

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

June, 2021

"In order to counter the negative...dynamics stimulated by stress and uncertainty, we must give full attention to the quality of our relationship.

Nothing else works, no new tools or technical applications, no redesigned organizational chart. The solution is each other.

If we can rely on one another, we can cope with anything."

-Margaret Wheatly

(<https://www.margaretwheatley.com/articles/whenchangeisoutofcontrol.html>)

After more than a year of social isolation, physical distancing, mask wearing, and no small amount of anxiety; society is beginning to reopen. We are more hopeful than ever that an end is in sight. New Hope will reopen for public, in-person, worship on June 20th.

It has been a long, difficult journey for us all. Many of our key volunteers have done an amazing job of keeping us going – whether it is in financial stewardship (counting, bookkeeping, or accounting) or in worship or council. To say we have experienced and responded to an unparalleled circumstance makes it sound easy. To say we owe a debt of gratitude to these hardworking, and very responsive key volunteers is an understatement. Staff, too, have worked more, worried constantly, made changes, learned new skills, took on jobs done by volunteers who could not be present, and generally did what needed to be done.

In recent times, we've begun worrying how to have both a vibrant online community and re-engage an in-person congregation. We are still sorting those things out. We have purchased equipment and upgraded lighting; but little prepares us for yet another novel experience of making a meaningful, well connected hybrid community life both online and in-person.

Now is the time to help us again. We need to rebuild, restore, and refocus our volunteer core. If you are planning to be in-person for worship on June 20th and beyond, please sign up to help! We need you! As the opening quote by Margaret Wheatly says, "If we can rely on one another, we can cope with anything."

Continuing in that vein of helping restore and rebuild our congregational community, I ask you to look into

our new offering of small groups. Come and get a taste of community building in worship (you have and will read about tables present in our sanctuary). I hope you'll be open to the way we are choosing to reopen (these tables give some social distance for those worried about the safety of returning, and they can enhance how we interact in worship.) I hope also you will wholeheartedly re-engage with community life activities that will be in-person and continue online (watch for more information).

Welcome back to the church's building! Your church has shown that real ministry takes place beyond the church building. I hope in these last 16 months you considered how you are the church right there in your own family and home, neighborhood, and wider community. I hope when you gather again for in-person worship (whenever that may be – no hurry if you have health concerns), you'll have stories of how you met God in your neighborhood, in the need of a stranger, in the care of a neighbor, in the extra-mile required for the small gestures that brought us to life during pandemic.

See you Sunday, June 20th for Father's Day and our first in-person service!

Pastor Craig

Join us for a



Join us on the patio at New Hope Church, **Sunday June 13th at 11 a.m.** We will be holding a "Coffee Hour Fellowship" to give us a chance to reconnect with one another.

There will also be an opportunity to greet our 2021 graduates! For those households who would like to share a written greeting and congratulation to our graduates, greeting cards will be available.

Please be sure to bring your face masks to this event. If you forget, masks will be available that day.

PRAYER VENTURES JUNE, 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 - Give thanks for the ELCA's commitment to being an inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity of our communities and the gifts and opportunities it brings. Pray that we will always be learning and reforming, discerning how to do God's work in a diverse world, and inviting and equipping one another for this essential work.

2 - Pray for seasonal workers who depend on summer income for their livelihood, that they will find safe, fulfilling employment that pays a fair wage. Pray that we will express our gratitude and respect for their work and service.

3 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Upstate New York and North Carolina 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.

4 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Western North Dakota, Southwest California, Central/Southern Illinois, Montana, Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., South Dakota, Central States, Southern Ohio, Allegheny and Lower Susquehanna 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.

5 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Nebraska, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern and Metropolitan Chicago 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.

6 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assembly of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, 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.

7 - Give thanks that - through grace, faith in Christ and obedience to the will and ways of God - we are embraced as children of God, siblings in Christ.

8 - Pray for nations experiencing repeated waves of COVID-19 infection and communities impacted and struggling, and pray that their health care workers, medical facilities and efforts to vaccinate as many people as possible will slow the pandemic.

9 - Pray that we will be patient and attentive to how God answers our prayers and speaks to us, especially in ways we do not seek or expect.

10 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assembly of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, 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.

11 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Grand Canyon, Northeastern Ohio, La Crosse Area, Indiana-Kentucky, and Northwestern Pennsylvania 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.

