

# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

**July, 2021**

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## **"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" is not a private endeavor.**

Independence Day is our most important civil holiday. It is celebrated in all sorts of ways across the country - many of them involving barbeques, fireworks, and flag waving. Less celebrated is the commemoration of a revolutionary document - the signing of the Declaration of Independence separating the states from tyrannical rule. I would encourage you to read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution for yourself, and not allow others to define for you the meaning.

At its inception and signing, the Declaration of Independence did not include "unalienable rights" to women, Native Americans, and African Americans. We have come a long way from that signing in 1776 and have a long way to go as a representative democracy. We each have a role to play in the reform and unity of this union. Our mandatory responsibilities (according to the DHS website) are to obey the law, pay taxes, serve on a jury, and register for selective service. Our voluntary responsibilities include voting, staying informed, community involvement, practicing tolerance, and passing it on to future generations. How are you doing to keep and further these responsibilities?

There is much debate these days about the purpose of our freedoms with many citing "The Constitution." In my observation, freedom has become a term meaning license to do anything I want. Of course, license is not freedom, but a tyranny. In the Christian faith (via St. Paul) we are free to be servants of God and of the good. Luther said Christians are "perfectly bound, servants of all," while at the same time are "perfectly free, servant of none." He meant that our freedom in Christ gave the opportunity (that is, the freedom) to love and serve the neighbor. Any freedom (to own a gun, free speech, public assembly, etc.) is measured in the Christian life by love of God and the seeking of the good for the other/neighbor. Next time you hear someone argue rights (or you do) ask yourself if it is for the love of God or common good or a selfish motive.

New Hope has returned to in-person worship again. This freedom is also not an opportunity for license. We still ought to seek the good of the others as we gather for worship. I encourage online worship for those with health issues or who worry about the potential health risks of public worship. While in-person our rules are simple: if you have NOT been vaccinated, please wear a mask. Vaccinated people may continue to wear a mask if they desire but it is not required. I would also ask everyone to exercise discretion with and sensitivity in their contact with others. New Hope's concern for the last year has been the safety and health of our members and that continues to be our priority.

The church is to teach how to rightly live into the freedom of Christ. Our ethic is to live by love of God, the neighbor, and the self in ways that affirm the dignity of all things "who are endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights" (as the Declaration says it). Each generation of God's children must learn these lessons

because, as the saying goes, "God has no grandchildren." There is nothing passed by inheritance in the Christian faith; faith is only, ever, always learned, accepted, and lived in every generation. When the nation came into being on 4 July 1776, freedom obligated those signers to make a country under those ideals. We ought to sense the weight of this obligation on us, as well.

The Declaration was a revolutionary document: it aimed to overthrow tyranny and create a new government through the power of collective action. We have seen much collective action lately. Some of it we like and some we do not. This is the mixed blessing of freedom. All of it ought to be shaped by our mandatory and voluntary responsibilities as citizens (see above) and by the ethic of love as Christians. Let us also double down on the truth verified by facts, as well. False Witness, as the Ten Commandments call it, is another big problem these days.

Independence Day is not a military holiday (we are no banana republic or bully state parading weapons to control the population or threaten neighbors). Independence Day is an ideological holiday. Certainly, lives have been lost in defense of freedom, but this nation is formed in ideals, values, hopes for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The best defense of freedom is to learn what it is and love it and live it and to insist on it for your neighbor. Like any important endeavor, the ideals cannot remain only theoretical; they must be lived. We have some distance to go in reaching those ideals. We should learn, strive, march, even protest to achieve a nation where there is "liberty and justice for all" (still a worthy ideal and goal found in the Pledge of Allegiance). For all its flaws, Independence Day and that Declaration can still be an inspiration and a hope.

Let's remember this document obligates us together as it did those original signers: "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." We are in this together. As we united to bring down a pandemic, let us also unite to bring down the infodemic, the pandemic of party hostility, the plague of vile rhetoric, and the hatred that seeks to divide what others have fought and died to unite and preserve. I encourage disagreement and debate, but also encourage us to do so with Christian love and the aim of making our country better for all of us. The goal of making it better for all seems like it fits the theme of the holiday and our Christian faith.

