

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

September, 2022

FROM PASTOR SCOTT MAXWELL-DOHERTY

A dear friend of mine is a life coach, management analyst, and a well studied theologian. She weaves all of these together as she assists 'church folks' analyze their churches, review their position descriptions, and wonder what God is calling them to do next.

She does all of this under the umbrella of 'defining by doing'. In short she coaches people into what is next through the action of practice. While we'd like to believe that practice makes perfect (it doesn't) instead practice makes a way for 'the next' to happen.

I believe this is what Jesus was doing as He sent the disciples out to share the good news of God. He sent them two by two to practice.

Each and every Sunday we gather to worship together. We engage in something called 'liturgy.' Liturgy is the work of the people, the practice of praying, singing, listening, sharing, and pondering the presence of God. It takes practice.

I like practicing with all of you.

Pastor Scott

practice
makes
progress

FROM DEACON LYNN

Thanks to all who have been joining us for worship, either in person or online during our 10 am livestream on Sunday morning, or by watching us on YouTube on New Hope's channel ([youtube/user/newhopeagoura](https://www.youtube.com/user/newhopeagoura).) Our combined in-person and online attendance each week is between 90 and 100 folks.

Several things we've added to services lately to make things more helpful or welcoming in the sanctuary:

- Coming up to the front for communion is working well. We offer Hawaiian sweet bread or a gluten-free option, and wine or grape juice. Individual sealed serving packets are available for those who desire.
- Red ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) Hymnals are back out in the sanctuary in addition to the words of all songs, hymns, and liturgy being displayed on the screen in front.
- Six round tables, each having at least one chair with arms, are available at the sides of the sanctuary for those with mobility challenges. Rows of "regular" seating are always available as well.
- Our Playground for small children is now relocated to the back right (pulpit) side of the sanctuary. There is a soft rug, small chairs and table, appropriate toys that make no noise, and chairs nearby for adults.
- Hearing assistance headsets are charged and available at the sound booth. These work for anyone with or without hearing aids.
- We now have a tablet available for folks with low vision. On it are all of the words each week that are on screen, including the words to all liturgy and hymns/songs in a very-large-print format. If you need such a tablet, OR you would like to sponsor another one for the visually impaired, speak with Laurie Scott.

Blessings,

Deacon Lynn





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

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.



Please make the following change in your directory.

Jeanette King
76 Honeycomb Lane
Bellingham, WA 98229



Baby Grand Piano needs a new Home

Gerda and Gene Sawaya are looking for a new home for their black baby grand piano. It is in good condition but needs to be tuned. If you are interested in having this, please contact Gerda at 805-499-4524 or 805-657-6876.



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, October 2nd at 9:15 AM in the Amplify Room. We will not meet September 4th - Labor Day weekend.



I know for some the call process seems to be taking forever. I want to remind all of us that this isn't a job interview where there's an interview, references are checked, a job is offered, and a start date is set. Pastors and congregations are partners in God's ministry. God has a plan for New Hope's ministry in the Conejo Valley. We trust that God has someone in mind. We know the Holy Spirit is working with and through the Call Committee to discern God's will. Does this Candidate share our vision? Do

they have the skills needed to grow our ministries? The Candidate is also listening to the Holy Spirit to discern whether or not New Hope is where they're being called to serve. Do their gifts and passions match our needs and vision? Our interviews become conversations as we get to know each other and explore our visions of ministry to see (discern) if this partnership is God's will. Your prayers are felt and appreciated.

Yours in Christ,
Karen Ingram, Chair



Your Vote Matters

Voting is one of the hallmarks of a democracy. It is a privilege that citizens of some countries wish they had. So why do so many Americans fail to vote? In the June primary only 27% of Ventura County registered voters did so. In Los Angeles County it was 28%. The Social Justice Small Group is hosting an information session on Saturday, September 17th from 10 - 11:30 AM in our church sanctuary to discuss voting - why it's important and why your vote matters. Congresswoman Julia Brownley has been invited to speak with us. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend or neighbor. If you can't come in person, this will be Zoomed. If you are planning on Zooming, please contact Deacon Lynn (lynn@newhopeagoura.com) or Karen Ingram (ksuingram@earthlink.net) and they will get you the Zoom number.

