



newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

February, 2021

LENT

Three days after Valentine's Day this year is Ash Wednesday, February 17th, the beginning of the Season of Lent. Valentine's Day is about human love. Lent is a season of repentance. The convergence of these days makes for profound themes: love and repentance.

Love

The good news of the gospel is this: God loves you because God loves. God's love is underserved and extends to unworthy and broken folks of all kinds for all times. God loves the ungodly, the degenerate, and the unwilling – like Paul, who considered himself the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1: 15).

Repentance

God's love has a purpose. God loves to claim the wayward and change their lives. God brings them into a close relationship, transforming and altering their lives. God does all of this in advance. We do not change to earn acceptance from God. "While we were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5). Such amazing divine grace prompts us to respond, to follow God's path, not our own. We are changed to love God and neighbor – the two great commandments that summarize God's commands (Matthew 22: 37-40) not to fulfil an obligation but because it leads to abundant life. A new life appears and, as new creatures, we abandon our old sinful ways for the life that is better, sweeter than our brokenness and sin. In the same way, human love changes the one who loves and the beloved.

When things are not in our lives or relationship with God or others; God does not excuse us of our sin and broken relationships. God is not fooled by our attempts to self-justify and earn our forgiveness. Forgiving the grave sin of humanity came at the ultimate cost to God. To understand this truth is to know that "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near" (Jesus opening message in Mark 1:15) is both a call to repentance and a statement of love.

God does not want us to continue a path of self-destruction and, so, even God's warning to repent is an invitation made with love and desire to be united with us.

Important themes: Love and Repentance. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday.

Again this year we are joining together with our partner churches to celebrate Ash Wednesday and our Lenten pilgrimage to a deeper relationship with God. We will be releasing our worship for you to view at home, as we have been doing with our Sunday worship.

Lent mid-week. You will learn more about mid-week plans in this edition of the New Hope Newsletter. We hope you join us for these activities.

Along with those events, I would like to invite you to add to your Lenten disciplines the following prayers for your church's renewal. The traditional Lenten disciplines include, among others: fasting, service, learning, and prayer. Since 2021 is our Year of Prayer, I want to invite you to begin to pray for the renewal of New Hope asking God to mold us into the church essential for ALL of our members and for our changing community.

40 Days of Prayer Leading to Renewal

Day 1 (Ash Wednesday, February 17th)

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Remember to use the Prayer Ventures to also guide your daily prayer, along with prayers for the renewal of your spiritual life and that of your church. Here is the Prayer Venture for February 17th -

Ash Wednesday: Someone tracing the sign of the cross on our forehead with ash speaks to our need for physical reassurance that God has done something special and mysterious in the world through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Speak to God about what this smudge of ash - the cross - means to you and says to people who notice it on your forehead.

Ask God to create a hunger and thirst in your community for the grace of God. Then ask God to fill that hunger by renewed ministry through your church and the churches of your community. Pray that in this emphasis on prayer many will encounter God's transforming presence.

Day 2 (February 18th)

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Pray for those who leading renewal in your congregation, and for those who hope for renewal to come - that the power of the Holy Spirit will lead them to be faithful witnesses to the gospel.

Day 3 (February 19th)

Psalms 103:1-5

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits - who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Praise God for all the benefits poured out on the human race through Jesus Christ. Pray that the outstretched arm of God may bring the benefits of forgiveness, wholeness, and renewal to many in your community.

Day 4 (February 20th)

Matthew 7:7

"Ask and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

Ask the Lord to guide all those who have a leadership role in your church and the churches of our community, that God's will may be done, that God may be glorified in everything that happens.

Day 5 (February 21st)

Ephesians 4:11-12

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."

The renewal of the congregation will involve people, both leaders and participants, with varied kinds of giftedness. Ask the Lord to release the gifts of God in a mighty way to serve the gracious purposes of God.

Day 6 (February 22nd)

John 8:31-32

"Then Jesus said to [those] who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'"

Pray that the word of God will bring people to know the truth and be set free from unbelief, wrong belief, of unclean powers that bind them. Pray that you will be open to God showing you greater truth, deeper love, and more active compassion. Ask God to help you yield to God's will when God is stretching you beyond your comfort zone.

Day 7 (February 23rd)

Isaiah 40:31

"but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Spend some time meditating on this passage, thinking about its application for participation in your church. Yield to the prompting of the Spirit to encourage your congregation, its leadership, and yourself in patient trust in the Lord to bring renewed spiritual vigor to your life and congregation.