Happy Independence Day weekend everyone.

*Pastor Craig*



**Celebration of Life for Avo Artinian**, July 7th, at noon at Pierce Brothers Valley Oak Cemetery. Please join Barbara and family as they celebrate the life of their beloved Avo. Avo's story is fascinating and their life is inspiring. We gather to express our gratitude and to commend Avo to Almighty God. Please join us.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** We have a wonderful new audio-visual system and sound board! We are so excited to show it off! We also need some volunteers who would assist us with Sunday worship. Each week during the mid-week and again on Sunday morning at 9 AM the worship team (musicians, Pastor, Deacon, and key volunteers) rehearse Sunday worship. We would like to invite you to be a part of the exciting endeavor of worship leadership. We can and will train you for the work as slide advancer, sound director, and VMix director. Currently a small group (Calvin Beeker, Chris Chigaridas, Gail Beeker, Gary McGinnis, Laurie Scott, and Terry Paulson) serve in those capacities. You can certainly learn it and the worshipping community needs your help! Contact Pastor Craig.

## PRAYER VENTURES     JULY, 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 that God is attentive to our prayers, hearing our cries for help, comfort and renewal and our expressions of joy, mourning, praise and thanksgiving.

2 - Pray for the adults and young adults applying to volunteer for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering; give thanks for their eagerness to serve in this ministry, sharing their faith, gifts and time with youth and the adults who work with youth.

3 - Ask God to bless and equip newly elected synod bishops as they live into their leadership and ministry responsibilities; give thanks for the help and encouragement they receive from leaders and members of their synods, who have also responded to God's call.

4 - Give thanks to God for the gift of freedom we enjoy in our nation. Pray that we will use that freedom thoughtfully and responsibly, working for justice and equity to liberate our neighbors—here and around the world—who are oppressed or excluded.

5 - Praise God for calling, equipping and entrusting us to do God's work in the world. Pray for strength, boldness and wisdom to proclaim the gospel, overcome obstacles and hesitance, engage others in conversations and questions about faith, and serve our neighbors in need.

6 - Pray for individuals and families who are traveling this summer, that God will protect them; that they will be immersed in the wonders of creation and be renewed; that they will meet people who enrich their faith and worldview; and that they will bear the good news of Jesus Christ wherever they go.

7 - Ask God for mercy and forgiveness when weakness and imperfection tangle our daily life; give thanks that God's enduring mercy and grace renew our faith, no matter what is happening in our lives.

8 - Ask the Spirit to grant us wisdom and insight as we help children and youth recover and learn from the pandemic and its social isolation. Pray that they will experience healing and wholeness through interacting with peers and adults; enjoying play, school and community activities; and returning to their faith communities to rejoin their siblings in Christ.

9 - Pray that we will be humble, but also bold and confident, knowing that the power and grace of Christ energize and sustain us throughout our baptismal journey.

10 - Remember in prayer the summer staff serving in ELCA outdoor ministries across the country; ask God to renew their spirit, faith and energy at this point in the summer and for the duration of their service.

11 - Give thanks to God for our siblings in Christ throughout history who have sacrificed their lives to proclaim the word of God and the gospel, so that all might believe, experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ, know true freedom and have eternal life.

12 - Pray for those affected by the Middle East crisis, especially for refugees, people returning to their countries and those internally displaced. Pray that God's healing presence will give them peace, hope and strength in their time of need.

13 - Thank God for our special relationship with the Moravian Church in America, 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.

14 - Give thanks that, through Jesus Christ, we have been chosen, adopted as children of God and immersed in grace, blessings and the truth of God's intent for humanity and creation.

15 - Ask God to nourish and strengthen the church's relationships with global companions during this time of transition, as we assess how best to work together while continuing to respond to the impact of COVID-19.

16 - Pray that our senses will be tuned to God so that we "hear what God the Lord will speak," and will be obedient and faithful in following God's word, commandments and ways for the sake of the world.

