



newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

May, 2021

Seat Belts, Mothers and Reunions

The automobile industry has become highly regulated in order to increase safety. I thank God for that! Many of us remember automobiles before Blue Tooth, GPS navigation, and heated seats. Fewer remember cars before power steering or power brakes or automatic transmissions. And some might remember a time when cars didn't even have seatbelts. Gratefully, we've come a long way toward greater safety.

Before all these mechanical safety devices, however, some of us no doubt grew up with a different kind of child-restraint system. Judith Viorst, in her book Imperfect Control: Our Lifelong Struggles with Power and Surrender, reminded me of this when she wrote: "This year I received a Mother's Day card that pictured a mother driving a car, her son in the passenger seat and her outstretched arm protectively flung across his chest. I've heard a great deal from my sons about my overprotective tendencies, but I think that this card's message said it best. The message said, 'To Mom, the original seat belt.'"

A mom's protective reach has always been the saving seat belt for her family. But this seat belt takes different forms in different families, of course. I want to recognize the vital and life-giving role played by many women in our church family. So, to me, Mother's Day is about all the life-giving and vital ways people support each other. We wish you a Happy Mother's Day.

In the last 14 months, your church leadership has had to be a "seat belt" and safety device for our church family, while asking about how we fulfill our mission. After more patience than we expected to need, we see an opportunity to safely open the sanctuary to in-person worship in late June. We continue to pray that the human family can reach sufficient vaccination to make all public activities safe. We also continue to pray for those suffering from this disease (as either patients or caregivers).

Jesus said he was the Good Shepherd, and in a more obscure reference, he spoke of being the Door for the Sheep. Being the Door he kept the sheep safely in and the wolf out. Apparently Jesus is a type of seat belt, too. The cross and empty tomb remind us of our eternal security within the costly and infinite love of God.

As we transition in the coming months, please remember that we will be keeping guidelines and restrictions in place for the safety of others. All of these things have worn us down and have gotten pretty old. But we need to persist until the wide-scale effect of this virus is mitigated.

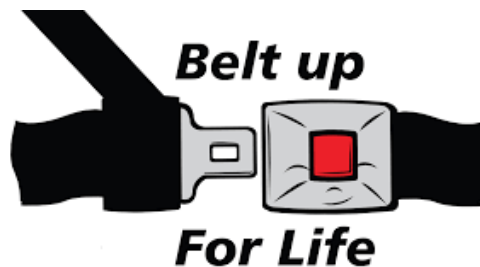
Please also remember to be patient with one another. This isolation was, for many of us, the strangest and most disorienting experience of our lives. For me it has been disorienting to suddenly have a different type of job and not be able to do the job I had, in the way I had known. I know I am not alone in this experience. I expect this will be akin to a reunion after a military deployment: joyous, awkward, filled with eagerness and expressions of relief mixed with long held sorrow, familiar and yet altogether new. One pastor I know talked about conflict in marriage and used a joke: “how do porcupines mate?” The answer, “very carefully.” I imagine that we will need to be careful with one another as we re-establish ourselves in-person and take care not to jettison those who will remain online (some locally but many beyond commuting range). No doubt, each of us has been changed by this experience.

The truth is, now more than ever, we will be the safety device for each other. I hope you will employ your gifts to help each other. You will be the seat belt now.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4: 10).

In Christ,

Pastor Craig



Thank you

I want to thank those who took part in our 2021 Year of Prayer Book Study by Pete Greig, [How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People](#). We have completed the book and are considering a second of Greig’s books on unanswered prayer titled, [God on Mute](#). I’m just getting started on the book and deciding if it would make a good follow up. I expect it will, so If you would like to join the study, please let me know.

PRAYER VENTURES MAY, 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 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Rocky Mountain, Northeastern Minnesota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Pacifica and Greater Milwaukee synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

2 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Oregon and Arkansas-Oklahoma synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

3 - Throughout Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, give thanks for the rich heritage, gifts, cultures and contributions to our nation and church of our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask God to bless and further the work and witness of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the ELCA's Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

4 - Pray for an end to the gun violence that has become commonplace in our country, and ask God for the wisdom, will and courage to advocate and work for laws and solutions that honor and protect God's gift of life, for the sake of our neighbors and communities.

