



newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

May, 2023

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.” (Ephesians 2:19-20)

How wonderful it was to celebrate fifty years of ministry at New Hope! I have only been here five months myself, but I can tell that this is truly a special place. The congregation has made a difference, both to its own members and to the wider community. I am grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make the celebration happen. It was a wonderful day, and I feel blessed to have been a part of it.

The passage above was one of the readings we picked for the anniversary. It reminds us that Christ binds us together. Because of God, we are no longer strangers to one another. We are now family. Jesus is the foundation on which we all stand and the cornerstone on which the church is built. In short: it's all about God.

As we continue to celebrate fifty years together at New Hope, I invite us also to look forward. God has many more exciting things in store for this congregation. The church will continue to make a difference in the community, as it has always done. Every time I pull into the church parking lot, I find it full of cars from different support groups meeting in our building. That is what the ministry of God looks like.

Let's do all of it with the trust that Christ is our foundation. When times feel rough, or when there is conflict, remember that Jesus is the one that binds us together. We are united in God. Each and every day, we are given a future with hope.

Holding onto the celebration of the past, let's be propelled into the future. I am excited to see where God will take us!

Peace,
Pastor Steve Simpson



From the Deacon

New Hope is now starting its fifty-first year...or fifty-third, depending on how we count. The congregation was formally established in May 1972, with articles of incorporation finished in April 1973. That would make us starting year fifty-one on May 1. However, Pastor Bob Lawson was assigned to explore and “plant” a church in Westlake Village in 1970, taking two years of walking around what was then called First Neighborhood in Westlake Village to gather folks together to start a church.

No matter how many years we're celebrating, Sunday April 23 was quite a celebration! Counting all the people who put things together, planned the dozens of moving parts, and got everything in order, there were 139 folks at the Westlake Village Yacht Club, ranging in age from under two to 95. And it seemed that everybody had a good time and wonderful fellowship and lunch afterwards. The view behind the worship leaders was fantastic! Here's Pastor Craig Beeker during his sermon.



There was plenty of time to visit out on the Yacht Club patio during lunch. In the picture on the right, Joyce Lawson and one of her daughters got time to reminisce about the early days of the congregation with Karen & Jerry Orefice. Thanks to Marsha Chew for sharing great photographs, and for her work to make the commemorative vases marking the event happen for each family. Also thanks to Grace Rose Farm (from the Poulson family) for their donation of many of the beautiful flowers.



Thanks to synod Bishop Brenda Bos for her sharing the day with us. Also in the picture are Pastors Steve Simpson and Jennifer Chrien. And Dianna Fuller, who got the unofficial "prize" for coming the farthest to join us, from New Jersey.

CHOSEN & free

SAVE THE DATE!
May 17 – July 5
6-7:30 p.m.

Meet us in the
New Hope Sanctuary
Wednesday evenings, for
a viewing of
THE CHOSEN
followed by a discussion



The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. The Chosen allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew Him.

Save the date to join in this 8-week event, Chosen & Free. Each Wednesday, we will begin with a brief time of meditative prayer, and then watch an episode from Season 1 of THE CHOSEN. Following the viewing with a time shared in a small group discussion regarding the episode. Light refreshments will be served.

Sign-ups are not necessary and visitors are welcome so bring a friend!

Come & See!



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

Chuck and Vi Kemmerer on the death of their son, Daniel.

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.

Scrip

Fundraising while you shop!



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.



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.



Audit Committee

Many thanks to John Bell and Steve Chew for their diligence in completing the 2021 financial audit. Steve has graciously agreed to lead the 2022 audit and we need 2 more volunteers to help. Please let Steve Chew or Karen Ingram know if you are interested or please say yes if they reach out to you!



"God can do in 60 seconds what you can't do in a lifetime. Give God the wheel."

- Guideposts



Lutheran World Relief Kits

Collecting items for the 16 Baby Kits that were assembled and sent to LWR in March was so much fun we're going to do it again this Fall. You are invited to join the Social Justice Small Group at 1:30 PM on June 14th to learn more about Lutheran World Relief. Louise Evenson (a member at Ascension Lutheran) is a former member of the LWR Board of Directors. She will discuss LWR's mission and how the various kits benefit people around the world.