17 - Ask the Spirit to help us greet our neighbors with hospitality, empathy, concern and hope as we maneuver the uncertainty of reopening public places and holding events where people once again gather in person.

- 18 - Pray that we will respond to God's call to serve our neighbors in need and share the gospel wherever we go with those unique gifts, skills and passions the Spirit has cultivated in us through our education, life experiences and communities of faith.
- 19 - Remember in prayer those congregational leaders and volunteers planning and creating fall programs and ministries for all ages that will offer education, service and spiritual growth.
- 20 - Pray for the Building Resilient Communities team, a collaboration of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response, and for our work together across all expressions of our church as we accompany communities from disaster through recovery, ensuring that we and our neighbors can thrive today and tomorrow.
- 21 - Ask God to remind us daily that we live in hope and unity, drawn together as "citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God," with Christ at the center.
- 22 - Give thanks for synod and churchwide organization staff, neighboring congregations and ecumenical partners who, during the pandemic, have supported and assisted congregations and leaders through the challenges of adapting to changing circumstances and opportunities, and of continuing to learn and work together to help the church grow and thrive.
- 23 - The work of a shepherd is unfamiliar to most of us, but we all know how it feels to be guided and assisted through dark and difficult times, to have our spirit restored when we are weary and to be reassured that we are not alone in life. Give thanks and praise to God for being our ever-present, loving and good shepherd and for equipping our communities of faith and siblings in Christ to shepherd one another and our neighbors.
- 24 - Pray for a just, respectful and lasting solution to the long-standing conflict between Palestine and Israel; pray for those most vulnerable to the violence, unjust laws, displacement and schisms that stir fear, suspicion, abuse and despair; and ask God to bless and sustain those working for peace, justice and healing in the Holy Land.
- 25 - Pray that when we hear stories of Jesus performing miracles, the Spirit will deepen our understanding of God's ways, power, compassion, justice and activity in the world, and that these will guide and influence how we live and serve as followers of Jesus, children of God.
- 26 - Give thanks that our contributions to Mission Support help fund global mission work in leadership development, evangelism, ministry support, education, sustainable development, in-country scholarships and interfaith relations.
- 27 - Ask God to strengthen our commitment and guide our efforts to end hunger in our nation and throughout the world. We ask for the faith to believe that there will be enough food and resources for all if we let God's justice and generosity influence our own, listen closely to our neighbors in need, deal with the root causes of hunger and poverty, and work together to create sustainable solutions.
- 28 - Who in your community, congregation or family concerns you right now? Pray for their needs and well-being, and ask the Spirit to guide you in responding to, caring for and accompanying them.
- 29 - Pray that with Christ in our hearts and the Spirit in our midst, we will grow in our understanding of God's boundless love and broaden our vision of what we can accomplish as we do God's work in the world.
- 30 - Give thanks for volunteers, congregational leaders and professionals who serve older adults in a variety of circumstances and settings; care for their spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs; encourage their gifts and involvement in congregations; and help them stay connected with life-giving relationships and communities.
- 31 - Give thanks and praise to God for being kind, just, understanding of our complexities, responsive to our prayers and needs, and trustworthy in word and deed.



## From the Deacon

### Meet Our New Bishop



During our recent synod assembly, we elected a new bishop. Thanks to Samantha Henderson on the SW-CA synod staff for sharing Pastor Bos's official biography:

The Rev. Brenda Bos was elected to serve a six-year term as Bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America on June 5, 2021. The election took place during the 33rd Assembly of the Southwest California Synod, which was held online with live and recorded participation

throughout the synod territory.

A native Californian, Pastor Bos was ordained in 2014 in her home congregation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in North Hollywood. She attended Claremont School of Theology and Pacific Lutheran Theology Seminary, receiving a Master of Divinity and Certificate of Theological Studies. Before entering the ministry, Bishop-elect Bos was a television producer at Warner Bros. studios, working on sitcoms such as "The George Lopez Show" and "The Golden Girls." She holds a bachelor's degree in Broadcasting from Pepperdine University.

Most recently, she has served as the Assistant to the Bishop for Rostered Leadership for Southwest California Synod. She also served Christ Lutheran Church in San Clemente, where the congregation advocated for the rights of unhoused persons, seniors and those living with addiction.