5 - Pray that we will be fearless, selfless and generous in our love and concern for one another because of the love God has revealed to us through Jesus Christ and the work of the Spirit within us.

6 - Pray for leaders of outdoor ministries and congregational summer ministries as they ponder how to safely share the gospel, nurture faith, and serve children, youth and families this summer.

7 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the New Jersey and Sierra Pacific synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

8 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

9 - There is so much talk of love in the gospel message! Ask God to help us live fully the love we know in Jesus Christ, and pray that it will shine brightly in the world so all may know that God is love.

10 - Ask God to grant an extra measure of faith, strength, hope, resourcefulness and resilience to those recovering and rebuilding after natural disasters and severe weather. Pray that we will listen carefully to them and respond helpfully to their immediate and long-term needs.

11 - "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises," for God has done amazing and wonderful things!

12 - Pray that we will not forget nations or regions where conflict, civil war or other turmoil spread violence, displacement, suffering and despair; pray that leaders will seek just and peaceful solutions and reconciliation and attend to people needing safety and relief. Ask the Spirit to help us respond to these crises, especially through supporting Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

13 - Ascension of Our Lord Give thanks that we have not been left alone in the world to fend for ourselves, but that Jesus gives us purpose and that the Spirit equips and guides us to participate in God's work in the world.

14 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northern Great Lakes, East-Central Wisconsin, Southwestern Washington and Saint Paul Area synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

15 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northwest Washington, North/West Lower Michigan and Southeast Michigan synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

16 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Set aside time each day this week to join Christians around the world as we pray for unity. Let this year's theme verse, from the Gospel of John, inspire you: "Abide in my love, and you will bear much fruit."

17 - Give thanks and praise to God that, through the Spirit, we find words to proclaim the good news of Jesus, that all who listen may believe and experience new life, joy and freedom in Christ.

18 - Thank God for our special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. 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.

19 - Ask God to renew our self-discipline, patience, empathy, and spirit of community concern and care as we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19 and respond to its impact.

20 - Give thanks that, at some point in our lives, the Spirit opened our hearts and minds to the testimony and invitation of our siblings in Christ, that we might be baptized into a new life in Jesus, follow the ways and commandments of God and experience the joy of eternal life.

21 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northwestern Minnesota, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and Southeastern Iowa synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

22 - Pray for teachers and school staff who continue to adapt to changing education dynamics and requirements because of the pandemic. Ask God to grant them wisdom, creativity, patience, strength and renewed passion for their vocation as they serve students of all ages and abilities.

23 - Day of Pentecost Praise God that the Spirit is present in our lives, helping us remain faithful, equipping us for our baptismal journey, inspiring us to share the gospel, filling us with love and compassion, and guiding us in everything we do.

24 - Give thanks for the gifts, traditions, perspectives, insights and leaders of our global companions, which enrich our church, ministries and leaders.

25 The Spirit of God moves and works throughout the world, through every language, culture, human gift and life experience, to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and of God's amazing love for humankind. Praise God!

26 - Pray that the Spirit will renew and equip us for the difficult work of understanding, bridging and mending the differences and schisms in our communities and nation. Pray that God will make us bold in our witness as people of faith, yet humble, empathetic and caring as we listen to and talk with one another.

27 - Give thanks for the Spirit, which helps us when we are weak, sustains our faith when we are uncertain and pleads for us "with sighs too deep for words" when we aren't sure how to speak with God.

28 - Mission Builders is a ministry related to the ELCA that provides opportunities for retired people to use their skills and gifts to help congregations, schools, camps and social ministry organizations construct or improve their facilities. Give thanks for Mission Builder volunteers who travel the country to serve the church, share their faith and inspire others to service.

29 - As we return to restaurants and other places where we socialize around food, remember in prayer those who suffer hunger and food insecurity across our nation and world. Ask the Spirit to strengthen our commitment to end hunger, advocate for our neighbors in need and bring hope and relief.

30 - Trinity Sunday Pray that God will help us live with and value the Holy Trinity and other mysteries of our faith that far exceed our ability to comprehend.

31 - Memorial Day Remember, mourn and give thanks for men and women in the military who gave their lives for justice, peace and the freedom of our country and all nations.

