

newhope *news*

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

November, 2021

From the Deacon

Pastor Craig explained in his sermons many times about the three expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). There's the congregation, like New Hope, the synod (Ours is the Southwest California Synod) and whole church together that we call Churchwide.

There's one more division that we don't talk about very often. In between our congregation and the synod are groups of churches called conferences. We are part of the Channel Islands Conference along with the other congregations of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Even though New Hope is in Los Angeles County, we are still in the Channel Islands Conference because of our start, as Westlake Lutheran, in Ventura County.

Each conference gathers pastors, deacons, and lay leaders together twice a year for a fall and spring conference assembly. October 24th was our fall assembly, a chance to meet our new bishop, Bishop Brenda Bos, and hear about what plans the synod has for the next six months. We also tell each other about what our congregation is doing that might be interesting to others. Among the things I learned are:

- Mount Cross in Camarillo is having a monthly chapel service for seniors that will have a thirty-minute worship service, and thirty minutes of social time in the middle of the day on a Thursday. The next Senior Chapel will be Thursday, November 18th.
- Ascension in Thousand Oaks will have Taize services, using meditation, Taize songs, and Scripture each Wednesday in Advent. The first service will be Wednesday, December 1st at 7 PM.
- Holy Trinity in Thousand Oaks has just welcomed a new associate pastor, Emily Ebert, to be their youth and family minister. Several congregations, including New Hope, will talk in the future about how we might cooperate on youth ministry events in the future.

Christmas Festival Concerts – tickets on sale now!

"Hope"

Friday, Dec. 3, 2021 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021 at 4:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021 at 4:00 pm

[Samuelson Chapel](#) (on the Cal Lutheran campus)

The Cal Lutheran Choral Ensembles and University String Symphony combine forces to present the annual Christmas Festival Concerts. Welcome the season with this special musical gift featuring a narrated performance of Christmas music guaranteed to put you in the holiday mood. As always, the program for this longest-running annual event will include delightful lesser-known carols as well as familiar favorites. Wyant Morton and Yoshika Masuda will conduct.

These concerts are popular, so arrive early for convenient parking. Doors open one hour before the concerts.

For the safety of all, audience members must wear masks and show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Fully vaccinated musicians may perform without masks if they have obtained a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the concert.

Tickets are \$15 (free with Cal Lutheran ID), and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are being sold now at cluchristmastickets.com.



PRAYER VENTURES NOVEMBER, 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 - All Saints Day Remember and give thanks for all the saints who have influenced our lives, faith, wisdom and vocational decisions, and who have left an imprint on us through their compassion and example. Pray for people grieving the loss of someone significant in their lives, that they will be comforted by God and know that, as members of the body of Christ and communities of faith, they are not alone in their grieving.

2 - American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month Give thanks for the gifts and witness of American Indian and Alaska Native members of the ELCA, and pray for the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association and for native congregations and ministries — ministries grounded in reconciliation and the building up of people of all backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities and congregations. Ask God to help us understand and express repentance for the injustices committed against American Indians, Alaska Natives and Indigenous peoples that continue to impact people today.

3 - Pray for the immediate and long-term needs of people whose lives have been disrupted by severe weather, wildfires, earthquakes or flooding. Pray that the Spirit will move us to generously support and pray for the people and organizations that respond to disasters, especially Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners.

4 - Ask God to look with mercy and loving care upon the Afghan people - and refugees and immigrants everywhere - who flee danger, persecution, economic crises or climate-related catastrophes, seeking a better life. Ask that we might participate boldly and persistently in God's loving work to bring hope and relief, show compassion, respect and generosity, and advocate for justice for our neighbors who make their way to our nation's borders.

5 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Give thanks and praise God for being present in every circumstance to dispel our fears, calm our anxieties and stir our hope, and for helping us live with confidence as children of God — loved, forgiven and renewed.

6 - Pray for people of all ages who experience loneliness and depression, and pray that the Spirit will make us observant of, attentive to and empathetic with those who suffer in our midst but whose emotional, spiritual and physical struggles may not be readily apparent to us.

7 - Give thanks for the story of Lazarus' resurrection and for the promises of God, which assure us that death, despair and human vulnerability will have no power over us in the life to come.

8 - Pray for the leaders of our church gathering for the annual Lutheran Outdoor Ministries conference. Give thanks for their nationwide ministry with people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

9 - Pray that God's word and truth, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, will provide us with hope, clear direction and purpose for doing God's work in the world.