12 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the New England, Virginia and Northeastern 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.

13 - When we read the parables of Jesus, we sometimes default to rote explanations of their meaning. Pray that we will hear and read Scripture with hearts and minds open to learning, insight and fresh connection to our daily life.

14 - Give thanks for ELCA resources that nurture our faith and spiritual growth during times of physical distancing, including Living Lutheran magazine, blogs and newsletters, daily Bible readings and ELCA World Hunger's at-home vacation Bible school program guide.

15 - "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Give thanks and praise to God for reminding us that we are made new each day through God's mercy and grace.

16 - Pray for the Spirit to inspire us to create and share new expressions of our faith and theology through art, music and writing that speak to all generations and the diverse contexts of people in our communities.

17 - Give thanks all day long to God for God's unwavering love and the joy and hope it stirs within us, which overflows to the people around us.

18 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northern Illinois and Caribbean 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.

19 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the Upper Susquehanna 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.

20 - Pray that God's power, presence and love will ease our fears and uncertainties, calm the storms in our lives and strengthen our faith so that we will be bold and tireless disciples who do God's work in the world, share the gospel and serve our neighbor.

21 - Remember in prayer fathers who strive to be loving, caring, wise and influential parents, including fathers who are new parents or single parents, who are deployed in the military or incarcerated, or who experience separation from family while traveling for their work.

22 - Give thanks and praise for God's great works and attention to our prayers, both when we are alone and when we gather as a community of faith.

23 - Pray for the 300-plus health and human service organizations of the Lutheran Services in America alliance, which serve 6 million people every year across our country in response to God's call to love our neighbors of all ages, needs and circumstances.

24 - We acknowledge that it is not always easy to follow Christ, bear the gospel or do God's work in the world. Give thanks that together, as siblings in Christ, we can turn to one another with our burdens and receive support and encouragement.

25 - Pause today and take in the wonders of God's creation. Give thanks for the joy, wonder and awesome complexity of nature and the universe, and ask God to help us be mindful, responsible and respectful stewards of creation.

26 - Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the South Carolina 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.

27 - Pray that we will serve our neighbors and invite others to believe and to join our communities of faith without bias, judgment, hesitation, obstruction or condition.

28 - Pray for God's strength, comfort and vision when we are weary or overwhelmed or cannot see beyond times of despair; ask the Spirit to fill us with faith, hope and empathy so that we can support, care for and encourage our neighbors who are struggling.

29 - Guided by the generous, compassionate and kind actions of Jesus, ask the Spirit to fill us with eagerness to work together and share our abundance with our neighbors so that all will have the resources, food and opportunities needed to thrive and be well.

30 - Ask God to help us reflect on our nation, its history, its institutions and this church with honesty, humility, repentance and gratitude, united in our vision and determined to be more just, equitable, inclusive and responsive to our neighbors in need.

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

Changes! There have been a lot of them in the last sixteen months, and there will be others as we begin gathering together again. One of the new things involves the sanctuary, where we have new lights, and by June 20th a new live-streaming system for those who will continue to worship online. In addition, New Hope now has ten round 72" tables that will play a part in our re-opening on June 20th. A few questions and answers:

1. Why round tables? Round tables promote community. There's no head or foot to the tables, and they're more practical in many situations where we need groups of tables. And right now it's easy to social distance using round tables.
2. Why are they in the sanctuary? To try something new while reopening; gathering worshipers into semi-circles facing the altar and pulpit so we can naturally come together in small groups during worship.
3. Why now? Several reasons: Staff and some lay leaders saw this opportunity to expand small groups and spiritual formation at New Hope. During pandemic we've all been separated from communities (church, civic organizations,) friendships, even family and we've been feeling isolated. This arrangement will give us greater opportunity to connect with one another. We've heard what people have said in surveys and conversations about missing each other. As a result of our time apart, New Hope is planning to host small group meetings in a variety of locations: homes, schools or workplaces, and at church. As part of those things, we would like to try something new in worship as we reopen.
4. Do we all have to sit at tables in worship? No. There will be chairs in the sanctuary as well for those who aren't comfortable at the tables.
5. Will there be assigned seats? No. Depending on how things go with health restrictions in the state and county, we may need to have separate parts of the sanctuary for those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated just to keep everyone as safe as possible. Even if all our adults and teens were vaccinated, we still won't have children 12 and under vaccinated this summer.



