

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

March, 2023

*“Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.”
(1 Corinthians 16:13-14)*

Have you ever found it difficult to love? Even though it is part of our callings as Christians, it is not always an easy thing to do. Sometimes we fail to love because we are upset or angry. Sometimes we fail to love because we are stuck in prejudice or assumptions. Sometimes we even fail to love because we are too busy with everything else going on in life. The truth is, love rarely happens by accident. It is a way of life that takes some hard work.

Our theme for Lent this year is this: practice small, love big. What are small ways that you can practice love in your everyday life? Because when you practice love in small ways, you are ready to love in bigger ways in the future.

God calls us to love our neighbors with no exceptions. That is one of the most difficult commands that Jesus gives us! But there is a way of making it easier: by practicing love in your everyday life. When you live a life of love, and your heart is oriented toward God, then you are prepared to share even bigger types of love. That is what we will be exploring this year for Lent.

There will be two opportunities for midweek Lent study this year. Starting February 28th, we will be gathering at church every Tuesday at 11:45 AM. This will include a light meal, a Bible study, and worship. The last of these sessions will be on March 28th.

During the Wednesdays in Lent, starting on March 1st, there will be a Bible study via Zoom at 7 PM. This is the same Bible study from Tuesday; it is just another opportunity to attend. We encourage you to join whatever works best for you. The last of these studies will be on March 29th.

1 Corinthians tells us: “Let all that you do be done in love.” Let’s strive together to live every moment in the love of Christ! This is what it means to bring God’s grace to the world.

Peace,
Pastor Steve

FROM DEACON LYNN

As Pastor Steve has already told you, our Lenten theme is “Practice Small, Love Big.” There will be an opportunity during every Tuesday Lenten service to practice love in a small way. We’ll be looking at prayer, contemplation, and service, among other things.

During the last service on March 28, the Social Justice small group will be asking for your help for wrapping up our service project making Lutheran World Relief baby care kits. Kits from LWR are sent all around the world where there is a need. Baby care kits include diapers and pins, receiving blankets, t-shirts and outfits, a sweater or jacket, and a couple of bars of soap. Like all of LWR’s kits, they are put together in such a way that part of the kit, in this case one of the blankets, serves as the wrapping, and the diaper pins hold it together.

New Hope’s goal is at least a dozen kits. We’d like to make fifteen if possible. But that’s up to you. We’re collecting all the items for the kits through March 22, taking inventory, and getting everything ready to put together the kits during and after the March 28 service. The items can be store-bought, or in the case of the sweaters and blankets, knit or crocheted. Sizes range from 6 months to 24 months.

Another way to “Love Big” is to join New Hope for the 50th anniversary celebration on Sunday, April 23. Worship and lunch will be held at the Westlake Village Yacht Club. Worship is open to all, but lunch requires a ticket and reservation. Tickets are \$35, and we’re limited to 125 people, which means you need to reserve quickly if you want to be part of the day. It’s going to be a great day to “Love Big” and look forward to another fifty years of New Hope.





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

Continued prayers of healing for Evelyn Colby, Sandy Cowden, Lou Fiore, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Kara Henkel, Joyce Lawson, Cheryl Merrill, Kathryn Murray, Debbie Niebolt, Ava Grace O'Connell, Cindy O'Hare, Ahoo Pilehvari, Sharon Pryor, Wayne Rickert, Suzanne Sahlie, Madelyn and Stan Swope, and Jane Taschereau.

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.



The Gift Card program is starting fresh for 2023. Going forward, if you would like to purchase gift cards, we would like to have you order the cards with Kathy Rogers and pay for the cards when ordered. You can pay for the cards with check, cash, or Zelle, which is a program with your bank. The cards will be ordered for you and delivered to you the following Sunday at church. Kathy will be creating an order form and making it possible for you soon. Please see Kathy with any questions you may have.



Thanks to those that donated food on Super Bowl Sunday to MANNA. Our church donated **175 pounds** of food to them.

Ann Ashamallah



Many Mansions Bowls of Hope

Many Mansion's annual Bowls of Hope soup fundraiser is Sunday, March 26th from 11 AM - 2 PM at CLU's Kingsmen Park. Enjoy soup and salad and take home a hand painted bowl and maybe a silent auction item. Tickets may be purchased at www.manymansions.org.