Day 8 (February 24th)

Psalms 145

*"I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever.
Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.
All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.
The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.
The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever."*

Praise God for all the faithful works of the Lord throughout history to save and renew people. Remember those who were critical in your coming to faith and who guided you to deeper trust in Christ. Ask the Lord to do the same saving, renewing work in your life, in your church, in your acts of service for another generation of faithful children of God.

Day 9 (February 25th)

Romans 12:1-3

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of

your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Commend yourself to the Lord, seeking God’s renewing power in your life. Pray for the same renewing power for everyone God calls to come to New Hope, to watch our worship video, or attend classes. Ask God to give your church leaders eyes to see the needs and wise discerning of the spiritual path for these newcomers, along with the courage to guide them into God’s truth and encounter with the Holy Spirit. Pray God increases our adult baptisms and renewals of faith.

Day 10 (February 26th)

Matthew 19:14

“but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’”

Pray for the children who will be impacted by your church, either directly or indirectly. Ask the Lord to shower the Holy Spirit upon all who attend confirmation or youth events, and for the parents of our church who are the first evangelists and spiritual guides to the way of Christ’s for their children - that these might come to God with trust as a child trusts his/her parents.

Day 11 (February 27th)

Isaiah 43:1-2

“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

Pray that the Holy Spirit calls and gathers many people to your church, especially those who do not know God, that they may hear the Lord call their name. Pray for open pathways between the gospel and the 12 Step communities. Pray God saves lives through the work of the 12 Step groups that partner with us.

Day 12 (February 28th)

Ephesians 1:17-19

“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.”

Pray that people in your community and neighborhood will have the eyes of their heart opened by God, spoken to by God in dreams, visions, and circumstances of their lives. And that heeding God’s call they will be enlightened by the ministry of your church and come to a meaningful relationship with Jesus as their Savior and Lover of their souls.

Day 13 (March 1st)

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

(From Prayer Ventures) We cannot fully comprehend God’s ways or what Jesus has accomplished for our sake and salvation. Pray daily to be alert and receptive to what God is revealing to us and to how the Spirit stirs in us faith, wisdom and understanding.

Praise God for Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of God’s love. Pray that many at the Bible studies, book studies, and small groups will come to know the power of forgiveness and the hope of Christ’s resurrection.

Watch the newsletter directions on how to access the remainder of the prayers for the renewal of New Hope.

Pastor Craig

PRAYER VENTURES

FEBRUARY 2021

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 - Pray that the Spirit will guide, inspire and shape the Future Church structure being implemented in the churchwide organization to renew our sense of purpose and activate the entire church so that more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.

2 - *Black History Month* Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors who stand together with us as partners in the gospel, doing God's work in the world. Though unified as siblings in Christ, we ask God to guide and help our church in its commitment to socioeconomic equity and racial justice and reconciliation.

3 - Give thanks for our freedom in Jesus Christ and pray that we might use that freedom to proclaim the glory of God and serve our neighbor in obedience to God's word, will and ways.

4 - Pray for the children, youth and family ministry leaders of our church participating in the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza, "Holding Loosely." Pray that they will grow and be strengthened for ministry through this time of spiritual renewal, continuing education, networking and mutual support.

5 - Pray for ELCA Global Mission and for our ministry of accompaniment with churches, leaders, institutions and companion agencies in Asia and the Pacific region as we work together to grow the church, share the gospel, equip leaders, serve the needs of communities, address issues of development and justice, and assist with disaster preparedness and relief.

6 - Ask God to help us listen to each other with respect and to address and heal the political and ideological divisions that discourage us from treating one another with love and concern as neighbors and siblings in Christ. Pray that the Spirit will unite us and lead us in the work we must do together for the well-being of our communities, nation and neighbors in need.

7 - Illness, oppression, desperation and spiritual darkness are no match for the healing and redemptive power of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Savior. Praise God!

8 - Pray for all those who experience food insecurity across our nation and around the world. Ask God to help us envision how we can work together to bring relief and hope and to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.

9 - Give thanks to God for people of all ages, cultures, races, life experiences and perspectives who are new to the ELCA. Pray that, as siblings in Christ, we will nurture and equip one another for participating in God's work in the world.

10 - Give thanks and praise to God for God's abundant love, which "heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."

11 - Pray for our outdoor ministry organizations and their leaders as they continue to discern and plan for adapting their ministries during the pandemic ☐ especially as they envision what this summer might bring.

12 - Thank God for our special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.

