

# newhope *news*

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

November, 2022

## FROM PASTOR SCOTT MAXWELL-DOHERTY

Like you, I have my rituals.  
Almost every day begins the same.  
I open the laptop and read local and world news. Pour over a few commentaries about Sunday's scriptures. Offer prayers as I read. Brew my coffee. Catch up on emails. Take my vitamins. And then.....

Rituals bring me a certain form of order.  
Some of you may notice that our Sunday morning liturgy is largely repetitive.  
Indeed it is, and for good reason.

We begin every liturgy by calling on the name of God.  
We don't begin by naming our place in the kingdom or our good and bad deeds. No, we start by calling on the name of God as the first and primary actor in all of our existence. From that point we are off to the races being reminded of all the gracious and merciful acts God has accomplished which encourages our faithful response.

Rituals in liturgy bring us a theological order.  
God first, everything else next.

I encourage you to embrace your rituals as a way to provide order in our sometimes crazy lives.  
I encourage you to remember God first, everything else is next.

*Pastor Scott*



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## FROM DEACON LYNN

What a difference a month makes! At the beginning of October, we still couldn't name the person the Call Committee recommended as our new pastor. Now, not only have we met Pastor Steve Simpson, we know he will start at New Hope on December 1, and lead worship the first time on December 4. Thanks to all who participated in the Special Meeting that unanimously approved him as our new pastor. It was good to see so many folks in person, and those that joined in on Zoom as well.

Important dates in November:

- November 6 is All Saints Sunday. Please take the time to write the names of friends and loved ones we have lost in the past year. Our All Saints list can be found in front of the sanctuary doors.
- The church year ends with Christ the King Sunday, this year on November 20. On this day we celebrate the reign of Christ and mark the close of our church calendar year. Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> will also be the day that we bid goodbye to our awesome interim, Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty. His leadership during a challenging time has been invaluable.
- This year's Conejo Valley Interfaith Association Thanksgiving Eve service will be live and in person for the first time since 2019! The service is on Wednesday, November 23, 2022. Opening prelude music at 6:45PM and program start at 7PM at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 35 S. Wendy Rd, Newbury Park, CA 91320. Pie will be served following the service. New Hope is responsible for ten pies. Talk to Leila Mader to see if your help is needed to provide a pie.
- Advent begins on Sunday, November 27. Our theme this year will be "From Generation to Generation" and we will be using materials from A Sanctified Art as we have several times in the past. This material will be a little different because it looks at the Nativity story in chronological order, from the predictions of Isaiah to the genealogy of Matthew and beyond. Your worship team chose it because it fits well with where New Hope is right now, looking back at our 52-year history and looking forward to the next chapter of our life together.





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

Matt Cowden is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

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

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.



## 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, November 6th at 9:15 AM in the Amplify Room.



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



## Giving Thanks for Manna

Did you know that Manna has a new home? Please join us Saturday, November 19th from 10:00 - 11:30 AM when we welcome Leanne Portzel, Executive Director of Manna Conejo Food Pantry. She will share pictures of the new pantry and discuss hunger in the Conejo Valley. Ann Ashamallah delivers New Hope's food for Manna each month and will share her ministry with us. This is a community event. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

We are doing a special Thanksgiving food collection for our hungry neighbors from November 13 - 20. Please bring non-perishable food items to help Manna ensure that no one goes hungry this Thanksgiving. For those of you participating from home, please consider a financial gift or Smart & Final gift cards for Manna. This special event is sponsored by the Social Justice Small Group.

## Make Their Holiday Bright

In December, the Social Justice Small Group will be collecting small items for Conejo Valley animal rescue groups. Take advantage of Thanksgiving sales to pick up pet beds, pet toys, etc. Thanks in advance.



## Social Ministry

It is hard to believe we are already in November! Once again, we are giving our holiday gifts to Harbor House families and the Children of Prince of Peace Houston. \$25 dollar Target Gift Cards can be ordered after church beginning October 30th or by calling Merylee at 805-490-1867 or Kathy Rogers at 818-399-5064. Checks or cash may be used for payment. This year economic stresses are strong and the need is great. Please help make a Christmas brighter for these children and families

A BIG thanks to everyone who has heated our entrees for the Meals Program and made lunches for both Harbor House and LSS. These programs have been helping those in need for many years (certainly longer than my 28 years here in the Conejo Valley). Our congregation has always met the challenge of providing food in many ways.

Next Meals Program - November 21  
Harbor House Lunches - Sign-up Genie on Harbor House website.

Manna - Items can be placed in the box below the bulletin boards next to the office.

May God's Blessings and Love be with you this holiday season. We are Jesus' hands and feet in the world!