Bishop-elect Bos lives with her wife and adult son. She will be the first openly lesbian bishop to serve the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



## From Pastor Scott

Some people say that timing is everything. Often this saying is used to describe something that seemed serendipitous, like one could not have ever expected it to go so well. I think what the past 16 months has taught us is that timing is everything, but sometimes the timing sucks. I remember first thinking this when my time at my interim congregation in Hollywood came to an end. They had found a new pastor through the call process, and they were scheduled to start before most of us were vaccinated and so saying goodbye in person was not going to be an option as I feel it is the duty of the interim to step away as soon as the new pastor begins and let them begin forming those necessary relationships with their new congregation.

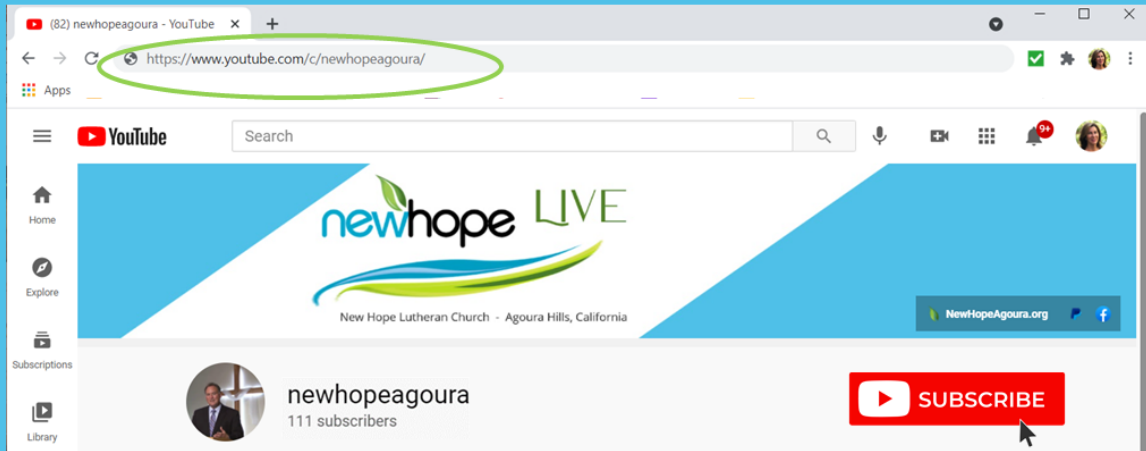
Unfortunately, this kind of timing has come up once again. I began a new call at Christ the Shephard Lutheran in Altadena shortly after I finished my call in Hollywood and beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, I will begin another interim call at The Church of Hope in Canyon Country. This means that my time at New Hope Lutheran Church as the Youth Director has come to an end. As my time on Sundays will be full moving forward it means that I will not be able to be with you in person one last time to say goodbye. My time with New Hope has been quite the ride. Doing youth ministry during a pandemic is never something I thought I would ever do and something Seminary does not prepare you for. What helped Pastor Craig and I get through it though is the amazing kids that we got to interact with and hang out with. We got to be creative together and it was nice to not have to problem solve on our own and I will miss working with Pastor Craig very much.

Thankfully the Lutheran Church, while a worldwide church, still seems to be a small one, so I know that this is not truly goodbye, but see you later. I hope that God blesses this congregation moving forward and that you continue to live out the calling that each and every one of you has been given, to love God and to love one another.



# New Hope worship can be experienced **LIVE** each Sunday at 10 a.m.

Be sure to subscribe to our NewHopeAgoura YouTube channel to receive notifications.



## *Altar flowers*

Is there a special someone or event you would  
like to honor?

Why not donate to our Altar Flower fund?

Flowers will be placed at the altar on your behalf and your personal message will be included in our video announcements. You are welcome to take your arrangement with you following the worship service. If you will not be in attendance that day, you may pick up your flowers by contacting the church office.

