



Merry  
CHRISTMAS

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.



# newhope news

**Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills**

December, 2021

## From the Deacon

Happy (Church) New Year and blessed Advent. New Hope's sanctuary is hung with blue paraments, there are blue runners on our tables at the sides of the room, and the Advent wreath is up. The first Sunday of Advent was the Sunday of Hope. We're trying to have as many families as possible who lit Advent candles during lockdown light them again this year. So we lit one candle, lit this week by Hannah and Leila Mader.

Next Sunday is December 5th, the Love Sunday, and our two candles will be lit by the Mansmann family: Andrew, Carol, Avery, and Taylor. It's amazing how much the kids (in this case teens) have grown and matured in a year. Dr. Terry Paulson will be giving the message.

December 12th, we light the pink candle, the candle of Joy. Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Joseph Toni Castaneda-Carrera will join us to preach and preside that Sunday. The three candles that week will be lit by friends instead of a family: Karen Reed and Karen Ingram.

The last Sunday in Advent, the fourth Sunday, is still in the planning stages right now. We know it's another blue candle. Perhaps you, along with a family member or friend, would like to light the four candles. It's the Sunday of Peace, which we wish to everyone.

On Christmas Eve we will have two services. The first one will be a Lessons and Carols service at 5:30 PM. We'll alternate the Gospel of Luke story of Jesus' birth with our favorite carols of the season. Then at 8 PM we'll have our traditional service with Holy Communion. As we have in previous years, the service liturgy will come from Holden Evening Prayer.

On Sunday, December 26th, I will be taking the week off, and our preacher will be Deacon Cecelia Travick Jackson, newly ordained into the ministry of Word and Service on December 12th at Mount Cross Lutheran Church, where she will serve. Please welcome her warmly. Deacon Cecelia is also specializing in ministry to seniors, and she and I are enjoying trading ideas.

This Advent season of waiting is a bit of a challenge this year; we're waiting on so much. Two things that we're waiting on that you can pray about: that the right person or team comes alongside New Hope to be our interim minister, and that the Holy Spirit is already preparing the person who will be our next full-time permanent pastor.

Blessings,

Deacon Lynn



## **Interim Pastor and Search Update**

In this time of Advent it seems an appropriate time to share where we are in our process of new beginnings for New Hope Lutheran Church.

The first interim pastor the synod assigned to NHLC decided he was not up to the task of leading our church for an extended period of time.

Deacon Lynn will be supplemented with supply pastors through the end of the year.

We are in for a treat come the first Sunday of the New Year as Bishop Brenda Bos will join us to deliver the good word.

Hopefully the Synod will have identified our long term interim pastor before the end of the year. At present there are several churches in the Southwest Synod that will have new pastors answering their calls. This will free up one or more pastors capable of being a full time interim pastor to NHLC.

With respect to our own search, the Synod has assigned Pastor Nancy Switzler as our “coach” to work with the Mission Exploration Team (MET) for the next 5 to 6 months.

Our task is to assemble the MET. The MET consists of six to ten members of the congregation working with our coach, meeting a couple of times per month to help assess and document the objectives of NHLC and the expectations we have for a new pastor.

Once the MET has finished its work, a call committee will be formed to conduct the search for candidates, conduct interviews and recommend to the Council and congregation the preferred candidate.

At this time we need your assistance with forming the MET. Please contact me or any member of the Council to lend your time and talents to this important pursuit. We need diversity of thought to make this effort successful and the input from young and old alike.

Merry Christmas,

Tom LaVanne



## PRAYER VENTURES      DECEMBER, 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 - World AIDS Day Join in prayer with our siblings around the world to remember all in our communities who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. Pledge to God that we will work together to raise awareness and recommit ourselves and the church to a faithful and dedicated response.

2 - Give thanks for Advent wreaths and other faith traditions that remember and celebrate God's dwelling among us in Jesus, God's gift of eternal life, and Jesus' enduring presence and light in the world and within us.