10 - Pray for our rural communities, congregations and church leaders as they respond to changes and challenges by adapting old ministries and creating new ones. Pray that we might better understand and celebrate not only our diverse gifts and perspectives but also our interdependence and unity in Christ.

11 - Veterans Day Remember in prayer women and men who serve in the military, their families, federal chaplains and those who attend to the needs of returning veterans. Give thanks for the sacrifice veterans have made on our behalf to secure freedom, justice, peace and security for our country and other nations.

12 - Pray for leaders serving on the ELCA Church Council and ask God to bless their conversations, deliberations and decisions, which support, shape and further the mission of our church in the world.

13 - Praise God for the diverse blessings that sustain and enrich our lives, blessings that God has entrusted to our care, respect, fairness and generosity. Pray that we will remember the psalmist's words: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).

14 - Ask for God's wisdom to discern who speaks the true gospel and word of God and who distracts us from our faith in Christ and our baptismal identity and purpose.

15 - Pray for those planning "the tAble: Limitless," a pre-event to the ELCA Youth Gathering that was created to bless and empower young people living with a wide range of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities, so that they might grow as faithful, wise and courageous witnesses throughout the church and world.

16 - Pray for people spending their last days in hospice care; ask God to comfort them and their families and surround them with the hope of life eternal; and give thanks for the gentle, respectful and skilled care provided by hospice professionals, pastoral care teams and volunteers.

17 - “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another” (Hebrews 10:24-25). Ask the Spirit to empower, encourage and embolden us — as children of God and agents of change — to reflect the love of God in response to anger, discord, hurtfulness, isolation and bias in our world.

18 - Give thanks for ELCA Faith, Science and Technology and the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology, ministries that help us understand science and technology as gifts from God. Pray that we might use them to nurture community, care for creation, ease human suffering and better understand and respect the complexity and beauty of the universe.

19 - Lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving for the presence of God, who gives us hope, comfort, guidance and refuge.

20 - Pray for the children, youth and family ministry leaders of our church. Give thanks for their vital, dynamic and creative service and for the work of ELCA Youth Ministry, ELCA Young Adult Ministry, ELCA Youth Ministry Network and related ministries of faith formation.

21 - Join other congregations today in celebrating and praying for Lutheran Summer Music, a faith-forming ministry that educates and inspires young musicians to use their gifts in the church, now and in the future.

22 - Pray for ELCA Justice for Women and give thanks for its work in helping us honor the integrity of women. Pray that we might work together to understand and eliminate violence, injustice and sexism against women, girls and people of diverse gender identities and expressions.

23 - Give thanks for the awesome nature of God, who is not bound by time, space, borders or human constructs.

24 Pray for the pastors of our church, who have responded to God’s call to serve communities of faith in a multitude of contexts. Ask the Spirit to invigorate and sustain their faith and equip them for the challenges of ministry; ask for guidance and insight on how we can best support, encourage and care for them.

25 - Thanksgiving Day Give thanks today — and every day — for the undeserved blessings we receive from God for our sustenance and well-being. Ask God to help us live with gratitude, recognize the true source of our food and other blessings, responsibly manage our resources, and exercise generosity and love with our neighbors in need, here and globally.

26 - Pray for the work we do together through ELCA World Hunger to respond to the daily needs of our neighbors, address the root causes of hunger and poverty, and work toward a just world where all people are fed.

27 - Pray that we will raise up new leaders in the church who will ground us in God’s love and forgiveness, renew our congregations, grow our existing communities of faith, equip us to share the good news of Jesus Christ and inspire us to use our unique gifts to do God’s work in the world.

28 - First Sunday of Advent Pray that we will not live in fear of the future but will anticipate with hope, joy and gratitude the day when we will be welcomed into the kingdom of God because of what Jesus has done for us out of pure grace and mercy.

29 - Give thanks for the church’s Mission Support network, through which our 65 synods and 8,900 congregations pool resources to love and serve the neighbor as no individual or congregation could alone.

30 - Give thanks and praise to God for knitting us together as siblings in Christ, so that we might encourage and strengthen each other’s faith, exchange care and support in times of need, and share our gifts, passions and wisdom to do God’s good work in the world.

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.