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Bible Study and Fellowship

Thursdays at 7:30 AM

Our men's group uses Rev. Andy Stanley's sermons to focus our discussion. We frequently stop the video to discuss our reactions and applications to our faith journey. We are always marveling at how helpful they are in developing spiritual growth.

Recent series included such compelling topics as: *Your Integrity: Our World, Not in It to Win It*, and *Heaven: Who Goes There?* Join us when you can. Attend in person in the church library or join us on Zoom.



Please make the following changes in your church directory.

Robin Martin
rlm29er@outlook.com

Ahoo Pilehvari
157 Newbury Lane
Newbury Park 91320



**DON'T FORGET TO MOVE
YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE
HOUR ON SATURDAY,
MARCH 11TH.**



Pancreatic Cancer Walk

*Saturday, March 18th
8:30 start time*

Westlake Village
City Hall
31200 Oak Crest Drive

**WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS OF NEW HOPE.
PLEASE ADD THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY.**



Ryan Dibley and Andrea Carter

Luke and Ada

*6266 Acadia Avenue
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661-609-2430 (Ryan)
805-630-0436 (Andrea)
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Help the New Hope Social Justice Committee
and Lutheran World Relief in providing

Baby Care Kits



The Social Justice Committee needs your help! We are making Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief and would appreciate donations of the following items:

- 2 cotton tee-shirts (not Onesies)
- 2 long sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- 2 receiving blankets (cotton, flannel or crocheted)
- 1 jacket or sweater with hood or with a cap
- 4 cloth diapers
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel in a dark color

The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex every Sunday through March 12th. There will be a box near the sign-up sheet where you can return your donations. Please return all items by Sunday, March 19th.

Your help with this outreach activity will be greatly appreciated!!



Conejo Valley CROP Walk 2023

Please consider supporting the 2023 CROP Walk on Sunday, March 5th at Cal Lutheran University. Registration and check-in starts at 12 noon, and the walk starts at 1 PM. Your choices are a short walk, a longer walk, a short campus stroll or a donation. Also, workers are needed to assist with registration and water stations.

CROP Walks take place each year around the country to address hunger and poverty locally and around the world as we join other churches and community groups to support Church World Service relief efforts internationally. For example, farmers in Vietnam learn to build low cost water purification systems to access clean water. Shelters in Belgrade, Serbia allow children to do homework, eat a meal, take a shower, and get a change of clothes. Farmers in the Dominican Republic improve their harvests and plant vegetable gardens. They also raise pigs, fish, and other animals to improve their diet and earn extra income.

One-fourth of the funds raised stay in the Conejo Valley and supplement funding to Meals on Wheels (both Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks), MANNA, and Harbor House.

Please use the following web site to register to walk or to make a donation:
<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/thousandoakscsca-->

You can search for New Hope or Fred Dunn to join our team. Thank you for your support to this community activity.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

This month the Prayer Shawl group will be crocheting or knitting baby receiving blankets for the LWR baby kits the Social Justice group is assembling. So far we have 2 receiving blankets and 3 hats and hopefully we'll have more blankets to add within the month. Join us when we meet on Sunday morning before service at 9:15 AM in the Amplify Room for a time of working on our shawls together. This past month we were able to pray over 2 shawls for people for comfort from illness.

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, March 5th at 9:15 AM** in the Amplify Room.



Please place any of these "top priority items of the month" in our Manna Box in the hallway:

1. Personal Care Items: shampoos, conditioner, soap, toothbrush & paste
2. Diapers— all sizes
3. Paper Products: toilet paper, paper towels, tissue
4. Shelf-stable Drinks: juices, oat, almond, soda



Piece Makers

Quilt Project for Lutheran World Relief

This quilting group meets in the Amplify classroom, every other Thursday, from 10a.m to 2p.m. Our goal is to contribute quilts for distribution through Lutheran World Relief.

Please contact Kathy Rogers if you would like to join us, or for more information.

Kathy can be reached by email:

kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com

Our next meeting is March 2nd at 10a.m.