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

Thanks to all who have completed, either online or by mail, the survey about “moving forward” as we go toward gathering in person again. It’s a long process, because we want to keep everyone as safe as possible. The important info from the survey:

- 64 out of 65 folks who responded will be fully vaccinated by May 1.
- Many are looking forward to going back to in person worship “as soon as possible” (39 of 64) which means 25 out of 64 are okay with being online for now.
- At the same time, when asked what kinds of worship they’d be willing to participate in through June 1, 49 folks said Online (multiple answers were allowed), about 34 would like some form of outdoor worship, and 31 would be okay with indoor worship with making a prior reservation.

If all things stay the same or get better with our COVID stats in Los Angeles County, New Hope is planning to have worshipers in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 20th. There will still be some restrictions on our gathering, like wearing masks indoors, lots of hand-washing and hand sanitizer, and some social distancing.

Right now several teams are working on how to make our Sunday experience as good as possible for both the folks who join us in person and the folks who will be watching our livestream in June. We’ll need plenty of volunteers to make everything happen. If you’re planning to come back in person in late June, we have a job for you to do! We’ll need ushers, greeters, cleaners, and folks whose jobs we’re still figuring out.

Blessings,
Deacon Lynn



From Pastor Scott

Philippians 2:1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Every week I help lead a confirmation class at another church that is filled with middle schoolers. This past week our lesson was on vocation and a lot of the conversation around vocation usually starts with wondering, for this group of kids, what they want to be when they grow up. This is a question that seems to be asked more seriously earlier and earlier in life as the years go by. There is this feeling that if we don't get young people started early thinking about this then they will be behind and need to catch up. This small group was no different, each person had very specific answers for what they wanted to do.

But when you think about vocation and what you want to do with your life, we must remember that there are these higher callings that these jobs, talents or careers fit into. Like the fact that Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, there isn't just one job out there that does that, there are many forms in which we can do that, whether that is through teaching or medicine, no job or career has a monopoly on serving

our neighbor. One of the keys when discerning one's vocation comes with self-awareness and really knowing what gifts and talents you have and this seems to clash with what our scripture is calling us to, this life of humility.

When we are to always regard others as better than ourselves how can we lift ourselves up and acknowledge the gifts and talents that God has given us? This discussion around vocation always brings me back to my pre-seminary and seminary days. This is a topic that eventually you repeat so many times it becomes second nature. The story of how you realized that you wanted to pursue ordained ministry as a career and felt called to go to seminary. Whether it's retelling it in the writing of a paper that is required for candidacy or talking about it in one of the many interviews, you learn to talk a lot about your journey of discernment when it comes to your vocation.

There is one part of it that I remember being sort of surprised by when it was first asked of me when I was applying for seminary and in the candidacy process. You had to seek out others and ask them if they could confirm what you believed about yourself. Did they see the same gifts that you do and maybe even some other gifts that you didn't realize would be great for ordained ministry? I think this is very important because when we are called to not regard ourselves as better than others, I don't think we should see that as a call to putting ourselves down or not thinking that we are not gifted or talented. What it means is that we should be doing our best to lift up others.

If we just focus on ourselves then what good are we really doing? Especially in times like these where many feel lost or feel like their life isn't where it should be. This is especially true thanks to social media where, on a daily basis, we are comparing our lowest points to others' people's highlight reels that sometimes are not even real at all. We need to practice supporting one another by telling each other the wonderful things that we see in one another, to lift up those who we see are gifted for whatever kind of job or career and make that known to them. If we all do this for one another, then there would be no need to boast, if anything we would be like the text says, "of the same mind, of the same spirit, having the same love and make joy complete." Amen.





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

Wayne Rickert is recovering from aortic heart valve replacement surgery.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Katie Jo Ash, Floyd Bealer, 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, 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, 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.



We rejoice with former members, Rick and Elinor Martin, on the birth of their granddaughter, Emerald Kimiko Boesch. She was born on April 25th. Proud parents are Lisa and Damien. Congratulations to all.



Thank you to Jane and Gail for brightening my Easter with the delivery of some fresh flowers. They were lovely and lifted my spirits. I appreciate the cards and

prayers that come my way from New Hope. It's comforting to know I am being thought of and prayed for.

Love, Irene Bright



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, 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.