13 - When have you felt proud, boastful or self-congratulatory for your ministry, witness or service to others? Ask God to forgive you and to refocus your attention on the good news and blessings of grace given to us through Jesus Christ, which we are called to share without bias, hesitation or expectation of recognition or reward.

14 - We are not much different from Peter, James or John, who were unsure what they were witnessing when God's glory shined brightly in Jesus during his transfiguration. Pray for patience and for faith in God's promise, that we, too, will someday experience glory and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

15 - Pray for our new U.S. president, vice president and members of Congress, that they will find strength, support and unity for their difficult work of serving a diverse nation. Ask the Spirit to help us guide, shape and embolden our culture and nation so that we practice justice, care for our neighbors in need, strive for truth and support our global neighbors.

16 - Pray that when people witness our actions and hear our words, they will see the light of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ in us and will be moved to believe in God's love, forgiveness and actions in the world today.

17- *Ash Wednesday* Someone tracing the sign of the cross on our forehead with ash speaks to our need for physical reassurance that God has done something special and mysterious in the world through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Speak to God about what this smudge of ash - the cross - means to you and says to people who notice it on your forehead.

18 - Ask the Spirit to teach us humility and to remind us that God made us to care for one another, love one another, be generous with what we have and participate in God's good, reconciling work in the world.

19 - Pray for families, caregivers and friends who cannot be physically present with hospitalized loved ones. Pray that we will support and comfort them through their time of separation and worry and reassure them of God's very real presence and love.

20 - God knows our complexities, vulnerabilities and shortcomings yet still considers us with the wisdom of a fair and merciful judge. With a deep sigh of relief, lift up thanks and praise to God!

21 - Renewed, claimed and sent forth through the word and the waters of baptism, we pray that our life in the Spirit will help us resist temptations that draw us away from God and God's ways and will keep us focused on our baptismal journey of faith, learning, service and sharing the good news.

22 - Give thanks for everyone involved in the extensive effort to vaccinate people against COVID- 19 even as we work to prevent its spread and treat those who are ill. Pray that the hope and the emotional, spiritual and physical stamina of these workers will be sustained for the long haul.

23 - Let our prayers and yearnings echo those of the psalmist who wrote, "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation."

24 - Pray that throughout Lent we will reflect on our faith, lives and endeavors with honesty and humility while trusting in God's grace to restore our spirit and to reassure us that we will always be disciples of Christ and loved children of God.

25 - Remember in prayer the Deaconess Community of the ELCA. Give thanks and pray for women who respond to God's call to serve as deaconesses and who use their passions, spiritual gifts and education to serve in a wide variety of roles and ministry settings worldwide.

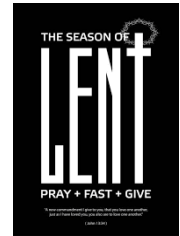
26 - Praise God for being patient and loving toward us and for saving us in our desperation and darkness through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

27 - Pray for the ELCA Young Adult Ministry's work with young adults ages 18 to 30 and for leaders who facilitate young adult ministry in their communities of faith. Pray that young adults will find places in our communities of faith where they belong and ministries both at home and abroad where they can grow in faith, discern and use their unique gifts and passions, and engage in acts of service, justice and peace in the world.

28 - We cannot fully comprehend God's ways or what Jesus has accomplished for our sake and salvation. Pray daily to be alert and receptive to what God is revealing to us and to how the Spirit stirs in us faith, wisdom and understanding.

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.

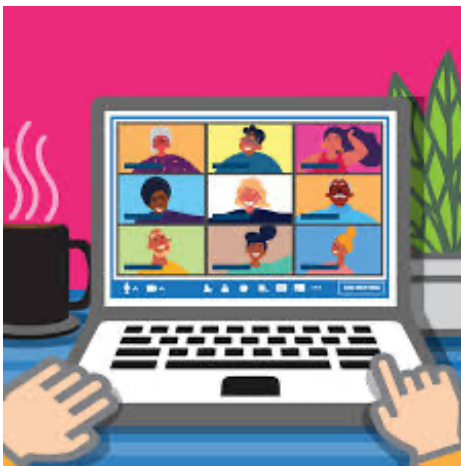
From the Deacon



Coming Soon to a Screen Near You: Lenten Program

What do you call a Lenten soup supper when it's lunch, and on Zoom? We've come up with a Zouper Lunch. Maybe it's a bad pun, but it should be a good time. For the five Tuesdays in Lent, New Hope will gather via Zoom to lunch and discuss the ELCA World Hunger study for Lent 2021: What Will it Take to End Hunger? The themes for the study fit in well with the discussions we've been having around two books lately: *How to Pray* by Pete Grieg and *Dear Church: A Love Letter* by Lenny Duncan. We can order or print out for you the study book and, if you want it, a 40-day World Hunger Lenten calendar with scripture verses, hymn verses, and suggestions on how you can work toward ending hunger in our area and the world.