- The suggested amount per arrangement is \$20.
- You can mail your donation to New Hope Church at: **29295 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301** - or - you may place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Please identify your donation as “**Altar Flowers.**”
- You may order your arrangement by completing the form on our website: [CLICK HERE](#) - or - You can leave a message at 818.889.8700 and someone from the church office will contact you.

Thank you for assisting us in beautifying our sanctuary  
with fresh flowers for Sunday worship.



# WE ARE OPEN!

## GATHER WITH US FOR

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP

# Welcome back!

The re-opening of our sanctuary to in-person worship on June 20th was an amazing celebration filled with reconnecting, praise and worship, and an impactful message from Pastor Craig! Along with the folks attending in person, we also live-streamed the service to our "remote" worshippers. If you missed the service, you can view it from our website. We have also added a GALLERY of pictures to share with you. It can be viewed at:

[www.NewHopeAgoura.org/galleries](http://www.NewHopeAgoura.org/galleries)

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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](http://NewHopeAgoura.org)





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

Barbara Artinian on the death of her husband, Avo.

Continued prayers of healing for 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.

"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



## Church Directory Update

Please make the following changes to your church directory:

**Dixie Burton and  
Jim Beauchemin**  
18760 Seville Way  
Santa Clarita 91387  
661-360-8086 - land line

**Bob and Eilene Green  
Doug, Rachael and Delilah  
Harrell**  
2132 Elmwood Street  
Berthoud, CO 80513  
805-341-6970 (Eilene's cell)  
eilene.green@gmail.com

**Jim and Cheryl Merrill**  
8275 East Bell Road #2117  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

**Kailey Vitt**  
167 Lear Circle  
Thousand Oaks 91360



## 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.



Here is a young lady who had back surgery at Children's Hospital two weeks ago. She is pictured here with her prayer shawl from New Hope. If you know someone who would like a prayer shawl, contact Deacon Lynn or Marsha Chew and we would be happy to see that they get one.



## MANNA FOOD PANTRY

Food can now be brought to church to be donated. Look for the MANNA box in the narthex. 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](mailto:terry@terrypaulson.com)). You'll receive a regular email update on our next hike and how to get to that trailhead. We may not be able to worship together, but we can hike together and maintain physical distance.



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](mailto: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.



## Calling all carpool drivers

Please let Marsha Chew know if you're able to be on a call list for a Westlake and a Thousand Oaks senior who would like rides to Sunday worship. Thank you.

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*"With the new day ahead comes new strength and new thoughts."*

- Eleanor Roosevelt

*"The truest greatness lies in being kind."*

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*"We must not only give what we have, we must also give what we are."*

- Cardinal Mercier

*"Joy is not in things, it is in us."*

- Richard Wagner

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July 4th



Oh beautiful for spacious skies,  
for baseball games and apple pies,  
for kiddies romping in the park  
and fireworks bursting in the dark.

July 4th is a time to think  
of days that go by in a blink.  
Let's spend the time that's left to us  
without a squabble or a fuss.

Cherish each and everyone  
our differences add to the fun.  
Dems or Reps don't mean a thing  
It's choice that makes our freedom ring.

Oh beautiful, beloved place  
where we live by our Dear God's grace  
Blessed is this fruitful land and see  
And you who mean so much to me.

Stand up folks, now do not lay  
Let's pledge allegiance to our flag.



Jane Taschereau, 2019



OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES - Uche Olelewe, Kate Powledge,  
Sara King and Kevin Wilkinson.



We will be holding an art exhibit in the halls of New Hope during  
the month of August called

## PANDEMIC ISOLATION



Calling ALL Artists of  
New Hope!



Did your “inner artist” surface as you were coping with the isolation of the  
pandemic? We would like to display your creations at our exhibit!

**All forms of art and crafts are welcome!**

Bring your work to the church office by **July 25<sup>th</sup>** or  
contact us to arrange for a pick-up.

For more details, please visit our website at [NewHopeAgoura.org/upcoming-events](https://NewHopeAgoura.org/upcoming-events)

New Hope opened up for worship on **Sunday, June 20th**. Below is a list of duties that we will need volunteers to help with at the worship services. 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? At this time, we are only serving coffee and juice.

