

# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

February, 2022

## **From Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty**

Hello family of faith at New Hope Lutheran Church,

Let me begin with a title, that evokes an image, which will lead us to a story. They are known as SHERPA's. These are the heavy lifters who help the hiking community ascend a variety of the world's tallest peaks. The recent Netflix movie called "14 Peaks" highlights the effort and raw will of Nimsdai Purja. Nimsdai set a goal to climb all of the world's peaks that exceed 8,000 meters or 26,246 feet. At that altitude air is thin, exhaustion is on the next breath, and annually out of each climbing team of 7 Sherpa's, one Sherpa will die on the slope. This is high risk. What made Nimsdai's effort unique is that he chose to accomplish this effort in a 7 month window where previously the record was 7 years.

It would mean that on many ascents you would be ascending and descending constantly during the day and all through the night. One set of 3 peaks were climbed in 2 days and 30 minutes. It was as if this set of climbers were jogging past other climbers coming and going.

In a word this is perseverance. The passionate effort to accomplish what others can hardly imagine. It is one foot after another, one day at a time, goals that are enormous but when divided into smaller bites, the end is attainable.

Perseverance.

In the religious community we call this faith. The determination, fortitude, and partnership to reach for that which we cannot yet imagine. In the Letter to the Hebrews the Apostle Paul writes, Hebrews 11:1 'Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we cannot see'. Perhaps we can begin to imagine ourselves as sherpas of the faith.

*We pray.*

*Holy One, divine Sherpa, as you carry our lives, stir in us a sure and certain hope in your love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.  
Amen*

May the peace of God be your peace.

*Pastor Scott*



## From the Deacon

It's been a longer journey than we thought it would be, but New Hope now has an interim minister. Pastor Scott Maxwell Doherty has his own newsletter article, so I'll let him introduce himself.

I didn't realize how much the last fourteen weeks had stressed me out until late in January. Getting ready for worship one Sunday, I was preparing Holy Communion and it dawned on me that I was whistling the hymn that the music team was practicing. Maybe that doesn't sound like much to you, but I'm an unconscious whistler...but only when I'm happy. It stopped me in my tracks, because I couldn't remember the last time I was whistling in the church building.

Now, I can get back to focusing on "Deacon stuff" like putting out Home Touch every week, calling people to check up on them, and working with the Small Group Ministry group. We've got a survey going on to find out how you feel about small group ministry. Want to put in your two cents worth? Click the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZBGYPZ> It only takes a few minutes, and we'll know what you want out of small group ministry.

In four weeks, it will be Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 2, and Pastor Scott and I are working on what that will look like this year for New Hope. Some things will be familiar, and some will be new and different. It will definitely be different from the last two Lenten seasons because for as much of it as possible we'll be together in physical space. We may still be wearing masks and doing a little distancing in the sanctuary. I don't know yet how much food fellowship we'll be doing. But we will be together.

Together and moving forward. Those are my words for New Hope right now. May they be yours as well.

Blessings,

*Deacon Lynn*



# CSVP Certified Volunteers Provide

## FREE TAX PREPARATION

In cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, trained and certified CSVP volunteers will provide FREE income tax preparation for persons in either of these categories:

- Seniors 60 years of age or older (any income level) OR
- Persons with an income of \$57,000 or less, regardless of age



**Conejo Creek South Community Building**  
1350 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, 91362

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays, and Fridays

Tuesday, February 1 - Friday, April 15, 2022

8:30am - 4:00pm

(MONDAYS, 8:30AM - 12:30PM  
SPANISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE)

**Newbury Park Library**

2331 Borchard Rd., Thousand Oaks, 91320

WEDNESDAYS ONLY

Wednesday, February 2 -

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

10:00am - 4:00pm

**No appointments taken - First-come, first-served basis. Please read all information.  
Adhering to County of Ventura COVID-19 Guidelines, Masks Required.**