Giving Options

There are many different ways one can donate to New Hope. In addition to the weekly offerings of cash/check or electronic giving through Vanco or PayPal, one can also

- donate directly from an IRA to help with a required minimal distribution (RMD)
- donate stocks or funds directly to the church (save on capital gains taxes)
- designate New Hope to receive a gift from a Charitable Fund



Please contact your accountant, financial advisor, or Joe Bullock if you have any questions.

IRS Certified Volunteers Provide

FREE TAX PREPARATION



In cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, trained and certified CSVP volunteers will provide FREE income tax preparation for persons in either of these categories:

- Seniors 60 years of age or older (any income level) OR
- Persons with an income of \$58,000 or less, regardless of age

Conejo Creek South Community Building
1350 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, 91362

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays, and Fridays

Monday, February 6 - Friday, April 14, 2023
8:30am - 4:00pm

SPANISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
MONDAYS, 12noon - 4:00pm &
Wednesdays, 8:30am-4:00pm

MANDARIN TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
FRIDAYS, 8:30am - 4:00pm

Newbury Park Library
2331 Borchard Rd., Thousand Oaks, 91320

WEDNESDAYS ONLY

Wednesday, February 8 -
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
10:00am - 4:00pm

MANDARIN TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
10:00am-4:00pm

WHAT TO BRING

- For married filing joint, both spouses must be present
- Photo identification
- Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number documents for you, your spouse, and dependents
- Birth dates for you, spouse, and dependents
- A copy of last year's Federal and State tax return
- All Forms W-2, 1098, and 1099
- Interest and dividend statements (1099-INT; 1099-DIV; 1099-B)
- Form 1095-A and FTB 3895 (Marketplace Health Insurance)
- Other relevant information on income, expenses, deductions
- Information for all deductions/credits
- Total paid to day care provider and their tax ID number
- Bank Routing numbers for direct deposit
- For prior year returns, copies of income transcripts from IRS if Form W-2 not available

WILL PREPARE TAX RETURNS THAT INCLUDE

- Wages, salaries, etc. (Form W-2)
- Interest Income (Form 1099-INT)
- Dividends Received (Form 1099-DIV)
- State Tax Refunds (Form 1099-G)
- Unemployment Benefits (Form 1099-G)
- IRA Distributions (Form 1099-R)
- Pension Income (Forms 1099-R, CSA-1099)
- Social Security Benefits (Form SSA-1099)
- Capital Gain/Loss (Form 1099-S)
- Sale of Home (Form 1099-S)
- Self-employed Income (Form 1099-MISC, 1099-NEC, 1099-K)
- Gambling Winnings (Form W-2G)
- Cancellation of Debt (Form 1099-C)
- Health Savings Accounts (Form 1099-SA)
- Itemized Deductions
- Education Credits (Form 1098-T)
- Child Tax Credit
- Earned Income Credit
- Prior Year and Amended Returns
- Business income/expenses for Schedule C (ONLY if there is a profit and expenses are under \$35,000; no home use, inventory, or depreciation)

CANNOT PREPARE

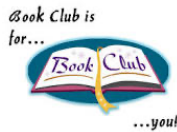
- Schedule E (No Rentals)
- Out-of-state-returns
- Married filing separate returns
- Returns with more than four K-1's

For more information, contact CSVP at 805.381.2742 or csvp@crpd.org



March Birthdays

- 5 Gaye Khan
- 6 Lyla Grant
- 11 Pastor Steve
- 19 Taylor Mansmann
Jim Olmstead
- 20 Fred Turner
- 22 Gerda Sawaya
- 30 Gail Beeker



The daytime Book Club will meet at 1:00 PM on Zoom on Monday, March 6th to discuss "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

April 4th - "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt

May 2nd - "The Maid" by Katie Prose

June 6th - "The Bee Keeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri

The deadline for all articles for the April newsletter is March 26th. Be sure to email them to gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com.



Thrivent Opportunity

Start 2023 on a generous note! If you haven't already done so, you can still direct Choice Dollars® to New Hope. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back!

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples."

- Mother Teresa

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818-889-8700
www.NewHopeAgoura.org