CONEJO VALLEY INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION

InterFaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

Return, Renew, Rejoice

Streamed live
November 24, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
www.AdatElohim.org/thanksgiving

Hosted by Temple Adat Elohim

Harbor House will receive
all voluntary contributions.
Donate online:
www.harborhouseto.org/donate.html

Day of Remembrance



An interfaith celebration of life in honor of the Borderline 12, the survivors, and first responders



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021, 1 PM

HEALING GARDEN
CONEJO CREEK NORTH
1379 E. JANSSE RD.
THOUSAND OAKS, CA

#TOstrong

CHRISTMAS GREENERY

It's that time of year to order your greenery. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE talk to your neighbors, friends and co-workers and encourage them to send direct delivery gifts. Everyone has a special person who is difficult to shop for and they will love receiving a fresh green wreath or other decoration that fill their home with the aroma of Christmas. The direct delivery gifts are a great idea for companies to send to their clients. It's a special way to say "THANKS." Be sure and make this unique opportunity known to all who like to have beautiful fragrant and REAL Christmas greenery surround them at the holidays. And don't forget to order greenery for your own home too! The greenery will arrive shortly after Thanksgiving. You can order greenery from Gail McGinnis after worship services on October 24th, 31st, and November 7th, email (gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com) or call me at 805-523-7884 and I will be happy to take your order. If your order will be going to the same people you have sent to in the past, I have all your info on the computer so make it easy on yourself. Checks can be made payable to New Hope Lutheran Church, just be sure to mark it for "greenery." The prices and pictures of greenery are below. There is no charge for delivery, but we do have to pay sales tax and that will be added on to the price of your greenery order. All orders are due to me no later than November 8th.



HOLIDAY GREENERY

22" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$36

2 - 10' Western Cedar Gift Garland - \$43

Gift Centerpiece with LED Candle - \$33

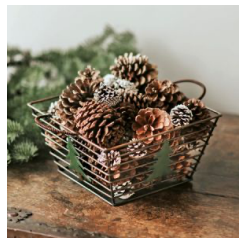
Noble Fir Gift Door Swag - \$38

28" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$41

Rustic Pine Cone Gift Basket - \$31

Evergreen Gift Set - \$67

NEW - Reindeer and Sleigh Gift Set - \$25





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

The Brown Family on the death of Elisabeth.

Phylis Rickert is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Floyd Bealer, Irene Bright, Evelyn Colby, Matt and Sandy Cowden, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Bob Green, Sandy Hansen, Del Hultgren, Sue Koons, Hans Kunz, Joyce Lawson, Reeta Leland, Jorgen Makitalo, Cheryl Merrill, Kathryn Murray, Debbie Niebolt, Ava Grace O'Connell, Cindy O'Hare, Karen Orefice, Ahoo Pilehvari, Sharon Pryor, Wayne Rickert, Nina Rose Sawaya, Madelyn and Stan Swope, Jane Taschereau, Rose Topliss, Fred Turner, Britt Tsumpes and Ralph Zbrog.

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.



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, you can use this URL for

the "click here" link: <https://www.newhopeagoura.org/ministries/prayer-shawl-ministry/> and it will take you to the Prayer Shawl Request form.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Sunday, November 7th at 9 AM in the Youth Room. All are welcome to come knit and crochet.



Social Ministry

Happy November

This is traditionally the month that we especially give thanks and remember all we are grateful for in our families - both at home and at church. We once again will be partnering with our sister church, Prince of Peace in Houston, to show our love and support for their children. Our Christmas gift card sale will be throughout November. The cards are \$25 Target gift cards and are given out by Pastor Adriana to the children in her congregation. Cards may be purchased through Kathy Rodgers (Scrip) or any of our giving options. Please see our website. Thank you in advance for your strong, continued support of our ELCA church serving an economically challenged community!



Meals Program

Thanks to all of our "Pot Pie Bakers" who have heated and packaged entrees for Harbor House on our scheduled night! The

next date for us is November 15th. The meal includes rolls, dessert and salad. If you can help heat entrees, please let me know and I can fill you in on the details! The meals are distributed at Holy Trinity as a grab and go style for guests.

Each Thanksgiving I am so thankful for all you do to help New Hope's social ministry in our community!

Blessings,
Merylee Blair



Christmas Boutique Holy Cross Church

13955 Peach Hill Road
Moorpark

Saturday, November 6th (9-6) and
Sunday, November 7th (8:30-1)

Pat Henkel is selling crafts there along with other vendors. Lots of fall and Christmas items for your home and outdoors. She hopes to see you there.



Congratulations to Cece Citron and Linsey Niebolt who will make public profession and affirm their faith and baptism on Sunday, October 28th.



MANNA FOOD PANTRY

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

Please drop off your donations in the wooden chest in the hallway, outside of the sanctuary. Any questions, call Ann Ashamallah at (818) 613-6818.