Zouper Lunches will start at 11:45 am each Tuesday and go until 1:00 pm, eating together until 12:15 and then discussing our topic of the day until 1:00. The first one will be on Tuesday, February 23rd and we look forward to seeing you there!



From Pastor Scott

Romans 4:1-8

Abraham Justified by Faith

4 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? 2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about - but not before God. 3 What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

4 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. 5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. 6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7 "Blessed are those

*whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.*

8 Blessed is the one

whose sin the Lord will never count against them."

When deciding whether one is righteous or not how would you go about determining that? Straight away Paul asks this about Abraham and explains that for Abraham it was the fact that he believed in God. But surely there are righteous people who do not believe in God, that is not really what makes a righteous person. As Lutherans, this is traditionally a difficult question because we do not believe in works righteousness. We do not believe that there is anything that we can do or say that will save us, make a righteous. Instead, we count ourselves as blessed for having our sins forgiven through the saving act of Jesus.

So if we are forgiven then what is the point of doing good? What is the point of doing the right thing then, if ultimately, we cannot do anything to change the way that God feels about us? I think the first thing that needs to be clarified is that even though our actions may not change anything about God's love for us, it still has consequences in the other areas of our life. Therefore, we are not to take advantage of God's grace because even though we are forgiven that does not mean that there are no consequences. If someone runs a red light and gets into a car accident, the other people in the accident may eventually forgive that person, but that does not mean that the accident and everything that came from that no longer happened or exists.

One of the unfortunate realities that we currently live in is that the consequences of people's actions have a lot to do with the person who committed them. The actions that took place at the nation's capitol this past week are a clear indicator of that. This act of terror was not met with the same backlash by law enforcement as peaceful protests done by black and indigenous people of color.

Those protests were met with violence and resistance, yet people in the nation's capital seemed to be able to roam the halls without a care in the world and without fear. This is wrong and the consequences for doing such a thing should be carried out as such.

As people of faith it is our call to practice the act of forgiveness. We have come to understand that it is paramount when it comes to living together as humans. But again the consequences that come with that will still happen and are very real. Often we see these things as one or the other, but that's just not the case. And not only are we called to this forgiveness, but also we must make sure that justice is carried out so that the consequences are the same for all people, regardless of social or economic status, gender, sexuality, or race.

The fact that God loves us no matter what should be the driving force for us as people of faith to make sure the gift that we have been given is shown to all the people that we encounter. And in this day and age the definition of encounter means that the people whom we must stand for and with is more vast than ever before. We are so connected with the rest of the world that the amount of injustices that we are aware of every day is sometimes too much to keep up with. But this isn't because all of a sudden there are more of them, they are just more visible now than they ever have been and the fact that there are so many is not an excuse. We let it get to this place by being silent and complicit and that needs to end.

So as you pray for justice for those who have been wronged, as you pray for comfort and healing for those who are the victims of these injustices, may these be calls to action, that we would speak truth to the powerful and say that we aren't putting up with this any longer, no matter what the sacrifice is, because we know the power that true sacrifice can have in the example of Christ and may we go and do likewise. Amen.

Blessings,
Rev. Scott Fielder





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

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Katie Jo Ash, Floyd Bealer, Merylee Blair, Irene Bright, Elisabeth Brown, Evelyn Colby, Matt and Sandy 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, Debbie Niebolt, Ava Grace O'Connell, Nick and Cindy O'Hare, Karen Orefice, Ahoo Pilehvari, Sharon Pryor, Wayne Rickert, Jane Taschereau, Rose Topliss, Jax Rains-Turk, 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.



Congratulations to Mimi Beals on the birth of her granddaughter, Dawsyn Rae Davis. She was born on December 16th and weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and was 21" long. Proud parents are Ryan and Hailey and brother Maxwell.

Faith David is happy to announce the birth of a new grandson. Jackson Shah was born on January 19th and weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20" long. Parents and sister are doing well.



