

newhope *news*

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

June, 2022

From Pastor Scott

These are hard days across the landscape of America and our church.

During 41 years of parish ministry I have often looked around the various worshipping communities I have served and wondered, "What are they thinking right now? Where have their memories taken them? What parts of the worship are triggers that send them out of the sanctuary for the moment? Where are their hearts moved?"

Recently Deacon Lynn preached on THOSE THREE WORDS....love one another. She preached this in front of a backdrop of mass murder in Buffalo, New York at a grocery store, racial bias spoken by too many elected officials, the emerging and reprehensible conversations around replacement theory, and by the end of that day more shootings at a Presbyterian Church targeting Taiwanese Christians.

It will be, for some, easy to gather up shattered lives, the grieving, the dismissed and segregated, victims, heartaches, and dead, offer our thoughts and prayers we will yearn for a better day when hatred does not dominate the cultural landscape.

BUT...but our call to love one another does not end with victims, families, the broken and alienated. No, our call, as profoundly difficult as this sounds, is to love one another which includes the perpetrators and those who speak in favor of a 'supremist' mentality, or those who choose to live 'higher up' on an imaginary race based ladder.

Truthfully, I struggle with a God who asks me to love one another. I like thinking that I know what is right, who is right, and who is wrong, who is worthy of my love and who is not. My own self-righteousness sometimes leads the way and with that....it is not too many steps down the path I find myself in the ditch of an elevated self-esteem. It is a ditch from which I cannot extricate myself.

On the day of my ordination I vividly recall responding to several questions. The questions all had the same response. The response; "YES, BY THE HELP OF GOD." In so many ways it is ONLY by the help of God that my elevated self-esteem is suspended and I am reminded of my place as a child of God, forgiven, redeemed, with a mandate to love one another, and to do so unconditionally.

I join you as together we, day by day, amek a concerted effort to love one another, and to do so unconditionally. This is the hard work of following Christ.

Pastor Scott

From the Deacon

It feels like a very long time that we've been in the process of grieving Pastor Craig's leaving and figuring out as a congregation what comes next. Really, though, it's just been eight months. In the "big picture" that's not very long, especially for a congregation that's been around 52 years.

In those eight months we've made it through most of the big festivals of the church year, and as I write this Pentecost is two weeks away. Celebrating the breath of the Spirit blowing through the church will feel different this year. Since October:

- We've worshiped together in person for all but four weeks of the year, planning services, and working our way back to Holy Communion with "regular" elements including Hawaiian sweet bread and individual cups of wine or grape juice.
- Made a timeline of the congregation beginning with its formation in 1970 on up to the present and have shared a lot of our stories for that whole time.
- Formed a Transition Team, filled out a Ministry Site Profile, got our congregational council to approve it, and also by the time you read this, submitted it to the Synod and churchwide organizations, starting the search for our new pastor.
- To make that search possible, a Call Committee of seven has been formed. They will be handling the search and keeping the rest of us informed. At this point in the process, I will not know anything more than the rest of you do, as the deacon's role is not one in leadership for the new pastor search.

One of the many things the Transition Team got to put together is a 75-word description of just who we are:

"New Hope is a 50-year-old congregation in a small city near Los Angeles, CA. Weekly worship attendance at our single liturgical Sunday service is about 100 people (hybrid). The majority of worshipers are white adults age 50 and over. We seek a senior pastor to partner with our deacon and members for vibrant worship, faithful service to the community, connection with over 25 recovery groups that use our building, and ecumenical and interfaith outreach."

This will be the snapshot description that will go out, especially to those who might be interested outside of Southern California. Continue to pray for our new pastor, wherever and whoever they are.





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

Tom Beddingfield is recovering from a bicycle accident.

Matt Cowden is home from his hospital stay.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Floyd Bealer, Evelyn Colby, Sandy Cowden, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Eilene and Bob Green, Sandy Hansen, Kara Henkel, 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.

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.



Thank you to everyone for all the beautiful cards and flowers. The out pouring of love I felt when you sang Happy Birthday to me and served the cake was wonderful. Thanks to all my friends and members at New Hope.
Evelyn Colby



Dear friends,

I need a break. June 20th will mark one year since we went back to hybrid services and welcomed worshipers back into the building. I've been part of the team that did all

of this, from planning to execution, to keeping it going. Then, after about three months of that, Pastor Craig announced his new call and things got more complicated. Since then I've had two five-day vacations, but did some work during each of them.

From June 20th through July 6th I will be taking that break. I won't be answering my email more than once a day, and I'm going to attempt to stay off social media. Pastor Scott will be handling the pastoral care needs of the congregation, barring a real emergency. Gail McGinnis will be handling prayer chain.

Some things that I normally do just won't be getting done in those sixteen days. I won't be attending Bible study or helping to plan worship. If Home Touch goes out in those three weeks, it will be a shortened version put together by volunteers.

Thank you for your understanding in allowing me this break. It's necessary for me to assess my future at this important time for New Hope. I hope to come back refreshed and ready for what comes next.

Blessings,
Deacon Lynn



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.

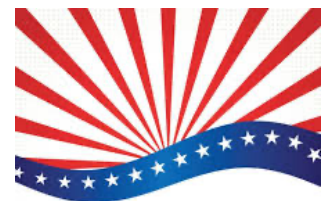
Our next prayer shawl meeting is on Sunday, June 5th at 9:15 AM in the Amplify Room.



Clean Out Day

It's time to spruce up New Hope so that we can make it welcoming for a new pastor. As you all know first impressions are very important. We don't want a good candidate to have any negative feelings when they tour our facility. There are a few areas that need decluttering such as the Sacristy Room, Youth Room, Library and Pastor's office. So on Saturday, June 18th we are going to tidy up New Hope. Many hands make a light load so come out and help. Stay tuned for the time of day. We will know more details after June 12th. We need YOU!