### WHAT TO BRING

- For married filing joint, both spouses must be present
- Photo identification
- Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number documents for you, your spouse, and dependents
- Birth dates for you, spouse, and dependents
- A copy of last year's Federal and State tax return
- All Forms W-2, 1098, and 1099
- Interest and dividend statements (1099 INT; 1099 DIV; 1099B)
- Form 1095-A (Marketplace Health Insurance)
- Other relevant information on income, expenses, deductions
- Information for all deductions/credits
- Total paid to day care provider and their tax ID number
- Bank Routing numbers for direct deposit
- For prior year returns, copies of income transcripts from IRS if Form W-2 not available

### WILL PREPARE

- Wages, salaries, etc. (Form W-2)
- Interest Income (Form 1099-INT)
- Dividends Received (Form 1099-DIV)
- State Tax Refunds (Form 1099-G)
- Unemployment Benefits (Form 1099-G)
- IRA Distributions (Form 1099-R)
- Pension Income (Forms 1099-R, CSA-1099)
- Social Security Benefits (Form SSA-1099)
- Capital Gain/Loss (Form 1099-B)
- Sale of Home (Form 1099-S)
- Self-employed Income (Form 1099-MISC)
- Gambling Winnings (Form W-2G)
- Cancellation of Debt (Form 1099-C)
- Health Savings Accounts (Form 1099-SA)
- Itemized Deductions
- Education Credits (Form 1098-T)
- Child Tax Credit
- Earned Income Credit
- Health Insurance Statements (Forms 1095-A, B or C)
- Prior Year and Amended Returns
- Business income/expenses for Schedule C (ONLY if there is a profit and expenses are under \$35,000; no home use, inventory, or depreciation)

### WILL NOT PREPARE

- Schedule E (No Rentals)
- No out-of-state-returns
- No married filing separate returns

For more information, contact CSVP at 805.381.2742 or [csvp@crpd.org](mailto:csvp@crpd.org)



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

Pastor Craig and his family on the death of his dad, Dick.

Nancy Rowe fell and broke her humerus in several places.

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, Kara Henkel, Del Hultgren, Sue Koons, Joyce Lawson, 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, Dutch Schulze, Madelyn and Stan Swope, Jane Taschereau, Rose Topliss, Susie and Fred Turner, Britt Tsumpes and Ralph Zbrog.

Prayers for our servicemen - Gerren Blair, Taylor Blair, Heather Brown, Keith Brown, Patrick Clohessy, Cynthia Colby, Jonah Hershman, Kyle McCarley, Ikenna Olelewe, and Jason Retter.



## Directory Update

Please make the following changes in your directory:

### **Mimi Beals**

344 Charles Street #12  
Moorpark 93021

### **Merylee Blair**

805-490-1867 - cell

### **Tim and Amra Neal**

#### **Stella and Harper**

108 Shady Grove Lane  
Thousand Oaks 91361



## 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, February 6th at 9:15 AM in the Amplify Room. They will not be meeting in January.



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)



## Thanks for your help!

Once again we had a very dedicated ambitious group helping with our Christmas take-down.

Many, many thanks to Linda and Kevin Barry, Calvin Beeker, John Bell, Lynn and Joe Bullock, Marsha and Steve Chew, Oliver Edens, Mary Ann and Lou Fiore, Jerry Orefice, Laurie Paulson and Laurie Scott. Forgive me if I left anyone out. Our team took everything down and put away in under an hour!

With much appreciation,

Karen Orefice



## New Hope's CROP Walk

New Hope has decided to do our own CROP Walk. Instead of participating in the one at CLU, we will instead meet at a park, walk, enjoy lunch and social time. So mark your calendar for Saturday, March 5th at a local park - more details later as to which park and the time. Bring your walking shoes to walk and a bagged lunch for yourself. You can collect donations for CROP Walk and bring them that day. If you just want to come and socialize and not walk, that's OK as well. Hope to see you there.