3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities Pray that we will grow stronger and more aware in our church's commitment to seek full inclusion and equitable participation of all people within the life of society and the church, embracing the whole person — abilities, questions, life experiences, complexities and all.

4 - "Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation" (Psalm 25:5). Pray that God will be patient with us as we strive to be faithful followers and students of Christ; ask the Spirit to stir our hunger for understanding the word of God and reveal its implications for our daily lives.

5 - Pray that we will be eager to share the gospel and will welcome the Spirit to use our gifts, abilities, insights and life experiences to prepare the way for others to believe in Christ.

6 - Give thanks for the opportunities provided by the new ELCA Good Gifts catalog to respond generously to the unique needs and priorities of congregations, companion churches and partners — close to home and around the world.

7 - Pray for congregations in your community and for ELCA congregations and ministries across the country, that we will thrive in our witness and service and will encourage one another in doing God's work in the world.

8 - Pray for our global companions and our companion synods as we journey together during Advent, drawing on our diverse traditions and practices to focus on the coming of Jesus, the gift of salvation and our unity in the body of Christ.

9 - Praise God for looking upon us with mercy and love, for liberating us from the consequences of human weakness and sin, and for restoring our relationship as children of God.

10 - Reflect on your hopes and what you anticipate as a child of God; express them to God and thank God for accompanying us in times of waiting and anticipation and for remaining faithful to the promises God has made to us.

11 - Give thanks for how our siblings in Christ observe and celebrate Advent, Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ in diverse cultures. Pray that these rich and meaningful traditions, practices and perspectives will deepen our understanding and appreciation of the gift and good news of Jesus Christ — God's sacrificial expression of love and mercy.

12 - Pray that, through the work of the Spirit in us, every aspect of our life will manifest the good fruits of love, generosity, justice, peace, service and faithfulness to the word of God.

13 - Pray for congregations and youth ministry leaders who are making decisions about participating in the ELCA Youth Gathering and for those who have decided to attend and are beginning to prepare for their faith-building experience.

14 - Remember in prayer seafarers and fishermen of all nations whose work separates them from family, friends and community for long periods of time. Pray that they will be uplifted and sustained by the assurance that they are remembered, valued, loved and always connected with their siblings in Christ, everywhere.

15 - Pray that we will be filled with "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) and that our most burdensome worries, concerns and anxieties will be calmed and diminished.

16 - Las Posadas ("The Inns"), a tradition observed in Latin America and in some congregations in our country, remembers and reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter just before the birth of Jesus. Give thanks for his birth and remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and people everywhere who are homeless and seek shelter, rest, sanctuary and hope.

17 - Living in the promise and reality of the new covenant God has made with us in Jesus Christ, remember in prayer the words of Isaiah: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:1-2).

18 - International Migrants Day Pray for our siblings who are refugee and immigrants around the world, in our country and at our borders. Ask the Spirit to fill us with generosity and renew our commitment to justice, compassion and empathy, recognizing both our unique needs and our common desire for safety and security, the best for our children and families, meaningful and life-sustaining employment, caring communities, opportunities to use our gifts and skills, and mutual acceptance and respect as children of God.

19 - Rejoice in God our Savior, who shows us love and mercy and attends to the needs of people who are poor, hungry, ill, neglected or excluded by society. Pray that God will work through us, using our unique gifts and passions to respond to, serve and embrace our neighbors in need while respecting their dignity.

20 - Katharina von Bora Luther (1499-1552) Remember and give thanks for the witness, leadership and service of women who help strengthen our faith, share the gospel, grow and provide leadership for the church, deepen our understanding of Scripture, and serve neighbors in need around the world.

21 - Winter solstice As the days get shorter in our hemisphere, pray for people of all ages who suffer depression and loneliness, especially during the holiday season; pray that they will be comforted and uplifted by their faith and the knowledge that God is ever-present and sees our suffering, loneliness and despair; and ask the Spirit to help us be attentive, caring and empathetic friends and siblings in Christ for one another.

