



newhope *news*

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

August, 2022

FROM PASTOR SCOTT MAXWELL-DOHERTY

Truth

I remember like it was yesterday getting caught in a lie. My next door neighbor named Chuck needed a lot of assistance in riding a bike, throwing and catching, mowing a lawn, and printing that was legible. His dad traveled the world for Lockheed Space and Missiles and was frequently out of town. His mom thought he needed a 'male' figure to teach him some of the essential childhood elements. So, I did. We spent hours together, wondering, learning, drawing, painting, and riding a bike.

In one moment of confidence Chuck volunteered to be a LEAD in his elementary school play. Mind you this was a child with some learning disabilities, memory challenges, and verbal hiccups (his words). But, as he said to me, "Why not, what have I got to lose."

The day of the school play I was told where to go and when. I didn't. Why? It doesn't matter. There are no worthy excuses.

The next day his mom showed up to chat with me. She was a southern woman who had a drawl that exuded emotion. "You were not there," she said. I flailed about with "I couldn't get into the room," or "I missed the time," or "I got caught on the wrong day." I reeled off a hundred excuses. She said, "I'll hear none of this. You told my son you would be there and you were not. You owe him an apology."

She was right. I was wrong. I had been trapped in my lies.

From John 8:31 - *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Years later, Chuck and I had a reckoning of the truth. The conversation was about what I had done, what he had hoped for, and what we wanted as an outcome. We agreed, and I confessed, that I had lied and screwed up. He acknowledged that he had hoped I would be there and was seriously disappointed and thus trust was broken.

And where are we now? He and I chat frequently, we remember often, we retell the child stories of pain and joy. What surfaces is that the TRUTH sets us free.

I encourage you to set TRUTH loose. Call it out. Own it. Embrace it....even as it is uncomfortable. The truth sets us free. Pastor Scott

FROM DEACON LYNN

It's been good to start celebrating New Hope/Westlake Lutheran Church's 50th anniversary as a congregation. Now there's a very important "Save the Date" to put on your calendar.

One of the first things our transition team did to prepare for having a new pastor, and for having a Call Committee, was to put together a timeline of the church's history. Our story started in 1970, when Pastor Bob Lawson was given the okay to start forming another Lutheran church in the Conejo Valley area.

By 1972 Westlake Lutheran Church had been formed officially, and Pastor Bob called as their first pastor. When putting together the timeline, we found two things:

- Our anniversary year ought to go from May of 2022 to April of 2023 to add in all the important dates of the founding of the congregation.
- Many of those famous firsts took place on the shore of the lake in Westlake Village.

After looking at all of this, it seemed fitting to plan our "big event" to close out our anniversary year so that it, too, would be lakeside. Mark your calendar now for **Sunday, April 23, 2023**, for a worship service and luncheon at the Westlake Village Yacht Club from 9 am to 1 pm that day.

We'll be using both the inside of the Yacht Club (next to Bocaccio's Restaurant) and their private patio on the lake front. By then we will have a new pastor to help lead the service, and we'll bring back as many of the folks who are important to the congregation's history as possible.

Special thanks to Chris Chigaridas, whose sponsorship of the event as a Yacht Club member allows us to have the member price for the event, and to Leila Mader for helping facilitate planning for the event.





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

Alison Rowe and Tom Beddingfield on the death of Tom's mom, Betty.

The Green family on the death of Bob.

Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Artinian, Floyd Bealer, Tom Beddingfield, Evelyn Colby, Sandy and Matt Cowden, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, 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, Madelyn and Stan Swope, Jane Taschereau, Rose Topliss, Susie and Fred Turner.

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



We rejoice with Tom LaVanne on the birth of his first grandchild. Parker Joseph was born on June 29th and he weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20.5" long. Proud parents are Christine and Zach.

"Love yourself first and everything else falls into line. You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world."

"Lucille Ball"



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, August 7th at 9:15 AM in the Amplify Room.

Church Duties

If you are not signed up to help at our worship service and would like to, we would love to have your help. Just get in touch with Gail McGinnis (gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com or 805-523-7884) and she will sign you up. Duties are greeter, usher, reader, communion assistant, altar care and goodies. You usually only have to do it every three month.

For those that are signed up, please remember to mark your calendars when it is your turn or if the date doesn't work out for you that you are assigned, please switch with someone and let Laurie Scott know. Your reminder is on the Friday email from Laurie. Thanks to those that help out each Sunday.



Social Justice Small Group

Are you looking for a safe place to discuss social issues? Do you wonder what the Bible says about caring for our neighbors? Are you interested in advocating for those who can't speak for themselves? If so, the Social Justice Small Group invites you to join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 1:30 - 3 PM. We have room for 4 more members. Zoom: 470 414 4576. We'd love to see you on August 10th and 24th.

Karen Ingram

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 two additional grants this year to the Japan Orphan English Education [JOEE, sponsored by Sandy Cowden) and the Mana Deschisa's Ukraine Refugee Program in Romania (sponsored by Susie and Fred Turner). The next proposal review cycle will begin in the fall. If you have any questions about the Endowment, ask any member of the committee (Gail Beeker, Joe Bulock, 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.



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



We don't want you to miss out on all that is going on at **New Hope Church!**

If you haven't been receiving our weekly **Connection Newsletter** - sign-up today: at the **CONTACT US** menu on our website:

www.NewHopeAgoura.org

Be sure to check out our **Facebook** page too for updated announcements:

www.facebook.com/

NewHopeLutheran

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



August Birthdays

- 3 Dutch Schulze
- 4 Marsha Chew
- 5 Jack Powledge
Debbie Martin
- 6 Joan Looman
- 10 Tom Powledge
Scott Ash
- 17 Joe Bulock
- 18 Stan Fisher
- 19 Tom Beddingfield
- 23 Leila Mader
- 24 Alison Rowe
Sandy Hansen
- 25 Faith David



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, August 2nd to discuss "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

September 6th - "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich

October 4th - "The Widow of the South" by Robert Hicks

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

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