**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](mailto: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



WAYS  
to   
GIVE

Thank you for supporting the work  
of

  
Lutheran Church



In Person

An **offering plate** is  
available at all  
in-person worship  
services.



By Mail

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



Online

**Secure Giving** through  
our website using the  
**PayPal** donate option  
NewHopeAgoura.org



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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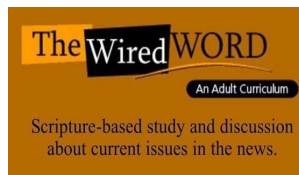
 [bible studies](#)

*\*See website for meeting information*



We 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. Don’t miss this option to stay connected with your friends and church family while deepening your relationship with Jesus.

### This Sunday’s Adult Study & Discussion—ONLINE Sunday Evenings at 7p.m.



Pastor Craig leads this online Bible Study and Discussion each week using a resource called “The Wired Word.” The study examines a current event and applies the light of God’s Word to it. Using the Bible along side current events, the Wired Word, helps us weave together our ancient faith with modern life. **ZOOM:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87648778666>

Meeting ID: 876 4877 8666

The study material is included in our Weekly Connection email. It is also available on our website by clicking the following link: [Sunday Adult Bible Study & Discussion – New Hope Agoura](#)

### Women’s Bible Study—ONLINE Mondays at 11a.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 to draw closer to God and to be supported by one another.

Hosted by Merylee Blair —We meet by Zoom each Monday at 11a.m.

**ZOOM** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6818228212>

Meeting ID: 681 822 8212 . Password: 29295

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



Our study comes from the June issue of Gather Magazine, Study material is provided by Pastor Craig each week. If you would like to be added to the mailing, contact the church office. Hosted by Pastor Craig, we meet by zoom each Tuesday at 10a.m.

**ZOOM** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86865607518?pwd=N2RSejdZLy9iWE8rMXpEQkF1OVpGUT09>

Meeting ID: 868 6560 7518 . Passcode: 095272

## 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. All are welcome. We are currently using a study by Andy Stanley. Hosted by Dr. Terry Paulson, we meet by Zoom each Thursday at 7:30a.m.

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484471665>

Meeting ID: 814 8447 1665

## Programs for our Youth



Many churches encourage families to be more intentional about faith practices at home and an organization called Faith Inkubators developed a powerful framework that deeply connects people to God and one another, connects church to home, and connects faith to daily life. It is called FAITH5™ and when modeled every week at church and practiced at home, FAITH5™ carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, and promote mental, and spiritual health. This framework can

be used for families of all kinds, whereas the videos will be geared towards our families with younger children. This weekly video series gives families the opportunity and flexibility to practice their faith in a way that works for them. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch this week's installment of **Faith Five Friday**



**This summer's theme is "She Believes: Female Bible Friends."** The lessons focus on themes like friendship, using our hidden talents to help others, how sharing our story can save others, what it really means to be welcoming (even to someone who makes it challenging), and how God can move the unmovable.

Each Monday, playfully structured Bible activities will be emailed to registered individuals or households. You will also be included in a Facebook group with others to make friends, share worship, and post crafts. Registration is \$37 per household. For more information, or to register, click the register button, below.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Confirmation is for middle school students who want to study their faith and make an Affirmation of their Baptism. Our classes have concluded for this year. Check back us in the fall if you have a student you would like to enroll.



## July Birthdays

- 1 Gary Alwood
- 3 Wayne Rickert
- 4 John Leland
- 7 Barbara Artinian
- 8 Tim Neal
- 13 Chriss Alwood
- Jane Taschereau
- Doug Harrell
- 15 Dorr Looman
- 16 Oliver Edens
- 17 Jeanette King
- 19 Bryan Boggs
- Scott Fielder
- 21 Hannah Hershman
- 24 Merylee Blair



## 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. You may drop these items off in the box in the narthex.

*The deadline for all articles for the August newsletter is July 25th. Be sure to email them to [gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com](mailto: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/>

*"The best feeling in the world, is to be able to help someone else other than yourself."*

*- Charmaine J. Forde*

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