

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

June, 2023

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)*

What is the Holy Spirit to you?

Last month, we celebrated the church holiday of Pentecost. It comes fifty days after Easter, and it is the day that we celebrate God as the Holy Spirit. We listened to chapter two of Acts: “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.”

It is the Spirit of God, rushing like a whirlwind, to be with Jesus’ followers! The disciples are inspired, and they go out into the world to do ministry.

Whenever I hear this story, there is one part that truly strikes me. The Holy Spirit is in people. It is in the disciples. It is the people around us. It is in you and me. If you want to find God, you don’t have to look any further than your neighbor.

Find joy in all of those places you see the Spirit. It is in visits with family, gatherings with friends, and in the Sunday morning congregation. Even an unexpected encounter can be a blessing. Even more importantly, however, remember this: you can bring the presence of the Spirit to someone else. When God wants to work in the world, God does it through people. Just as the Spirit moved through the disciples, the Spirit is in you.

I pray that we can be a blessing to one another. The Spirit is here! Because it is in you.

Peace,

Pastor Steve Simpson



From the Deacon

Some of you may have noticed that my newsletter article each month often includes material from Home Touch. Home Touch is four pages of information that New Hope sends weekly to people who are 65 or over, retired, or both. There is a pdf subscription page with a devotion and a puzzle, and also a Word document which is the New Hope part of things, with a letter from me or from Pastor Steve with news and notes, and a page of prayers.

If you know of anyone whom you think would benefit from receiving Home Touch by email or snail mail please let me know. Now, to share a recent Home Touch article:

One of the Tuesday morning Bible study topics recently was “Intergenerational Hospitality.” Gather magazine, the ELCA women’s magazine, was using that topic for study because later this year the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will have their triennial gathering. It will bring together women from teenagers to ninety-somethings to worship, serve, and learn from each other.

The study asked what generations could learn from each other, especially the oldest and youngest among us. At first most of the Tuesday morning participants weren’t sure what they’d have to offer someone in their teens, but then the answers started coming. While this was a group of women talking, similar things can apply to men.

Those of us in our 60s, 70s, and beyond can offer teens:

- A listening ear. Sometimes people of any age need someone just to listen without offering advice or suggestions, just support.
- Help with a skill we might have that they are looking to learn. For example, handicrafts like knitting, crochet, and macrame are popular again, and while one can learn any of those things from YouTube, it’s easier in person.
- Our stories, if they ask for them. Some things about being fifteen have changed radically since 1970 and before, but some things haven’t. The way one gets a first job may have changed, but the butterflies one has on starting haven’t really. *(Note: if you haven’t written your life story down for grandchildren or young friends, do it now! They will thank you later.)*

Teens have much to offer us as well:

- Explanation of language and technology for our daily life. They might even break down steps slowly so we can learn more about our phones, tablets, or computers.
- A listening ear as well. Loving conversation can be a two-way street.
- A ride to church, or the library, or the pharmacy, or willing hands and feet to run those errands.

We have much to offer each other! Let’s try and start now.

***Blessings,
Deacon Lynn***





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.....

Continued prayers of healing for Evelyn Colby, Sandy Cowden, Lou Fiore, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Kara Henkel, Chuck and Vi Kemmerer, 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, Jane Taschereau, 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 Evelyn Colby on the birth of her 15th great-grandchild. Colby Leland Pfeiffer was born on May 16th. He was 8 lbs. 1 oz and 20" long.



Please make the following changes in you church directory:

Cindy O'Hare
The Covington
3 Pursuit- #331
Alison Viejo 92656

Cell 805-427-4407
cohare3@hotmail.com



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 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.



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.

"You are unique. No experience was wasted in the making of who you are. And God delights in both who you are and who you are becoming."

- Emily Ley

"What you do with yourself between the last time you heard from God and the next time you hear from God is the ongoing challenge of a life of faith."

- Cece Winans

"Someone being patient with you is one of the purest forms of love."