We are grateful for the leadership of our 2020 Council President, Brian Gibbons. He was truly a godsend for "such a time as this" over the last 2 years. He helped us transition quickly to life together in the online environment introducing us to Slack (project collaboration app), DropBox (a software to transfer large data files online), and Cantasia (our video editing software) along with a thousand other suggestions and improvements. We are grateful for your leadership, Brian!



Thrivent Members

It's time to designate any remaining Choice Dollars earned in 2020. This needs to be done before March 31st. The church is registered as a charity to whom Thrivent Choice Dollars can be directed. These gifts to our ministry add up and give us critical income to keep us responsible stewards. Thank you!



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 gift 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.



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 or to NHLCC. She is making either Valentine or floral printed masks - pleated or more fitted. Just email her at Kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com or call her at 818-889-4058.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl that can comfort and support those in need. While stitching, the maker of the shawl prays for the recipient. Prayer shawls can be made to convey blessings for a wedding, birth, or Baptism, or comfort during an illness or loss. If you would like to request a prayer shawl for someone, or would like information on how you can participate in this ministry, [click here](#) to contact the church office.

"The most important thing is to enjoy your life - to be happy - it's all that matters."

- Audrey Hepburn



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

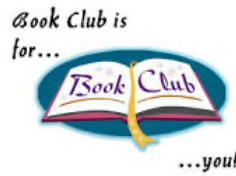
Donation Drop Off Hours -

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, February 2nd to discuss "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

April 6th - "Try Not to Breathe" by Holly Siddon



Join Our Heavenly Hiking Fellowship

For over a few months, we have been doing a morning hike every Tuesday and Saturday from 7:30 – 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.

Wise Words of Inspiration for 2021

"If you can give nothing else, give encouragement."

- Wayne Bryan

"All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them."

- Magic Johnson

"Remember that the most valuable antiques are dear old friends."

- H. Jackson Brown

"If there's someone whose friendship you treasure, be sure to tell them now, don't wait for a memorial service to say it."

- Chuck Thomas

"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; for a decade, plant trees; for a lifetime, educate people."

- Chinese Proverb

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

- Audrey Hepburn

"Remember this, the choices you make in life, make you."

- John Wooden

"A torn jacket is soon mended, but hard words bruise the heart of a child."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Executive Council Leadership 2021



- Tom LaVanne
 - President & Stewardship
- Alison Rowe
 - Vice President & Staff Ministry



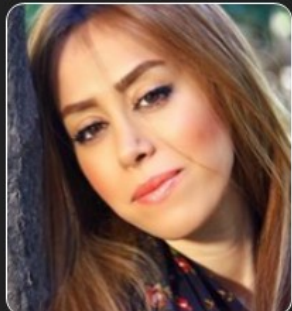
- Mary Gallagher
 - Secretary & Evangelism
- Jim Merrill
 - Treasurer & Finance Committee

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Church Council Leadership 2021



- Merylee Blair
 - Social Ministries
- Brian Gibbons
 - Faith Formation



- Natalie Larkin
 - Lay Ministry
- Leila Mader
 - Fellowship

16

Church Council Leadership 2021



➤ Robin Martin

- Worship & Music



➤ Gary McGinnis

- Facilities



➤ Chuck Titcomb

- Development



Not on Council but...

➤ Gaye Kahn

- Financial Secretary

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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

- In Advance!**
DECEMBER 16th
- I've Got the Power!**
JANUARY 13th
- Love is Eternal... Community Property Isn't.**
MARCH 17th
- Wills, Trusts & Probate...Oh My!**
FEBRUARY 10th
- You're Set... What's Next?**
APRIL 14th

2020/2021 SERIES SCHEDULE

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

December 16th - Advanced Healthcare Directives	March 17th - Community Property
January 13th - Powers of Attorney	April 14th - Estate and Legacy Planning (Dual)
February 10th - Wills, Trusts and Probate...Oh My!	

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

LUSTGARTEN™

PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH WALK

New Hope for Linda



JOIN NEW HOPE CHURCH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
PANCREATIC CANCER IN THE MEMORY OF OUR CHURCH
FAMILY MEMBERS.

Join us **February 14th** in support of the Westlake
Village Virtual Pancreatic Cancer Research
Walk/Run. For details how to join our team or to
make a donation, visit our team page at:
<https://events.lustgarten.org/team/337633>

Once again I have signed up with the Lustgarten Foundation for their run/walk event in memory of Linda and a surprising number of New Hope members whose lives were taken by pancreatic cancer. The Lustgarten Foundation uses 100% of your donations to fund promising research into the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer. Your generous support through the years has provided thousands of dollars to this cause. Please visit our team page.