Merylee Blair

## PIES NEEDED



Our church will be helping to provide pies for the Inter-faith Thanksgiving Eve service on November 23rd. If you are able to purchase a pie to donate, that would be great. They are asking for any kind of pie except pumpkin. You can either bring it with you to the service or if you are not able to attend, bring it to church and someone will get it there. We are asking for 10 pies. If you can help out, please see Leila Mader and let her know you can help out.



## CHRISTMAS GREENERY

Thanks to all that purchased greenery this year. We appreciate you supporting this fundraiser.



## WELCA CHRISTMAS EVENING

All women of the church are invited to join us for our Christmas WELCA meeting. We will meet on Monday, December 5th at 7 PM in the sanctuary. Ann Church will lead us in the evening. She will have a project for us to make - a stain glass decoupage votive candle holder. If you would also like to help donate to a charity that night, we will be collecting socks and/or underwear (children, women and men) to give to Harbor House for Christmas. So plan on an evening of fellowship, crafts, dessert and an opportunity to help others.



## CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 11th at 5:30 PM for our annual church Christmas dinner. Santa Claus will visit with the children at 5:45 PM, followed by a delicious turkey dinner. Don't miss out on a memorable evening with your church family. Sign-ups will begin later in November.



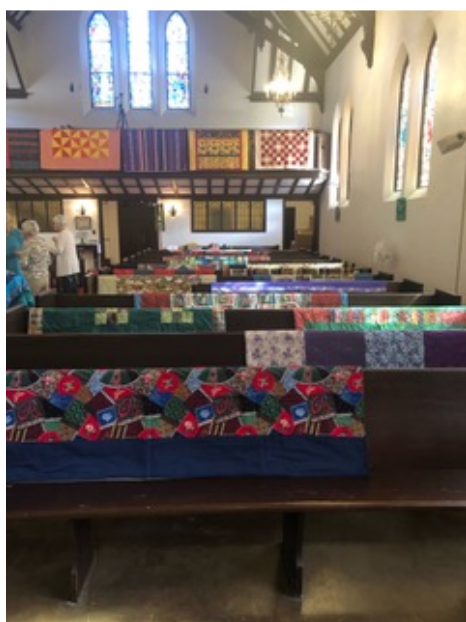
## Have you ever thought about making quilts for Lutheran World Relief?

For the past two years I have been going over to Santa Monica to Saint Paul's Church every Wednesday to meet with 5 other ladies to make quilts to send off to Lutheran World Relief and I thought it was time to be making them at my own church. I would like to start a group of people to start making quilts for Lutheran World Relief from our church. If you are interested, please let me know. We can meet at the church in the room that Sunday School was using. There is storage in that room and I can provide sewing machines and fabric to start. On October 16th, I was at Saint Paul's for the blessing of the quilts and on October 20th I delivered the quilts to Saint Andrew's Church in the Valley to be shipped off to Minneapolis. They will be prepared to be shipped to anywhere in the world to help in disaster areas and countries that would need quilts. LWR, last year, received 400,500 quilts from all over the United States. We could be a part of it. Here are some pictures of the quilts that were blessed.

Kathy Rogers

kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com

818-399-5064





## **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





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/](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

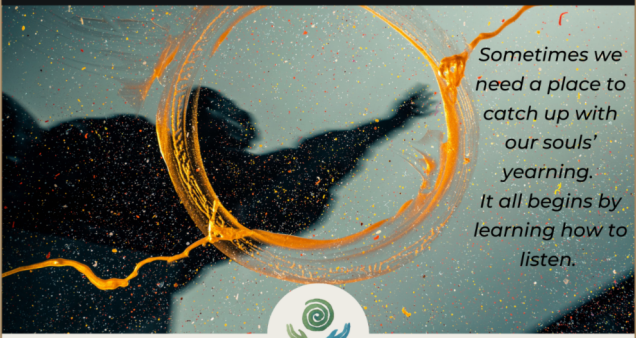


Reflect on the writings of contemplative mystics including Howard Thurman




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





## November Birthdays

- 1 Ann Church
- 3 Jordan Taylor
- 8 Kara DeMelfi
- 9 Ann Ashamallah
- 15 Amra Neal
- 16 Alec Fisher
- 17 Mariella Edgar
- 26 Gary McGinnis



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)

*The deadline for all articles for the December newsletter is November 24th. Be sure to email them to [gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com).*



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM in person and/or on Zoom on Tuesday, November 8th to discuss "A Most Beautiful Thing" by Arshay Cooper. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

**February 7th** - "Can't Wait to Get to Heaven" by Fannie Flagg

**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR  
CLOCKS BACK ON  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH.  
YOU WILL GAIN AN EXTRA  
HOUR OF SLEEP!**



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