physically social, our ministry goes on!!

Please support these efforts as the "something" we can do to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this challenging time. It's a wonderful way to stay united as New Hope has always done.

Here we go:

Harbor House/Houston children's gift cards -

\$25. Target Cards. Please send a check to church or I will arrange for pick up at your home. You may order by calling the office and we will get payment later. Make checks out to New Hope with Houston on the memo line. Runs until DECEMBER 10th.

Lunches for Harbor House - Our church dates are Friday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th. We need 4-6 folks making 10-12 lunches each Friday. Sandwich (meats are OK now), fruit, snack item, treat and water bottle. I will let you know delivery or pick up information. Please call me to volunteer so I can make sure we have enough. Easy way to help!

NEW, NEW, NEW

The hot meals program is back in a modified form! We are participating in a trial run to provide individual portioned, hot meals for Harbor House! We will keep our 3rd Monday each month. I will deliver single portion containers for food to be packed, then retrieve them and put the whole meal together as an individual

complete meal. More details coming. The first time we provide food is December 21st. It is similar to the regular way we did the meals except you portion in containers at home and I will come get them. Our first week is the week of Christmas. A hot meal for so many in need is sorely needed and will be very special indeed!

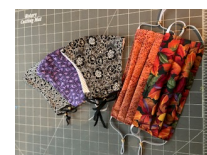
Give me a call to help out! We are the hands and feet of Jesus - We Are New Hope!

In Christ, Merylee Blair
805-490-1867



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 818-889-4058. Above are some samples - pleated or more fitted. She can now make masks for Christmas.

2020 VISION AND BEYOND

LSS Southern California Estate Planning Series

PRESENTED BY

Joshua Anderson
Estate Planning Attorney
PARTNER/MCINTIRE ANDERSON

Lisa Higginbotham
Regional Gift Planner
ELCA FOUNDATION

*This email has an updated link for
Session Information & Registration*

**Click here for Session
Information and
Registration!**

In Advance!
DECEMBER 16th

**Wills, Trusts &
Probate...Oh My!**
FEBRUARY 10th

**I've Got the
Power!**
JANUARY 13th

**Love is Eternal...
Community Property Isn't**
MARCH 17th

**You're Set...
What's Next?**
APRIL 14th

2020/2021 SERIES SCHEDULE

For seminar details and registration please visit lsssc.org/estate-planning

December 16th - Advanced Healthcare Directives

January 13th - Powers of Attorney

February 10th - Wills, Trusts and Probate...Oh My!

March 17th - Community Property

April 14th - Estate and Legacy Planning (Dual)

* Please note these seminars are only for general information, and do not constitute legal advice or create an attorney-client relationship.

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

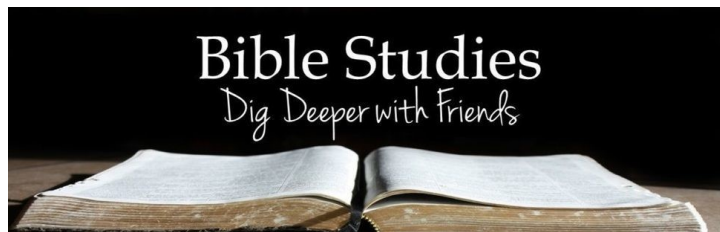
Visit our website

1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

PRAYER WALL

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST • PRAY FOR SOMEONE ELSE

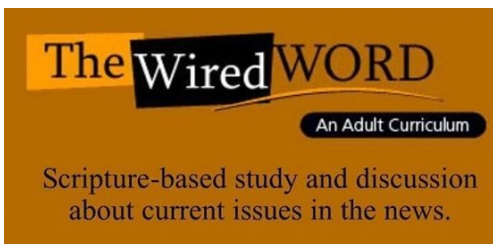
*Praying together
keeps us together*



Are the continuing COVID-19 restrictions causing you to feel disconnected from your church family? Even though we can't be together in all the ways we have been accustomed, we can connect by taking advantage of technology! We would like to encourage you to check out our weekly Bible Studies held on **ZOOM**. ZOOM provides a "real-time" meeting environment where you can interact with all participants. If you would like help getting started, reach out to the church office at newhope@newhopeagoura.com or call us at 818.889.8700 and we will assist you. Don't miss this option to stay connected with your church family while deepening your relationship with Jesus.

Details for all our classes, including convenient links that will connect you to the ZOOM meetings, can be viewed on our website at: www.newhopeagoura.org/upcoming-events

Adult Study & Discussion—ONLINE



Sunday Mornings at 9a.m. or Sunday Evenings at 7p.m.

Join us 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 to be added to the mailing list.

Women's Bible Study—ONLINE Mondays at 10 a.m.



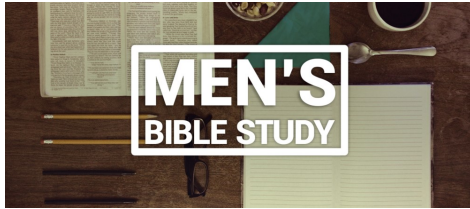
Women of all ages are invited to attend our weekly bible study when we spend time in God's word, in prayer and in fellowship. It is a great opportunity during this time of COVID-19 restrictions, to draw closer to God and to be supported by one another.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study—ONLINE at 10a.m.



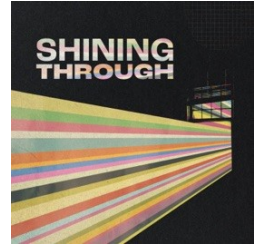
This bible study is hosted by Pastor Craig. We are currently using the study from *Gather Magazine* from the Women of the ELCA. If you would like to receive the study material each week, email Pastor Craig at Craig@newhopeagoura.com

Men's Bible Study & Fellowship—ONLINE Thursdays at 7:30a.m.

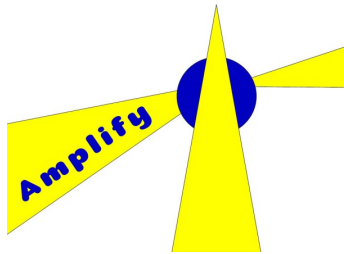


The Men of New Hope gather each week for stimulating conversations about current issues involving life and faith. They are currently in a study entitled "Shining Through" featuring Rev. Andy Stanley from North Point Community Church near Atlanta, Georgia.

Join us. All Are Welcome



Programs for our Youth



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

Contact Merylee for **ZOOM** access information



Confirmation continues to meet as a middle school youth group with activities planned each week on ZOOM including: art projects, cookie baking, games, prayer, and good conversation.

Contact Pastor Scott or Pastor Craig for **ZOOM** access information



December Birthdays

- 3 Jim Beauchemin
- 5 Vi Kemmerer
- 6 Shannon Mader
- 11 Mimi Beals
- 14 Laurie Scott
- 16 Nancy Kamali
- 17 Joyce Lawson
- 20 Gail McGinnis
- 25 Holly Dolliver
- 26 Jerry Orefice
- 29 Sara King



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.



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://www.newhopeagoura.org/disaster-plan/>

The deadline for all articles for the January newsletter is December 26th. Be sure to email them to gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com.

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