22 - Pray that God will hear and attend to our every prayer — spoken or silent, individual or communal — and that God will restore us, strengthen our faith, guide our lives and help us respond to perplexing problems in our communities and the world.

23 - Let our prayers echo Mary's song of praise for God's power, presence and life-giving activity in the world, and for looking upon humanity with undeserved love and mercy and blessing us with the promised messiah, Jesus Christ.

24 - Christmas Eve What an awesome gift has been given to us in the birth of a tiny, unassuming baby — the son of God, our true Savior and the redeemer of the world. "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14)!

25- Christmas Day Sing and shout prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God for living among us in the person of Jesus to help us experience and understand the good news of God's saving grace, truth and amazing love for humankind and all creation. Again, we say, "Glory to God in the highest!"

26 - Pray that our life together in the church and as siblings in Christ will help us mature in faith, understand God's word and ways, face the challenges of daily life, serve our neighbor and be confident in inviting others to believe and have faith in Jesus.

27 - Kwanzaa begins this week. Give thanks to God for the richness and significance of the traditions, cultures, values, stories, faith and leadership of our siblings of African descent.

28 - Let us join earth and the heavens in praising God, from whom all things are brought into being and imbued with life and purpose.

29 - Pray that our lives will shine brightly with the love and mercy God has shown us, so that we are clear witnesses to the gospel and bold and unconstrained in serving our neighbors in need who yearn for hope, relief and good news.

30 - In a world where anger, vengeance, division, impatience and self-interest are all too familiar, pray that we embrace together the freedom, new self and purpose that we have received in baptism, so that we, too, will take to heart the words of encouragement Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love" (Colossians 3:12-14).

31 - New Year's Eve Give thanks that we are new creations in Jesus Christ and that we can begin each day of every year with hope, renewed faith and restored vision for the work that God calls us to do 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](mailto: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.*



*it's time to*

# *Deck the Halls*

Volunteers are  
needed to decorate  
Saturday  
December 4<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:30a.m.



Women of ELCA  
Christmas Meeting

## *Moving at the Pace of Grace*

December 6th at 7 PM  
New Hope Sanctuary

Let us gather together as the women of New Hope Lutheran to offer our prayers  
for each other and the greater concerns we hold in our hearts.

Ann Church will offer a short devotion - ***Embracing God's Grace.***

We encourage you to wear a favorite Christmas hat, crazy sweater or any  
Christmas attire! Or come in a white t-shirt. ***We just hope you will come!*** We  
will meet in the Sanctuary. Dessert will be served.

# 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](http://cluchristmastickets.com).



# COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DINNER DRIVE THRU



**12 NOON - 1:30 PM  
DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Temple Adat Elohim  
2420 East Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks**

***Right Turn ONLY into Parking Lot***

**All are welcome at our annual holiday turkey dinner.  
Dinner must be taken to-go; and unfortunately  
guests will not be able to gather onsite.**

**Pedestrians and Bicyclists accommodated  
No Restrooms Available  
Masks and Social Distancing Required**



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

Sue Koons fell and broke her wrist.

Del Hultgren fell and is recovering.

Dutch Schulze is recovering from a fracture of his lower vertebrae.

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, Susie and 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.



Dear New Hope family,

*We are so grateful for the love we have received from our New Hope family. The monetary gift, the individual blessings, personal gifts, the recorded messages, the texts and emails, the hugs and well wishes have touched us deeply. When we received the box in the mail we wept over this loving and generous outpouring. We opened letters and watched the messages over days, pacing it out. Somedays we got homesick, other times your messages provided the encouragement to move us*

*forward. The words "thank you" are only a shadow of the gratitude we feel for you all. Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to us. We feel loved, blessed, and are ever grateful!*

With love,  
Pastor Craig and Kristine Beeker



## Directory Update

Please make the following changes in your directory:

**Allison Barry**  
Oliver Edens  
31584 Foxglove Drive  
Westlake Village 91361

**Pastor Craig and Kristine Beeker**  
5932 176th Drive SE  
Snohomish, WA 98290

**Merylee Blair**  
629 Wilshire Place  
Newbury Park 91320



## 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.

Our next prayer shawl meeting is on Sunday, December 5th at 9:15 AM in the Amplify Room. Kathy Rogers has donated yarn for us to go through.