Thanks,
Gary McGinnis



MEMORIAL DAY

Remember those who served



Social Ministry



- A huge thanks to all who contributed to the Baskets for Refugees service project by Women's Interfaith Network! About 158 welcome baskets with household/personal needs were assembled for our Afghani-Ukrainian brothers and sisters who arrive with nothing. Thanks to Mary Ann and Lou Fiore and Gail McGinnis plus our outstanding coordinator, Debbie Martin, for a great response.

- Our next Laundrylove will be on June 7th from 4-7:00 PM at our Thousand Oaks site. We will begin needing some volunteers in July as it will be our turn to host. Please see me if you would like to help (it's simple!)

- Meals program is Monday, June 20th. Please see me if you can help heat entrees!

- This summer we will start resupplying our Social Ministry program funds. You can donate to Laundrylove or the Meals program by any method on our website. Please indicate which program you would like to help!

As always, your generosity and kindness to help our brothers and sisters in our community, nation, and world is amazing and humbling. My deepest thanks! Merylee Blair



A Salute to Our Troops



Please join others on Saturday, June 11th at 1 PM at the Janss Marketplace by the fountain near Buca di Beppo's, where we will be celebrating the men and women who protect this country's freedom. Hero's Park, located in the grass area in the Janss Marketplace, will be filled with flags bearing the names of loved military personnel who currently serve, those who are veteran's and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Recognize a military loved one, family member, neighbor, or friend. Honor them by purchasing a flag for \$25 personalized with their name, rank, service. Flags will be placed in Hero's Park beginning June 11th through June 14th. Afterwards, the flag can be picked up at the ASA store. Your donation will also include a care package to which you may add a personalized message to our troops. To order a flag, look for the order form at church this Sunday. More information is on the order form.

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. Any food you can donate is appreciated.

NEW SMALL GROUPS

Several topical small groups of 10 -12 people started in May. Each group is open to anyone interested in participating. Sign up after worship, online, or with the facilitator. Contact the group facilitator for more information. If a topic interests you but the meeting time doesn't work, please let the facilitators know. If there is enough interest, another group may be started.

Sermon Seeds

This group will nurture and grow the messages from the weekly Gospel reading and the Sunday Sermon. You will explore thought provoking questions and apply them to current events and personal life experiences. Sermon Seeds will meet at the Fiore home on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 10:30 AM - 12 noon. A light lunch will be provided after the session.

Facilitated by Mary Ann Fiore (805-559-4380, thefiores@hotmail.com) and Mary Gallagher (818-464-6646, marygallagher@yahoo.com)

Taste of Grace

Do you want to deepen your relationship with God and others? This group will emphasize ways to experience the presence of God in a variety of spiritual practices. You will get a 'taste' of different and perhaps new ways to relate to the Divine. Contemplative practices will include Centering Prayer, Lectio Divino, walking the labyrinth, mindfulness, and the Daily Examen. The group will meet twice a month on Thursday or Friday for 90 minutes, beginning at 2 or 4 PM (the group will decide)

Facilitated by Natalie Larkin (805-816-3261, natalielarkin55@gmail.com) and Marsha Chew (805-501-9826, chewscmc@gmail.com)

Social Ministry

The Bible says we are to care for our neighbors and those in need. This small group will study the Biblical call to serve, and learn about the needs in our community and the groups who are trying to help. The group will also actively engage in a service project at least quarterly. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3 PM.

Facilitated by Karen Ingram (805-390-9298, ksuingram@earthlink.net) and Lynn Bulock (805-405-5453, lynn@newhopeagoura.com)

Get to Know the ELCA

Do you want to learn more about the church body to which New Hope Lutheran belongs? This group will explore the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), it's structure, ministry, and social statements. Reading will be done outside of the small group, which will meet once a month for 90 minutes for discussion. Participants will decide the meeting day, time and format (in person or hybrid). Facilitated by Karen Ingram.



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



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 **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.

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

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



CONGRATULATIONS!

Kyle Ashmallah will graduate from Westlake High School and will be attending Purdue University this fall and will study Aerospace Engineering.

Logan Ashmallah will graduate from Westlake High School and will attend Cal Poly Pomona this fall to study Computer Science.

Zac Beeker graduated Cum Laude from California State University, Fullerton with a Bachelor of Arts in Music in Music Education - Choral Education. He is staying at CSFullerton for a teaching credential program. *We are grateful for the support and care this community of faith has given Zac. You've shaped his life in a million ways. We celebrate you as he reaches this milestone event. Gratefully, The Beekers*

Natalie Larkin graduated from Seminary at Berkeley this past weekend.

Zack Niebolt graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. He has started work at Ark Malibu, an investment bank in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Godspeed to our High School Graduates

We will be having a Godspeed for our high school graduates at the 10:00am worship on **June 12, 2022:**

-Kyle Ashmallah

-Logan Ashmallah

At that time, we will be presenting each of them with a lap quilt to remind them that their church cares for them and continues to pray for them. We hope this reminder of their church home will help keep New Hope Lutheran Church and Christ in the front of their minds.

These quilts have been put together with ties (threads) to hold them together. **You can help by knotting one of these ties with a double knot and saying a prayer for the graduates as they take this important next step in their lives.** If you do not see an untied thread, tie another knot on one already tied.

Thank you to Gail McGinnis and Alison Rowe for their time, effort and artistry in creating these quilts. We appreciate it!



June Birthdays

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

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



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, June 7th to discuss "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

July 5th - "The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World" by Laura Imai Messina

August 2nd - "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich

The deadline for all articles for the July newsletter is June 25th. Be sure to email them to gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com.

New Hope Lutheran Church
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