

# newhope *news*

*Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills*

October, 2022

## FROM PASTOR SCOTT MAXWELL-DOHERTY

At New Hope Lutheran Church, Sunday after Sunday, hands reach out to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the simple and organic elements of bread and wine/grape juice, we hold Jesus in our hands and taste forgiveness and redemption.

Hands. Over the last few years, my hands look like my mom's hands or my dad's hands. Sun spots, scars, arthritic. Strong. Gentle. They can get filthy dirty and with a generous scrubbing, they clean up nicely.

Hands. Folded in prayer. Hugging my wife. Holding my kid's faces. Petting the house dog. Using a sanding block to smooth rough surfaces. Flipping burgers on the grill.

Hands. Dialing the phone to connect with family and friends. Waving to my neighbors. Harvesting the last of season's tomato's. Stitching that button back onto the shirt. Tapping on my steering wheel imitating the drum beat of a favorite song. Applauding those who have had an impact on my life and ministry.

Hands.  
These are gifts from God.  
Hands needed to serve the needs of many.  
Hands open to welcome the stranger.  
Hands holding hope.

Consider the impact of your hands.  
These are gifts from God.

Pastor Scott



## FROM DEACON LYNN

If New Hope's story was a movie, the caption to this section would read One year later...

We are now one year into our journey of the next thing happening and there are many important dates in October:

- October 3: a congregational letter will go out introducing the person the Call Committee recommends as New Hope's new pastor.
- October 8: a meet-and-greet will be held at church with our new pastor. Come between 9:30-11 am and have a cup of coffee, maybe a snack, and get to know our potential new pastor.
- October 16 at 11:15 am after worship. Come to a congregational meeting called for the purpose of hearing more about our new pastor and voting to approve the Call Committee's recommendation.

We have been blessed every part of the way in this journey with the presence of good people, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Many thanks to a Transition Team that listened to people tell their story and work out a Ministry Site Profile for New Hope. That not only led to a site profile, but also a fifty-two-year timeline of how Westlake Lutheran-New Hope has grown and developed. This will be helpful in the celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary which will culminate in a celebration in April 2023. (Just another of the important countdowns to be held in the year ahead.

Blessings,

Deacon Lynn





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

Sandy Hansen fell and broke her arm and is home recovering.

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 Alyssa and Brett Taylor on the birth of Evan Matthew. He was born on September 22nd and weighed 6 lbs. 20 oz. and was 20 1/2" long. Big brother is Jordan. Proud grandparents are John and Linda Leland and great aunt, Lorie Paulson, and great uncle, Terry Paulson.



## 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.



## Social Ministry

Welcome to Fall! As we approach this season in Social Ministry, our yearly gift card fundraiser for Harbor House adopt-a-Family and Prince of Peace Houston's Children will get underway later in October. We have been supporting both groups for quite a while. Our congregation has been so generous to make sure the children of our sister church, Prince of Peace and families of Harbor House have a gift for Christmas. The need is greater this year. Thank you for your love and care for these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Many, many thanks for your response to our request for help heating entrees for the Meals Program. I am very grateful! Next Meal Program - October 17th.

Blessings to all!  
Merylee Blair



Come meet our candidate for pastor on Saturday, October 8th between 9:30 - 11:00 AM.

A congregational meeting is scheduled for October 16th immediately after our worship service for the purpose of which will be to authorize a call to the candidate for pastor.

We have been blessed every part of the way in this journey with the presence of good people, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Many thanks to a Transition Team that listened to people tell their story and work out a Ministry Site Profile for New Hope and the call committee for their work to vet the prospective candidates.

Tom LaVanne  
Council President

*"Each day comes to me with both hands full of possibilities."*

- Helen Keller

*"It's not what we have in our life but who we have in our life that counts."*

- J.M. Lawrence

*"People who wonder whether the glass is half full miss the point. The glass is refillable."*

- Guidepost



## Voter Registration

Dr. Herbert Gooch, CLU Professor Emeritus Political Science, gave a presentation on September 17<sup>th</sup> on 'Why Your Vote Matters.' Voting is one of the fundamental principles of democracy, yet fewer than 27% of registered voters in Ventura County and 28% in Los Angeles County voted in the June primary. New Hope's Social Justice small group wants to encourage everyone to participate in our democratic process and vote. If you have moved, changed your name or if you want to change parties you must complete a registration form. There are some Ventura County registration forms on the back table in the sanctuary in case you or someone you know needs to register for the November 8, 2022 elections.



## Confused by Ballot Propositions?

Once again Californians are being asked to vote on a number of Propositions (statewide initiatives) and Measures (local initiatives). Since commercials don't provide substantive information on the initiative the Social Justice Small group is hosting '2022 Propositions' on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 – 11:30 AM at New Hope. The League of Women Voters has been invited (not yet confirmed) to help us understand the intent, pros and cons of the various Propositions and local measures (both LA and Ventura Counties) we will vote on in November. If LWV doesn't have a volunteer available, we will muddle thru on our

own. We will livestream or Zoom if there is enough interest. Please contact Karen Ingram ([ksuigram@earthlink.net](mailto:ksuigram@earthlink.net)) or 805-390-9298) by October 8<sup>th</sup> if you want to participate remotely.



## ELCA World Food Day

ELCA World Hunger is celebrating World Food Day on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM CST. Travel expert Rick Steves and special guest Mark Jansen, CEO of Blue Diamond Almonds, will host the celebration. You can access World Food Day on the ELCA Facebook page or the ELCA YouTube channel. Facebook and YouTube accounts are not required and reservations aren't needed.



It's time to designate any remaining Choice Dollars earned in 2022! Please consider New Hope when you designate.