New Audio and Video Tools

The past year of pandemic isolation has caused New Hope to adapt and refine our ability to share and enjoy our worship services, Bible study, confirmation and other group meetings via the internet. With that transition we realize that we can reach the congregation and others no matter where they are or what limitations they may have to participate in person.

As we near a time of in person use of the church facilities, the Council has been challenged to continue that connectivity and inclusivity for

those people that wish to continue participating virtually.

To meet that challenge we are having the sanctuary outfitted with a new video streaming system to capture and share in real time our worship services. The system includes two cameras, a dedicated computer and software system and a replacement for our aging soundboard.

Members of our Worship and Facility committees have explored a number of systems and installations at other churches. Ultimately we approached the firm that upgraded the sanctuary lighting because of their expertise in the installation of systems that would meet our needs.

The firm, COSMOS, submitted their proposal and costs were compared with pricing available shopping on the internet and found to be competitive. Given the relationship and service the firm has provided for the lighting system and the desire to have a single source for all the sanctuary systems, the Council has approved moving forward with this project.

The cost of the project is approximately \$15,000 which will be funded by two exceptionally generous donations received in the honor and memory of Steve Blair and Sharon Titcomb. We are so grateful for the benevolence of their families and the impact these gifts will have.



*Thank
You!*

MANNA FOOD PANTRY

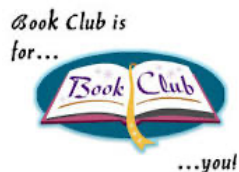
Thank you to everyone who participated in our Easter Sunday Manna Food Drive. We collected 21 large bags of groceries and \$50 in cash donations!

We hope to have another drive-through food collection in the next several months. If you would like to make a donation, Manna is located at 3020 Crescent Way, Thousand Oaks 91362.

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

Top Priority Items:

1. Baking Items – cookie/cake mixes
2. Canned Spaghetti
3. Pasta Sauce (Canned)
4. Ramen/Noodles
5. Canned Stew/Chili
6. Hamburger Helper
7. Kidney Beans
8. Flavored Rice
9. Jam/Jelly
10. Condiments



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, May 4th to discuss "Ask Again, Yes" by Mary Beth Keane. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

June 1st - "The Farm" by Joanne Ramos

July 6th - "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean



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.



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.



We would like to recognize our 2021 high school and college graduates in next month's newsletter. Please send the graduate's name, where they are graduating from and their future plans by the next newsletter deadline, which is May 25th. The information can be emailed to gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com or call Gail at 805-523-7884.

Prime Timers



Hi New Hope Prime Timers. We are much closer to being able to get together. Provided all goes well, we will probably be able to get together in July. We will not have a speaker as I believe we all need to greet one another and bring us all up to date as to our activities since last year; we will all be ready to laugh and joke together.

Your speakers' locator and sister in prayer,

Rose Topliss



New Hope is looking forward to opening up for worship on **Sunday, June 20th**. This is contingent on public safety, of course, with the numbers for the virus remaining low. Below is a list of duties that we will need volunteers to help with at the worship services. Many of you received an email asking if you are available to help out with duties you once did. If you would like to volunteer, below is listed things you can help with. Let me know and I'll add you to the list.

Ushers - 2 people needed and may have to let worshippers know where they can sit as we still need to be at a distance from others. Also, point out entrance and exit doors (which may be different.) There will not be offering assignments as in the past, but the ushers will see to it the offering is bagged and either given to the counters or stored securely in the locked cabinet.

Greeters - Greet the people as they enter the building and you may need to take temperatures at the door if this will still be needed when we return. Also, you may need to direct people through the hall for proper foot traffic.

Guest Greeter/Evangelism - This person use to stand with Pastor Craig at the end of the service and welcome visitors. Probably not needed during this time when we return. Instead this person could be roaming, as a hospitality person, to look for visitors who are lingering and seeking engagement or seem to have questions or look lost.

Reader - Read the scripture. No changes.

Cantor/Worship Leader - Singers leading in the worship service. The only change is physical distancing requirements.

Communion Assistant - Not sure we can serve communion yet but when we can, are you willing to serve communion? Mask and glove will be required.

Altar Care - When we can serve communion, prepare communion as we did before. Mask and glove will be required.