From Pastor Scott

Acts 7:30-40

³⁰ “After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. ³¹ When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to get a closer look, he heard the Lord say: ³² ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’^[a] Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

³³ “Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴ I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.’^[b]

³⁵ “This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, ‘Who made you ruler and judge?’ He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶ He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness.

³⁷ “This is the Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.’^[c] ³⁸ He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us.

³⁹ “But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. ⁴⁰ They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don’t know what has happened to him!’^[d]

When I was first examining this text, I thought I had looked up the wrong scripture as the text reads like it is from the Old Testament, but this is actually a statement from Stephen, and he is speaking to the story of Moses. Specifically, he gets into the details of what Moses did for the people of Israel on behalf of God and lead them out of the land of Egypt, but then as he continues to tell the story there is a clear point where the people no longer really cared what Moses did for them in the past and they reject him saying, who made you the ruler? The person who did what Moses did is not safe from the classic saying, “What have you done for me lately.”

This unfortunately is not the only time that the people of Israel have decided that the current leadership is not exactly what they are looking for. This is one of the many themes that carries throughout the Old Testament. It just begins with Moses and then moves onto the judges that the book is named after that are the ones who help to lead Israel and help them, well judge, what they are going to do, how they will live, etc. Then you get prophets after them, one of the more notable being Samuel, but then Israel makes a decision, that they want to have a king just like the other communities around them, much like when they told Aaron to give them gods to go before them rather than listening to Moses.

Wanting what other people have or desiring to do something a certain way because everyone else is doing it is something, we all fall prey to in our lifetime, it's the peer pressure that we feel in our adolescent years and the desire to keep up with the Jones' that we sometimes feel in our adult years. But eventually the judges and the prophets are not enough, and they demand to have a king. Of course, the Israelites eventually get what they want, and you have the rule of Saul and David and the rest of the kings of Israel and then of course the latter prophets of the Old Testament. It is clear that just because the neighbors of the Israelites were doing things a certain way that meant it was right for Israel, because ultimately those forms of leadership would stray them away from their true leader, God.

But thankfully that has all changed right? When we do church, we really do not care what everyone else is doing, we are not in competition with one another, we aren't jealous of one another, wishing we had more of what everyone else had. Of course, these things still happen in the church, some churches wish they had a vibrant music program like other churches or better youth programs or wish they could make updates to the church building or wish they could pay off the mortgage on the building. We seem to find all these other things to put our focus on and expend a good amount of energy dealing with these issues that to us are such a big deal.

But what should be an even bigger deal is our relationship with God and how that is affecting how we see our lives both as individuals and as church. We need to continue to remind ourselves that God's love for us will never change and that is where our focus should be and how we can share that love with others, this realization must continue to help us look outside ourselves and our church walls to see how we can serve our neighbor not continue to desire what they have and we do not.



RE-OPENING UPDATE



Our plans continue to take shape as we prepare for our **June 20th reopening** when we will once again gather for worship at New Hope Lutheran Church. The weekly services held in our Sanctuary will be **Live Streamed** so that our remote worshippers can take part in the experience.

- Beginning **Sunday, June 13th at 10a.m** you can experience our service, "real-time" by clicking the **WATCH LIVE** button in the **Weekly Sermon** section of our website homepage at NewHopeAgoura.org.
- If you miss the live stream session, you will be able to watch the service at your convenience by clicking the **WATCH RECORDED SERVICE** button in the Weekly Sermon section.



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

Wayne Rickert was in the hospital with an electrolyte imbalance.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara and Avo 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, Wayne Rickert, Jane Taschereau, Rose Topliss, 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 Jim and Cheryl Merrill on the birth of their grandson, Hunter James. He was born on May 4th and weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. Proud parents are Mike and Aubree.

Sandy Hansen's first great-granddaughter was born on May 6th. Camryn Taylor weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19 1/2" long. Parents are Jessica and Brandon and Great Aunt is Sue Poulson.



The love that was given to me at my birthday was so overwhelming this year. I just would love everyone at my church to realize what a gift I was given by the many, many people that sent me beautiful cards, thoughts, and messages. Words really do not express how I have felt and still feel and still get cards. So thank you to all of you for your love.

Evelyn Colby



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.