## New Hope Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund

The New Hope Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund was established in 2017 to support local and global mission work, above and beyond that supported via the church budget. Council approved the Committee's recommendation to fund three grants this year to ELCA Good Gifts (matching the congregation's Cash for Cows fundraiser), LRCC's Luther Glen Farm and to Natalie Larkin in support of her seminary education. We are also evaluating one more proposal. If you have any questions about the Endowment, ask any member of the committee (Gail Beeker, Joe Bullock, Moeed Khan, Andrew Mansmann, or Wayne Rickert).



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

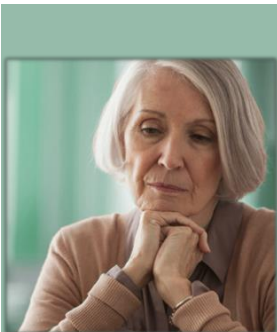
Your personal message will be included in our worship service announcements and the arrangement is yours to take following our service.



Whether you are joining our worship service online or in-person, your worship bulletin is just a click away on your phone or other device.

A link is included in our **Weekly Connection Newsletter** and is also available on our website homepage at:

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



You are not alone!

How can we pray for you today?

Prayer requests can be shared through our website and by contacting the church office:  
818.889.8700

[www.NewHopeAgoura.org](http://www.NewHopeAgoura.org) **PRAYER-REQUEST**

New Hope in the New Year

## New Member Class

You are invited to become a member of New Hope Church. It's an easy process of attending a class to receive information about the history of our church and our mission for the future. Interested? Sign up on our website or contact Laurie Scott by email to: [laurie@newhopeagoura.com](mailto:laurie@newhopeagoura.com).

Our New Member class will be scheduled as the COVID-19 risk improves.



## 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

**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



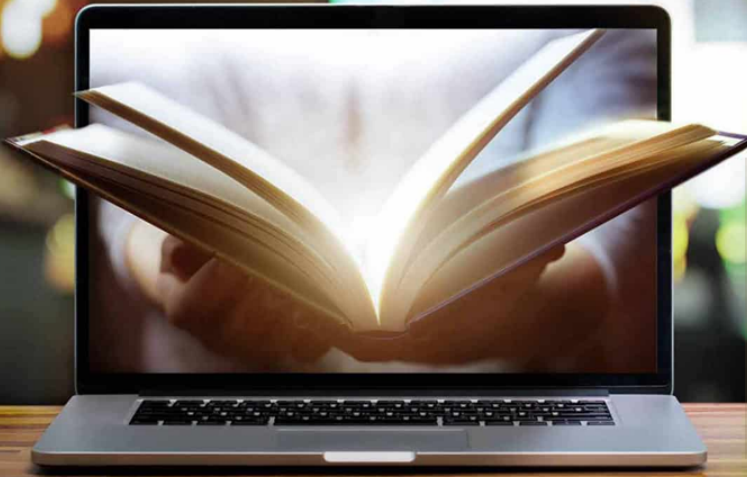
Volunteer

**Sharing Your Time  
& Talents**

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

Join us for our weekly online Bible Studies

Dig deeper in God's word with friends



See the weekly  
schedule on our  
website/ **EVENTS  
CALENDAR**

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### **MANNA FOOD PANTRY**

**With 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**





19 Levitt Blair  
22 Hannah Mader  
23 Natalie Larkin



## February Birthdays

4 Bonnie Schulze  
5 Uche Olelewe  
Kate Powledge  
Calvin Beeker  
7 Roger Niebolt  
8 Carol Mansmann  
9 Andrew Mansmann  
Allison Barry  
11 Brianna Hershman  
14 Elizabeth Sauger  
15 Irene Bright  
18 Jameson Blair  
Kyle and Logan  
Ashamallah



## 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 daytime Book Club will meet at 11:45 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, February 1st to discuss "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

April 5th - "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig

*The deadline for all articles for the March newsletter is February 21st. Be sure to email them to [gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com).*

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