Nursery - Be available to be in the nursery with our little ones. Not sure when we will be allowed to separate parts of families. At this time children will stay with their parents/families.

Acolyte - Light the candles and other eventual duties. Mask requirement and for communion a glove requirement, at this time. Not sure how our communion and offering process will change. Offering may be a stationary tray/basket, not passed and touched. And once we do communion again, we may be cutting down the number of "touches" to the minimum, having one bread person, a wine/juice person, a basket for empties and doing each side of the church in turn.

Goodies - We can't serve goodies yet but when we can, are you available to bring goodies and serve them?

AV – 2-3 people needed: One to work computer to bring up slides as before. 1-2 persons to livestream the service (training will be provided). One of the bigger changes is the addition of live-streaming technology. We will need help. We know the word "technology" scares off some folks but this is now an essential ministry of our church since our online presence has connected those who will be staying home, and has grown our congregation during the period of public safety. We must keep the online community as a vital part of our mission and ministry. We need your help and must give our current AV team a necessary break from weekly duties. If you are computer savvy and like technology, then this is for you. There will be training available. PLEASE help us in this critical ministry.

If you haven't already responded to me, you can email me back at gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com with what you can help out with or call me at 805-523-7884. If you aren't able to help out at this time but can later on when you are comfortable to return to church, that is OK too.

Many thanks, Gail McGinnis

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





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

*Join us
online!*

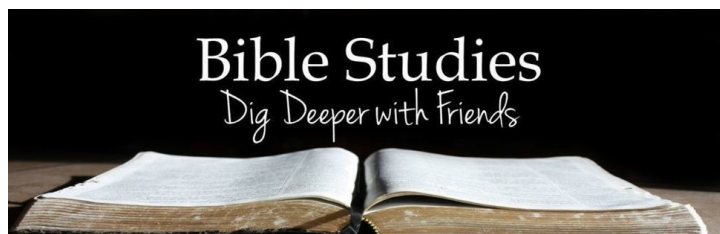
 newhopeagoura.org

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

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

 bible studies

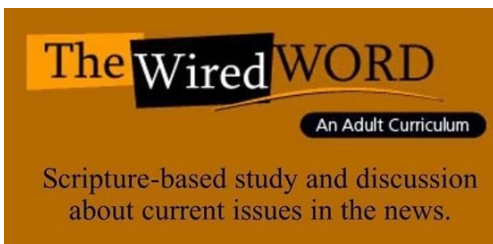
**See website for meeting information*



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.



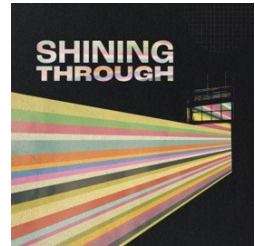
This bible study is hosted by Pastor Craig. We are currently using the study from *Gather Magazine* from the Women of the ELCA. If you would like to receive the study material each week, email Pastor Craig at Craig@newhopeagoura.com

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

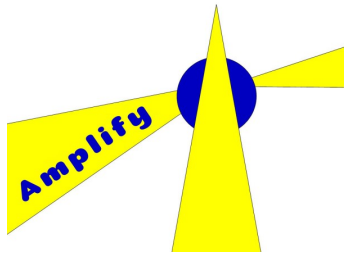


The Men of New Hope gather each week for stimulating conversations about current issues involving life and faith. They are currently in a study entitled "Shining Through" featuring Rev. Andy Stanley from North Point Community Church near Atlanta, Georgia.

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

Did you miss last week's service?
Is there a service you wish you could experience again?

NEW HOPE WORSHIP



All our recorded services are available to view on our website. To browse our library, go to the **WORSHIP** menu on our homepage at NewHopeAgoura.org



May Birthdays

- 2 Susie Turner
- 3 Darian Kamali
- 5 Elaina Church
Rachael Harrell
Delilah Harrell
- 10 Elisabeth Brown
- 11 Evelyn Colby
- 12 Hendrix Blair
- 13 Steve Chew
- 15 Brian Gibbons
- 19 Rose Topliss
- 23 Kevin Wilkinson
- 26 Linda Leland
- 27 Chuck Titcomb



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.

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



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/>

If you're passionate about your work, it makes the people around you want to be involved too.

- Wanda Sykes

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