## 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. Soap - Liquid/Bar
10. Shaving Items



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](mailto: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.

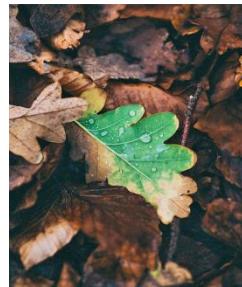
Contact Kathy Rogers for more information  
[kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com)



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.



## Godspeed and Farwell Tribute Videos for Pastor Craig

The recorded Godspeed & Farewell service for Pastor Craig and Kristine has been edited for improved viewing and to include additional content. A copy of this edited version along with an extended version of the Picture Video Tribute was included in the gift package that was sent to Pastor Craig earlier this month. These tribute videos have been posted to our website under the **GALLERIES & more** menu. A special thanks to Terry Paulson for creating these memorable tributes.

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](http://www.NewHopeAgoura.org/PRAYER-REQUEST) or contact the church office.

# 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](mailto: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



By Mail



Online

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

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

**Secure Giving** through  
our website using the  
**PayPal** donate option  
[NewHopeAgoura.org](http://NewHopeAgoura.org)



Electronically

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



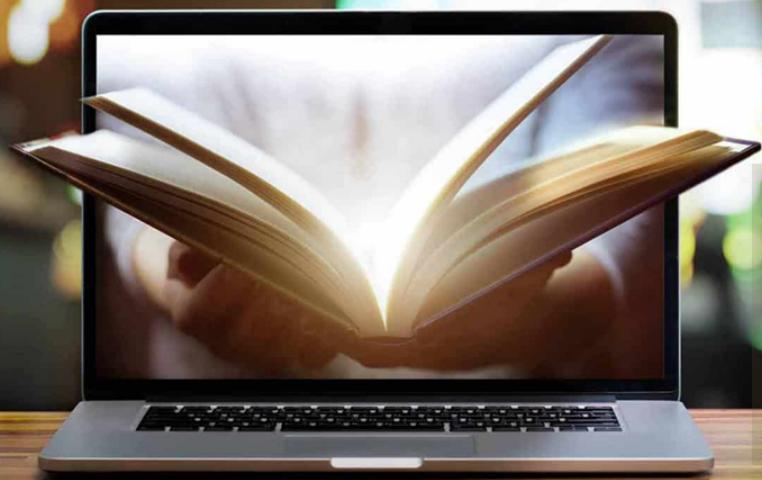
Volunteer

**Sharing Your Time  
& Talents**

If interested in  
serving, contact the  
church office for  
more information

Join us for our weekly online Bible Studies

Dig deeper in God's word with friends



See the weekly  
schedule on our  
website/ EVENTS  
CALENDAR



**DECEMBER 24TH**

**5:30 PM - Lessons and Carols Service**

**8:00 PM - Traditional Service with Holy Communion**



## December Birthdays

- 3 Jim Beauchemin
- 5 Vi Kemmerer
- 6 Shannon Mader
- 11 Mimi Beals
- 14 Laurie Scott
- 16 Nancy Kamali
- 20 Gail McGinnis
- 25 Holly Dolliver
- 26 Jerry Orefice
- 29 Sara King



## 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 January newsletter is December 26th. Be sure to email them to [gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com).*

Book Club is  
for...



...you!

The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, December 7th to discuss "The Dearly Beloved" by Cara Wall. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

February 1st - "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins

March 1st - "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson



## New Hope Lutheran Church

29295 Agoura Road

Agoura Hills, CA 91301

818-889-8700

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