Father's Day is a celebration of all the wonderful things that dads do. It is a day to give thanks for their wisdom, love and strength - it is a day set aside to make sure dads know how much they are loved everyday of the year.



Prime Timers

To our sweetest and dearest God-loving ladies of New Hope, we will keep everyone posted whether we will be able to be together in July. All of us willing and the creek doesn't rise, we can all continue to have a good cup of good cheer on Tuesday, July 13th at noon and toast each other at home.

Rose Topliss

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

- Melody Beattie





MANNA FOOD PANTRY

With church opening up in June, you can now bring your food donations to church. If you would like to make a donation in person to Manna, they are 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, July 6th to discuss "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

August 3rd - "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett

September 7th - "Chances Are" by Richard Russo



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.

"If you keep being grateful for your life, your heart gets bigger. The bigger your heart, the more you get to love."

- Ted Danson

"No matter what I see, I choose faith. No matter what I feel, I choose faith."

- Craig Groeschel

"God doesn't just create. He also re-creates."

- Levi Lusko

"If there was a lesson in this year - and there must be right? - it is that the simplest pleasures in life are truly the ones that mean the most.... Remembering those things - letting them guide my days - has helped shape my year."

- Kristy Woodson Harvey

"Never measure God's unlimited power by your limited expectations."

- Anne Cetas

"Hurt people hurt people. Healed people heal people. Enlightened people enlighten people."

- Ruthie Lindsey



CONGRATULATIONS!



Alec Fisher graduated on May 16th from USC with a degree in Cinematic Arts. He was a Spirit Leader, Troy Camp Leader, and a member of the Trojan Knights. He is currently interning with Warner Bros. and interviewing for a full time position with Warner Bros. Paramount or Disney.

Luke Gibbons graduated with honors from Oak Park High School on May 28th. He will be leaving California for Principia College in Elsah, Illinois studying Video Media, Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Sara King will graduate from Thousand Oaks High School and will be attending Cal State Chico in the fall. She is planning on pursuing a career in nursing.

Uche Olelewe will be graduating from Moorpark High School. He will be attending Moorpark College in the fall.

Kate Powledge is graduating from Louisville High School in Woodland Hills. In the fall, she plans to study astrophysics at the University of Chicago where she has been awarded a National Merit Scholarship.

Bryce Vitt graduated on May 23rd from Sonoma State with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics. He will be moving to Pacific Beach.

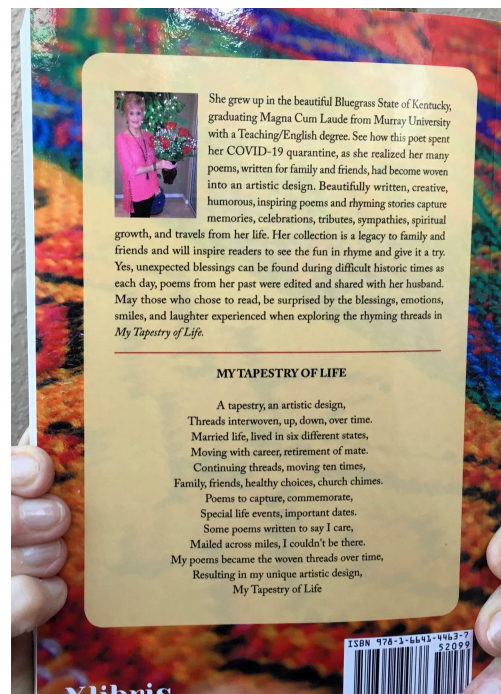
Kevin Wilkinson will graduate from Agoura High School and continue his studies at Moorpark College, then on to California Lutheran University where he will be majoring in Cyber Security.



Thanks to the ladies of the church who made the beautiful quilts that our high school seniors will receive: Gail McGinnis, Kathy Rogers, Alison Rowe and Bonnie Schulze.