Giving statements for the first 9 months will be distributed in October. Contact Joe Bullock if you have any questions about your donations.



## New 2023 Council Members

- **Robin Martin** - Worship and Music
- **Natalie Larkin** - Faith Formation, Lay Ministry
- **Chuck Titcomb** - Development
- **Mary Gallagher** - Evangelism
- **Leila Mader** - Fellowship
- **Ann Ashamallah** - Stewardship
- **John Bell** - Finance
- **Tom LaVanne** - Staff, Facilities, Social Ministry

Outgoing Council members are **Merylee Blair** and **Gary McGinnis**.

*THANKS for all your years of service to the Council and congregation.*





## **The LSSSC Color of Hope Gala and Awards November 11th**

Members of our congregation are invited to Lutheran Social Services of Southern California's (LSSSC) Color of Hope Gala and Awards - November 11, 2022, 5-9 PM at the CSUF Marriot in Fullerton. Guests enjoy a champagne reception/silent auction followed by a gourmet dinner, entertainment (with the Gospel Choir), live auction, and desserts. Hear renowned CEO, Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith, along with those serving and served by LSSSC's life-saving initiatives. For tickets/info.: <https://www.lsssc.org/colorofhopegala/>. They thank you and our congregation for our years of support and service to the LSSSC mission.

Terry Paulson

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## **MANNA FOOD PANTRY**

**With rising prices at the gas pump and in the grocery store, Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank is seeing an uptick in client visits and new clients. In the Conejo Valley, it may appear that there is so much food available, but there are about 15,000 people in our area in need of food.**

**Please consider cleaning out your pantry and donating some items to this wonderful organization serving our local community. You may drop off your donations in the wood chest in the hallway, outside of the sanctuary.**

**Any questions, call Ann Ashamallah at (818) 613-6818.**

### **Top Priority Items:**

1. Cold Cereal
2. Peanut Butter
3. Canned Tuna/Meat
4. Spaghetti or Pasta Sauce
5. Canned Pasta (ravioli, spaghetti-o's)
6. Canned Chili
7. Canned Chicken Noodle Soup
8. Drinks - (juice, milk, almond, oat)
9. Flavored Rice
10. Shampoo/Conditioner/Soup





## CHRISTMAS GREENERY



It's that time of year to order your greenery. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE talk to your neighbors, friends and co-workers and encourage them to send direct delivery gifts. Everyone has a special person who is difficult to shop for and they will love receiving a fresh green wreath or other decoration that fill their home with the aroma of Christmas. The direct delivery gifts are a great idea for companies to send to their clients. It's a special way to say "THANKS." Be sure and make their unique opportunity known to all who like to have beautiful fragrant and REAL Christmas greenery surround them at the holidays. And don't forget to order greenery for your own home too! The greenery will arrive shortly after Thanksgiving. You can order greenery from Gail McGinnis after worship services on October 9th, 16th and 23rd, email ([gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com)) or call me at 805-523-7884 and I will be happy to take your order. If your order will be going to the same people you have sent to in the past, I have all your information on the computer so make it easy on yourself. Checks can be made payable to New Hope Lutheran Church, just be sure to mark it for "greenery." The prices and pictures of greenery are below. There is no charge for delivery. Prices this year include the sales tax. All orders are due to me no later than October 25th.

### HOLIDAY GREENERY



*22" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$39*

*2 - 10' Western Cedar Gift Garland - \$50*

*Gift Centerpiece with LED Candle - \$37*

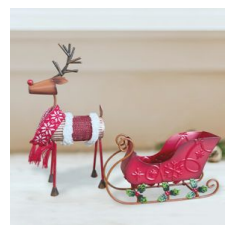
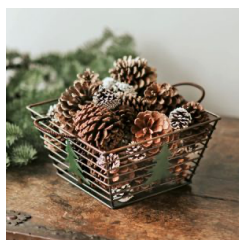
*Noble Fir Gift Door Swag - \$41*

*28" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$45*

*Rustic Pine Cone Gift Basket - \$36*

*Evergreen Gift Set - \$76*

*Red and Gold Reindeer Set - \$28*





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

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

[www.facebook.com/  
NewHopeLutheran](http://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

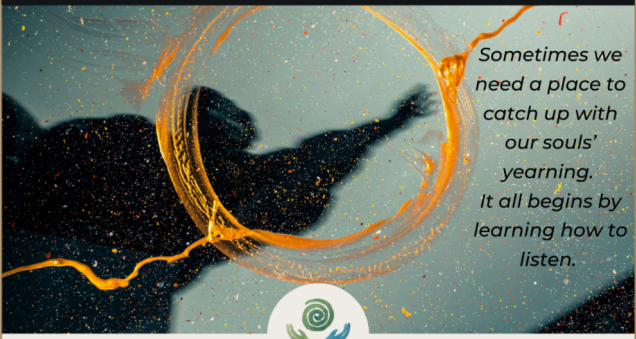


Reflect on the writings of contemplative mystics including Howard Thurman




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](https://NewHopeAgoura.org)



Volunteer

Sharing Your Time & Talents

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





## October Birthdays

- 1 Cheri Ash
- 3 Chuck Kemmerer
- 10 Reid Powledge
- 14 Kathy Rogers
- 15 Mary Ann Fiore
- 17 Darlene Daigle
- 23 Terry Paulson
- 29 John Bell



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)

*"Nothing can dim the  
light which shines from  
within."*

- Maya Angelou



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM in person and/or on Zoom on Tuesday, October 4th to discuss "The Widow of the South" by Robert Hicks. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

December 6th - "Klara and the Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguro

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

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