Thank you for your support.

Tom LaVanne





From Fred Dunn -

Your 2021 Conejo Valley CROP Hunger Walk is vitally important as so many people in the U.S. and around the world continue to struggle with the coronavirus pandemic and its rippling effects. The UN estimates that 130 million **more** people could be at risk of starvation, and half a billion people pushed into poverty.

Those are devastating numbers, and each of them represents a real person. I know you care ... and your participation in this year's Walk will help push back on this unacceptable, yet looming, reality.

Because of your past commitment to this cause, I wanted you to be the first to know that your Walk's online page is now live and registration is open!

You'll find our new fundraising site simple to use when registering, making donations and managing your page. Linking your favorite social media accounts to keep your friends and family updated on your progress, is easier too!

I'm your coach for this year's CROP Hunger Walk, and I'll be here to help with any questions and offer tips and tricks along the way.

So this year, will you join us to walk for the people who are feeling new hunger in our neighborhoods and the people who are spiraling into poverty around the world? Every step you take, every donation you receive or gift you give means you're releasing someone from hunger's grasp.

Ready to walk the talk? Get started here:
crophungerwalk.org/thousandoaksca

Thank you for taking a moment to reflect and act,
Jason Welle, CWS

In need of prayer?

We are here for you

Contact us through our

PRAYER WALL

at

NewHopeAgoura.org



4 WAYS to **GIVE**

To support the work of
New Hope Church



By Mail

Address to:
New Hope Church
29295 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, CA
91301



Online

Secure Giving through
our website using the
PayPal option



Electronically

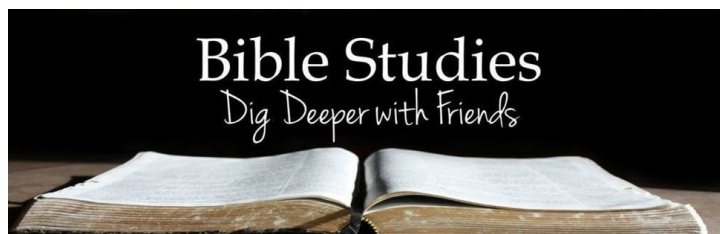
Contact the church
office for assistance
in setting up VANCO
automated giving



Volunteer

*Sharing Your Time &
Talents*

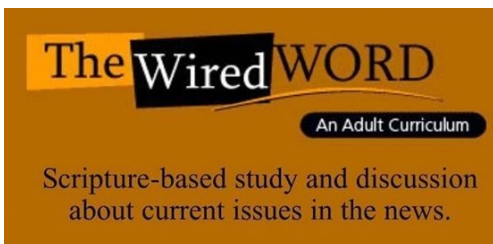
If interested in serving
contact the church
office for more
information



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.



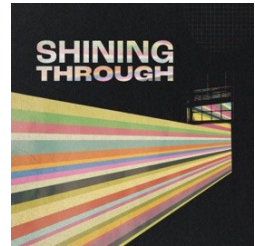
This bible study is hosted by Pastor Craig. We are currently using the study from *Gather Magazine* from the Women of the ELCA. If you would like to receive the study material each week, email Pastor Craig at Craig@newhopeagoura.com

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

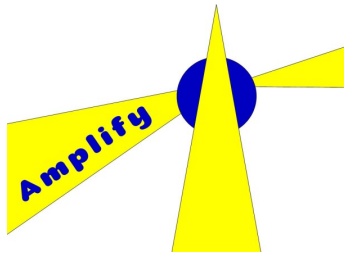


The Men of New Hope gather each week for stimulating conversations about current issues involving life and faith. They are currently in a study entitled "Shining Through" featuring Rev. Andy Stanley from North Point Community Church near Atlanta, Georgia.

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





*Stay connected...
continue to grow...*

*Join us
online!*

 newhopeagoura.org

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

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

 [bible studies](#)

**See website for meeting information*



19 Levitt Blair
23 Natalie Larkin



February Birthdays

4 Bonnie Schulze
5 Uche Olelewe
Kate Powledge
Calvin Beeker
7 Roger Niebolt
8 Carol Mansmann
9 Andrew Mansmann
Allison Barry
11 Brianna Hershman
12 Charlie Croft
14 Elizabeth Sauger
15 Irene Bright
18 Jameson Blair
Kyle and Logan
Ashamallah



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 March newsletter is February 23rd. 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.org