Social Ministry

As we progress from summer to fall this month, our Social Ministries moves forward. Thanks to everyone who has helped keep our ministries in action. I do need volunteers for the Conejo Meals Program. Heating entrees and taking them to the program site (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church) is falling upon the same few folks every month. It is incredibly easy as there is nothing to prepare. If you can turn on your oven and put the entrees in, you're a great candidate! Please step up and give us a hand !

Here is a rundown of our fall and Holiday ministry schedule:

Conejo Meals Program - 3rd Monday of each month - September 19th, October 17th, November 21st and December 19th

Laundrylove - last Tuesday of each month - September 27th, October 25th, November 29th, and December 27th

Annual Holiday Gift Cards for kids of our sister church Prince of Peace Houston and Harbor House Adopt a Family - October 15th thru November 15th

Lutheran Good Gifts - donations of animals thru Good Gifts for folks overseas to be self sustaining communities - November 30th thru December 31st

Thanks for all you do in so many ministries this year! The need is so great and I am deeply grateful for your support!

Merylee Blair

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





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

Stillpoint, The Center for Christian Spirituality

offers program that focus on deepening one's relationship with God.

There are two upcoming programs that may be of interest to you.

For more information, or to sign up, visit their website at: <https://stillpointca.org/wisdom-in-practice>

2022 - 2023

Stillpoint

WISDOM IN PRACTICE

AN INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNITY

You are invited to join a community of seekers in a uniquely curated 9-month online experience of learning that incorporates the teachings of wisdom guides, transformational readings, small groups reflections and guided spiritual practices.

LEARN MORE HERE



STILLPOINTCA.ORG/WISDOM-IN-PRACTICE

Explore the spiritual practices of

**PRESENCE
COMPASSION
GRATITUDE**

Be enlightened by Native American spiritual teachings with Dr. Casey Church



Explore The Wisdom of Wild Grace with Christina Valters-Paintner

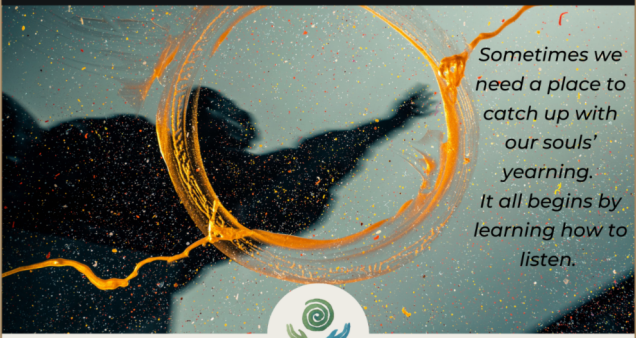


Reflect on the writings of contemplative mystics including Howard Thurman




BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2022

DISCERNMENT PRACTICE FORMATION



Sometimes we need a place to catch up with our souls' yearning. It all begins by learning how to listen.



SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

In-person & Online

The Journey is an eight-month exploration of your spiritual life in a small group setting, deeply enriching your relationship with The Divine and helping you recognize the ways that God/Spirit is present and working in your life.

Discern the next steps on your spiritual journey

Explore contemplative ways of paying attention

Beginning September 2022

PASADENA
LONG BEACH
SANTA BARBARA
ONLINE-BIPOC
ONLINE

Practice the art of deep listening

Spiritual formation in small group community

Join us!

WAYS
to 
GIVE

Thank you for
supporting the work
of newhope
Lutheran Church



In Person

An offering plate is available at all in-person worship services.



By Mail

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



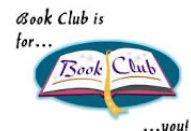
Online

Secure Giving through our website using the PayPal donate option NewHopeAgoura.org



Volunteer

Sharing Your Time & Talents
If interested in serving, contact the church office for more information



September Birthdays

- 1 Suzie Frye
- 2 Dixie Burton
- 5 Sharon Pryor
- 8 Kevin Barry
- 15 Kathy Ham
- 16 Mary Gallagher
- 17 Moeed Khan
- 18 Phyllis Rickert
- Debbie Chigaridas
- 19 Bailey Hershman
- 24 Chris Fisher
- 27 Lou Fiore

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

Congregational Meeting

***Join us in person or by
Zoom after service on
Sunday, September 26th***

The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, September 6th to discuss "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

November 8th - "A Most Beautiful Thing" by Arshay Cooper

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

New Hope Lutheran Church

29295 Agoura Road

Agoura Hills, CA 91301

818-889-8700

www.NewHopeAgoura.org