Top Priority Items:

1. Cookies/Crackers
2. Hamburger Helper
3. Coffee/Tea/Drinks - Almond/Soft Drinks
4. Water
5. Tomato Soup
6. Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
7. Shampoo/Conditioner
8. Deodorant
9. Sou[- Liquid/Bar
10. Shaving Items



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, November 2nd to discuss "The Weight of a Piano" by Chris Cander. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

December 7th - "The Dearly Beloved" by Cara Wall

February 1st - "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins



New Hope Mission Endowment Fund Accepting Applications for Grant Money

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

This year, the Committee has designated a total of \$10,000 for grants to be disbursed in 2021-2022, and is now accepting applications for those grants until November 30th. We will consider proposals that support religious, charitable, or educational projects, and we need you to let us know how we can support YOUR FAVORITE non-profit that meets these objectives. Please direct a contact at your charity to complete a Grant Distribution Request form found on our website. Once completed, the form can be sent by email or regular mail to New Hope Lutheran Church at the addresses on the form.

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

The Endowment Committee



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? It's a WIN/WIN! You can let Kathy Rogers know what you would like to order by emailing her at kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com. You can also request a list of the hundreds of gift cards that can be special purchased through New Hope for giving. She will send to you the list via email for you to see what could be ordered.

Contact Kathy Rogers for more information - kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com



"If you spend your life working to be more successful, to be more appreciated, maybe even be more loved in the world's eyes, you will be running on a treadmill - going nowhere. But if you allow God to use you to love and serve others, you will be filled with the fullness of life."

- Abby Turner



Heavenly Hiking Fellowship

Experts say that being in nature can **boost your mood** and improve **mental health**.

Join us 7-8:30a.m.
Tuesdays and Saturdays

There is much to discover
on our local trails.



These hikes include amazing trails with beautiful views and are easy enough for kids, but still fun for adults. If you would like to join us, email Terry Paulson,

terry@terrypaulson.com

You will receive regular emails with details on our next hike where we will meet.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YouTube CHANNEL

Our subscribers are notified whenever New Hope posts a worship video or starts a live-stream service.

Click link to subscribe:

<https://www.youtube.com/newhopeagoura>

WAYS to GIVE

Thank you
for supporting
the work
of

newhope
Lutheran Church



In Person

offering plate
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


Join us for our weekly Bible Studies

Dig deeper into God's word with friends

for more information on our bible studies

visit our website at <https://www.newhopeagoura.org/upcoming-events/>



The WiredWORD™ 

Adult Bible Study & Discussion

Weekly Study material and our zoom link is available on our website

Join us online each Sunday at 7p.m. as we look at current events through the lens of scripture.





Women's
BIBLE STUDY

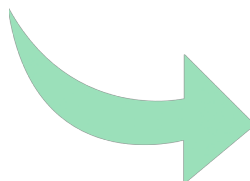
We meet online, Monday at 10a.m.



Tuesday Morning
Bible Study and Fellowship
Join us online at 10a.m.



Everyone is welcome to participate





Bible Study & Fellowship

MEN
OF NEW HOPE

Join us in the church library or by ZOOM –
Thursdays, 7:30 a.m.



Let us help you recognize your special
event or someone special

To request an altar flower arrangement:
go to our website's **GIVING** menu, select
ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS and complete the
form, or contact the church office

Your personal message will be included in our
worship service announcements and the
arrangement is yours to take following our service.



Is accepting applications for grants, now
through November 30, 2021

Visit our website homepage
for details

Proposals from any non-profit supporting
religious, charitable or educational projects
will be considered.

You are not alone

How can we pray for
you today?

Whether you seek
prayer for yourself or a
loved one, we would
like to stand with you.

Share your prayer request through our website:
www.NewHopeAgoura.org/PRAYER-REQUEST
or contact the church office.



November Birthdays

- 1 Ann Church
- 3 Jordan Taylor
- 8 Kara Nelson
- 9 Ann Ashamallah
- 15 Laura Davis
Amra Neal
- 16 Alec Fisher
- 17 Mariella Edgar
- 26 Gary McGinnis
- 29 Debbie Niebolt



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 December newsletter is November 25th. Be sure to email them to gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com.



DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH. YOU WILL GAIN AN EXTRA HOUR OF SLEEP!



New Hope Lutheran Church

29295 Agoura Road

Agoura Hills, CA 91301

818-889-8700

www.NewHopeAgoura.org

