

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

April, 2023

"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:16-18)

He is risen!

The story of Easter is at the very core of Christianity. Christ died on a cross and was raised to new life. Because of this, we know that God will raise us as well. Easter is a vision of things to come. Nothing can separate us from the love of God; grace is even stronger than death.

As wonderful as this is, however, the Bible does not end with the resurrection. It is followed with a call to action. 1 John says that, because Christ laid down his life for us, we ought to dedicate our lives to one another.

What does this mean? It means that we are called to help those who are in need. They are not to be neglected or forgotten. The Bible refers to our fellow human beings as "brothers and sisters." God has made us into a family, and we should treat one another as beloved siblings.

I find the final line in this passage particularly powerful. Love is about more than words or simple speech. True love requires action. This is not to suggest that our words do not matter; we have all experienced the power of speech. Unkind words can bring pain or harm. Words of support can inspire and bring compassion. But our ministry as Christians is to move beyond conversation into action. It is one thing to say "I love you," but it is another to make it tangible.

So let us heed the story of Easter. The resurrection is a promise of grace, but it is also a calling. We are to take up the cross and serve our neighbors.

Peace,
Pastor Steve



From the Deacon



It's a wrap! For our last Lenten Lunch and worship, those who joined us helped put together sixteen baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief. The kits contain clothing, cloth diapers, a towel and soap, and two receiving blankets each. One of the blankets for each kit serves as its package, held together by two diaper pins.

This project started out as an idea of the Social Justice Small Group, which meets twice a month via Zoom. When Pastor Steve shared his theme for the Lenten midweek services, "Practice Small, Love Big," we decided to share the assembly of the kits with those who came to the last Lenten midweek service.

So twelve of us put together sixteen kits, which went very fast!

Big thanks go to so many people for their help with this project.

- Thanks to Karen Ingram, leader of the Social Justice small group, for her on-point leadership at all times.
- Thanks to Sue Poulson, who made the display kit to show folks what to buy, and did several temple talks about the project.
- Thanks especially to Lyla Grant, who made nine of our flannel blankets, and thanks to the Prayer Shawl group who knit or crocheted two more.
- Thanks for those who donated all the items we needed, with a few things left over that went to Lutheran Social Services.
- Thanks to folks who wrote checks to cover the shipping of the kits from New Hope to Lutheran World Relief.

Blessings on the many hands that made light work of a project that will travel around the world.

Deacon Lynn



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, Debbie Niebolt, Ava Grace O'Connell, Cindy O'Hare, Ahoo Pilehvari, Sharon Pryor, Phyllis and 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.



We rejoice with Friday and Sarah Olelewe on the birth of their first grandchild. Nnenna Sylvia Ellefsen-Olelewe was born on March 1st. She weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. Proud parents are Kiersten and Ikenna.

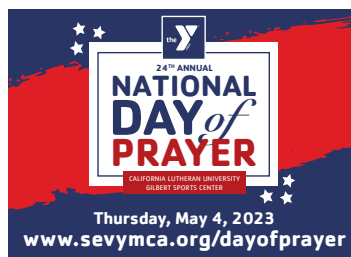


Our Scrip Gift Card Fundraising program has a fresh start for 2023. Kathy Rogers, our Scrip Coordinator, has begun taking special orders for gift cards. The cards will be delivered to you at church, the following Sunday. You can pay for the cards by check, cash, or electronically through your bank using Zelle (*New Hope Account is: laurie@newhopeagoura.com*) Please see Kathy for more information.



Thanks to all who helped make the 2023 CROP Walk a success. Although the official results are still being tallied, I am confident we exceeded our goal of \$2,000 for the event. We had fewer walkers than prior years, but the number of people who supported financially was markedly higher this year. Special thanks to Pastor Steve who gave a blessing to all the walk participants immediately prior to the walk. Again, I am very appreciative for the overwhelming support from the entire New Hope family. I am confident your gifts and prayers will continue to make a huge impact in our community and globally.

Fred Dunn



New Hope Lutheran is a sponsor of the YMCA breakfast for the National Day of Prayer at Cal Lutheran on Thursday, May 4th. Please plan to attend. Sign-ups are being taken in the church office. You are welcome to sign up your family members, neighbors, and friends. Since the church is a major sponsor, the cost to individuals is free.



Thanks to the generous support of many donors, Team New Hope For Linda raised nearly \$3,300 for the Lustgarten Foundation for pancreatic cancer research. The walk on March 18th raised just over \$150,000. We enjoyed the company of Merylee, Lori, Terry and Pastor Steve and a sunny break from the rain to get out in remembrance of the New Hope members that have been taken by this horrid disease.

Tom LaVanne



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Bible Study and Fellowship

Thursdays at 8:30 AM - New Time

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 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 30th at 10a.m.

If you would like to help support this effort, our Piece Makers quilt group is asking for donations to purchase batting for each quilt. Donations can be made by personal check, or electronically through your bank using Zelle to our New Hope account: laurie@newhopeagoura.com. (Please indicate "Piece Makers" on your donation.) Thank you! We are excited for New Hope to be able to contribute the quilts we make this year to Lutheran World Relief.

Holy Week



be with us




Palm Sunday Service

From Palms to the Passion

Join us this Sunday, April 2nd at 10 AM for our worship service that will include a reading of the processional gospel and a waving of palms. We also have a baptism scheduled during the service. Pastor Steve will be preaching the sermon, ***From Palms to the Passion***, and will preside over Holy Communion. All are welcome.



newhope
Lutheran Church
NewHopeAgourd.org



Maundy Thursday
April 6th at 7p.m.
Join us in person or online

A joint service with
Shepherd of the Valley, West Hills

Be with us at New Hope Lutheran Church on Thursday, April 6 at 7p.m. We will have a combined choir with New Hope and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. You can also join us *live* from our website.



Good Friday Service

April 7th at 7p.m

A joint service at
Shepherd of the Valley
23838 Kittridge St, West Hills

Worship with us April 7th at 7p.m. at **Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in West Hills** for a combined service, with our choir joining the choir from Shepherd of the Valley. The church is located at 23838 Kittridge Street in West Hills. This service will be live streamed, and a link will be provided on our website.

If you need a ride or would like to carpool to Shepherd of the Valley, contact Karen Ingram (805-390-9298).



Easter Morning Services - April 9th

A Community Sunrise Service will take place outdoors at Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks Memorial Park, beginning at 6a.m. Pastor Steve Simpson will be giving the sermon. The memorial park is located at 5600 Lindero Canyon Road, in Westlake Village.

The Easter Worship Service at New Hope begins at 10a.m. Pastor Steve will be preaching and presiding over Holy Communion. *This service will be streamed live.*

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny will be joining us on the patio at New Hope Church for an Easter Egg Hunt with our children. This will take place immediately following our Easter morning worship service.

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



April Birthdays

- 2 Lorie Paulson
- 9 Fred Dunn
- 15 Sue Koons
- 21 Cindy O'Hare
- 23 Linda Barry
- 25 Sue Poulson
- 26 Sarah Olelewe
- 28 Steve Frye



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, April 4th to discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

May 2nd - "The Maid" by Katie Prose

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

July 11th - "Book Woman's Daughter" by Kim Michele Richardson

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



If you are in need a sectional grey couch, Jim and Renee Olmstead would like to give it to you. It's only 2 years old. Give them a call if you are interested in it.

805-497-7488



Our next prayer shawl meeting is on **Sunday, April 2nd at 9:15 AM** in the Amplify Room.

New Hope Lutheran Church
29295 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
818-889-8700
www.NewHopeAgoura.org