Safety Ministry

Do you have experience conducting safety drills? Have you helped conduct workplace safety assessments? Even if you haven't, would you like to? We need volunteers to help form our New Hope Safety Ministry group. Please contact Gaye Khan, Joe Bullock, or Karen Ingram to volunteer or learn more.



SUPPER'S 8 to start again

One of the fellowship events that was cancelled because of COVID is coming back. Supper's 8 is a group of adults (singles or couples) who get together for a meal in a home. It is a wonderful way to enjoy each other's company in a warm and friendly setting outside of church. Someone hosts and provides the main dish and everyone else brings a part of the meal. We have a rotating schedule so you will have a chance to share a meal with many members of the congregation during the year. It meets 4 times a year. You can sign up to host in a certain 3-month time or not host at all. When you sign up, just make sure you put your name in the proper time sheet that works for you. Sign-ups for this program is on the poster board in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Leila Mader or Gail McGinnis. This has been a very successful event and I know many are glad to have it back.

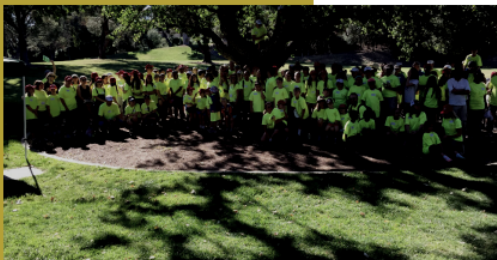
**Join your neighbors in
beautifying your city!**

Sign up [HERE!](#)



COMMUNITY SERVICE DAYS 2023

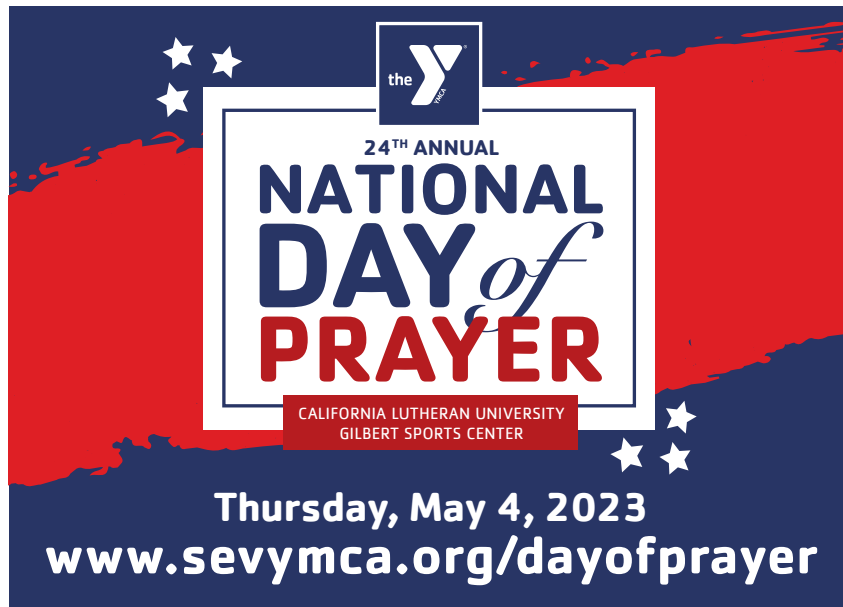
Saturday, May 6, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
@ Chumash Park



OPEN TO ALL AGES!

**For more information, call (818) 597-7361
or visit: www.agourahillscity.org**





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.



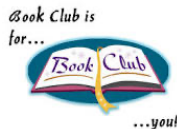
Please place any of these "top priority items of the month" in our Manna Box in the hallway:

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



May Birthdays

- 2 Susie Turner
- 11 Evelyn Colby
- 13 Steve Chew
- 21 Luke Dibley
- 23 Burnis Reed
- 26 Linda Leland
- 27 Chuck Titcomb



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, May 2nd to discuss "The Maid" by Nita Prose. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

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

August 1st - "The Seven Sisters" by Lucinda Riley

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

Life is Like a Camera:
Focus on what is important
Capture the good times
Develop from the negatives
and if things don't work
out....Take another shot!



Our next prayer shawl meeting is on **Sunday, May 7th at 9:15 AM** in the Amplify Room.

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