- Guideposts



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 3 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. We will begin this in June, so sign up ASAP. 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.

Safe Passage Youth Swim Supplies

Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) is collecting swim supplies for kids taking swimming lessons paid for by Safe Passages. Sign-ups are taking place now, through June 1st. For more information, or to donate, tap anywhere on the flyer, below:

A flyer with a light blue background. At the top left is a yellow sun with a face. In the center is a circular photo of three children in a swimming pool. To the right of the photo is a yellow life preserver. The text 'COLLECTING SWIM SUPPLIES' is in a blue rounded rectangle at the top. The 'Safe Passage Youth Foundation' logo is on the left. The text 'WIN is collecting 200 sets of swim supplies for Safe Passages, an organization providing access to swim lessons for kids who otherwise would not be able to attend. Needed: totes, goggles, sunscreen, & towels.' is in the middle. The text 'How do I help?' is followed by two numbered steps. At the bottom left is a sign-up URL, and at the bottom right is a QR code.


COLLECTING SWIM SUPPLIES

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How do I help?
1. Sign up by Thursday, June 1.
2. Bring your items to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 1 W. Avenida de los Arboles by Thursday, June 8.

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/WINSwimsupplies>





WHAT'S UP WITH NEW HOPE'S MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND?

In 2016 a generous, anonymous donor gifted New Hope with \$100,000 to establish the New Hope Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund. This money was invested in the Ministry Growth Fund through the ELCA, and the resulting earned income is used to support mission activities. The principal is never touched. Since establishment, the fund has aided 12 charities.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting program, there are two ways you can help:

- 1) Make a contribution marked as New Hope Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund which would increase the principal balance of the fund and allow more monies for mission outreach.
- 2) Nominate a charity that is close to your heart. It can either be local or worldwide. An eligible charity must have a New Hope member sponsor. Forms are available in the office. Deadlines for submission of charitable candidates are April 30th and October 31st.

If you have any questions about this program, you can contact any of the Endowment Fund committee members - Ann Church, Moeed Khan, Tom LaVanne, Andrew Mannsman, or Sue Poulson.



Safety Ministry Status

The New Hope Safety Ministry was established to bring both safety and security awareness to New Hope. During our first meeting, areas of focus were identified such as medical, fire, earthquake, unwanted intruder and parking lot risks, and the members are in the process of risk assessment within each area.

To avoid unwanted intruders during worship, it is strongly recommended by safety experts that the outside doors of all houses of worship be locked from the inside shortly after the service has started. We are also in the process of obtaining the same type of locking mechanism for the two unlocked doors into the sanctuary; however, these will not be locked during the service. We have a lot of valuable equipment which needs to be more secure when not in use. To continue to offer a sanctuary for private prayer during the week, we will be creating a prayerful space in what is now the nursery.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us in the Safety Ministry to call Joe Bullock, Karen Ingram or Gaye Khan for more information. If you have any training in CPR, First Aid, or any other emergency response planning or execution, please let us know. We have a lot of work ahead of us and welcome your support.



Piece Makers

Quilt Project for Lutheran World Relief

This quilting group meets in the Amplify classroom, every other Thursday, from 9a.m. to 1p.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 May 25th at 9a.m.



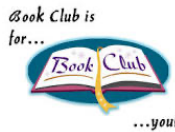
Please place any of these "top priority items of the month" in our Manna Box in the hallway:

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



June Birthdays

- 2 Jill Fisher
- 6 Kailey Wood
- 12 Chris Chigaridas
- 15 Sandy Cowden
- 18 Harper Neal
- 20 Bonnie Bell
Lynn Bulock
- 26 Karen Orefice



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom on Tuesday, June 6th to discuss "The Bee Keeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

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

September 5th - "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver

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

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

- Winston Churchill



Our next prayer shawl meeting is on **Sunday, June 11th at 9:15 AM** in the Amplify Room.

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**HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!**