Meditations for the Trail: A Hiking Devotional:
Paulson PhD, Dr. Terry Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

This Christian hiking devotional allows you to take God with you every time you take to the trails. This series of sixty short devotionals is designed to be used by individuals and groups to nurture their faith while enjoying nature and the hiking experience. Dr. Paulson used to conduct COPE Wilderness Workshops in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Now, a bit older and wiser, he leads the Heavenly Hiking Fellowship into the Santa Monica Mountains for New Hope Lutheran Church in Agoura Hills, CA. Doing so has once again allowed him to fall in love with hiking as an exercise and a way to draw closer to God and his fellow hikers. There is no better place than an open-air cathedral of trees and blue skies to invite God's presence into your day. Take this devotional with you whether alone or with other believers. Take a moment to read a devotion and to ask for prayer requests. Spend time in quiet meditation after listening for God's words for you today. Take time to pray and draw closer to your Lord. Whatever you take to the hills, never forget to take God along on your hike. Return to this reader-friendly devotional over and over again to find new ways to make your hiking a growth in grace.



Former member Linda Potter is excited to share her self published, 455 page book of rhyming stories and poems, including memories of Westlake Lutheran Church, especially in the Church and Bible Study chapter. Other chapter threads include celebration, heritage, tribute, sympathy, travel, holidays. Ten months, during the quarantine, were spent compiling 200 stories and poems. Linda is making a special offer, \$21.00 for her beautiful and insightful book. She will pay the postage if we get 12 orders. Please see Gail McGinnis or Terry Paulson to place your order, name and phone number. Terry has a copy of the book so you can see it first hand.

"Poetry provides a unique window into life--our memories, hopes, dreams and forever feelings. Few provide a better poetic window into the little things that matter most than Linda Potter's new book, 'My Tapestry of Life.' Let her tapestry help you appreciate your own life's journey. Buy this book. Maybe it will inspire you to write your own."
- Terry Paulson, PhD, author of "The Optimism Advantage," "Favorite Family Lectures," and his newest book --"Meditations for the Trail: A Hiking Devotional." (see above)

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!*

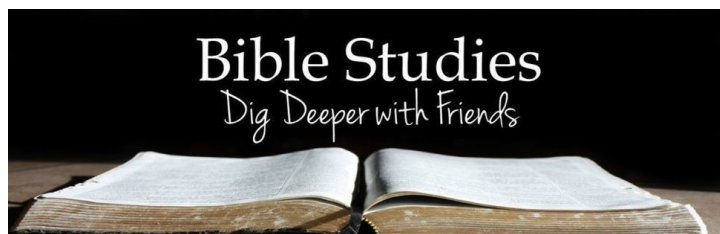
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 [newhopeagoura](https://www.youtube.com/newhopeagoura)

 bible studies

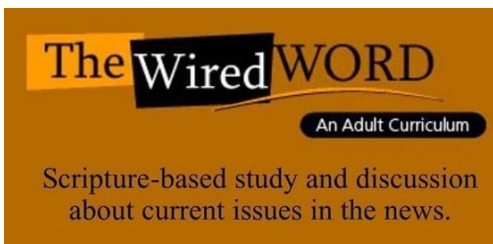
**See website for meeting information*



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.



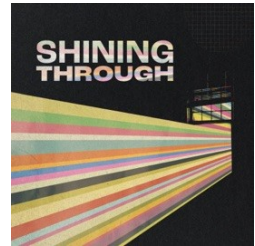
This bible study is hosted by Pastor Craig. We are currently using the study from *Gather Magazine* from the Women of the ELCA. If you would like to receive the study material each week, email Pastor Craig at Craig@newhopeagoura.com

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

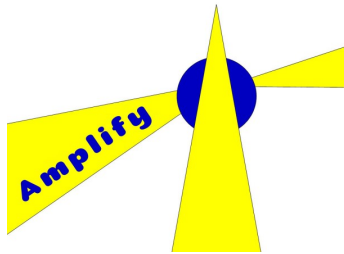


The Men of New Hope gather each week for stimulating conversations about current issues involving life and faith. They are currently in a study entitled "Shining Through" featuring Rev. Andy Stanley from North Point Community Church near Atlanta, Georgia.

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



June Birthdays

- 2 Jill Fisher
- 6 Kailey Vitt
- 12 Chris Chigaridas
Sam Church
- 14 Ahoo Pilehvari
- 15 Sandy Cowden
- 17 Caity Fisher
- 18 Harper Neal
- 20 Bonnie Bell
Lynn Bulock
- 22 Hengameh Kamali
Jenny Powledge
- 26 Karen Orefice
- 29 Stella Chudleigh
- 30 Thais Herrington



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 July newsletter is June 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/>

I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as "making a life."

- Maya Angelou

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www.NewHopeAgoura.org

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!**