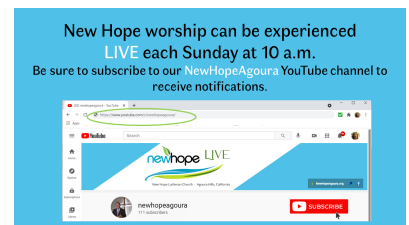




HALLOWEEN



newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

October, 2023

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.” (Psalm 46:1-3)

How do we face change in the church?

On the last Sunday of this month, we are celebrating Reformation Sunday. It is the time when we recognize that Martin Luther, and the other reformers, broke away from the Catholic Church over 500 years ago. Their message was sharply focused on God’s love, and it is the tradition that we still follow today.

Now, even centuries later, the church continues to transform. The world is changing too! I imagine that you could name a number of big changes you have seen happen over just the last twenty years. Some of them may be good, and some of them may be bad. Things rarely stay the same, and sometimes this can be frightening.

This passage from the Psalms is all about change. It teaches us that even as the world swirls around us, God is with us. God stands with us in the midst of transformations. God is our refuge and our strength.

So how do we face change in the church? With courage! God is with us wherever we may go. In fact, God may even be the one bringing the transformation. The Lord reformed the church 500 years ago and is still working in us today. The Spirit is always doing something new. It is always flowing and always moving.

So let’s face the future with bravery and excitement. God is your mighty fortress and will not leave you abandoned. The voice of change might even be the voice of the Spirit.

Peace,
Pastor Steve Simpson



From Deacon Lynn

Sharing my annual report to the congregation as my newsletter article this month. As the Director of Ministry to Seniors, at least half of my 20 hours per week is spent on communicating with those in our congregation that are 65 or older, and/or retired. This happens via phone calls, the occasional text, Facebook Messenger, emails, and the Home Touch letter each week, either mailed out or emailed to those who choose to get it that way.

Since November of 2022, I have the help of a volunteer who takes the printed material for Home Touch each week and stuffs envelopes and mails them. Thanks to Maureen D. who makes my life easier that way.

It's hard to realize that Pastor Steve has only been with us ten months. Last year this time we were still in the meeting-and-approving stage, and he didn't start until December 4 of 2022. This means that Pastor Scott Maxwell Doherty and I planned and produced worship plans for the end of the church year, and Advent until Pastor Steve came on board. Under Pastor Steve's instruction I've learned to use a few new tools, including Google Docs, and learned to use a few old tools in a different way.

There have been multiple special events I assisted with in the last twelve months: Pastor Steve's installation service in February, New Hope's 50th anniversary celebration the end of April, multiple celebrations of life or memorial services, and most recently, Natalie Larkin's ordination into Word and Service (diaconal) Ministry.

I look forward to the year to come as a time of continued growth for New Hope and the development of new ways to participate in senior ministry and the life of the Conejo Valley.

Sunday I closed our Annual Meeting with one of my favorite prayers: "Lord God, You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Blessings,

Deacon Lynn





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

Sandy Cowden has been hospitalized but is now home.

Pat Henkel fell and broke her foot.

Continued prayers of healing for Evelyn Colby, Lou Fiore, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Kara Henkel, Vi and Chuck 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, Rob and Jane Taschereau, and Fred Turner.

Prayers for our servicemen - Heather Brown, Keith Brown, Patrick Clohessy, Cynthia Colby, Farrah Hayden, and Ikenna Olelewe.



We rejoice with Rob and Jane Taschereau on the birth of their great-grandson, Cooper Clayton. He was born on August 29th and weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. Congratulations to the family!



LaundryLove

Thanks to everyone who continues to donate spare change and cash to the LaundryLove program. We recently provided another \$140 in quarters to Burnis Reed, New Hope's representative for the local LaundryLove program. We look forward to your continued support of this meaningful program.



We need a volunteer to serve as the liaison between the support groups that meet at New Hope and the church office. This person will process the monthly contributions from the groups, coordinate the meeting schedules, inform groups when church activities are happening, etc. The tasks will take 3-5 hours per month. Some computer skills are necessary. If interested, please see Laurie. Thank you!

Church Duties

If you would like to help out during the Sunday worship services, we would love your help. We are always looking for members to greet, read, set up altar care, be a communion assistant or provide goodies. Just let Gail McGinnis know

(gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com) and she will add you to the list.



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Bible Study and Fellowship

Thursdays at 8:30 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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come by the Amplify Room (behind the kitchen) to our next gathering on Sunday, October 8th at 9:15 AM and see what we're about. We knit, crochet, or loom shawls for those who may be in need of comfort or support or to recognize a celebration or a blessing.



Birthdays

If you have noticed that your birthday has not been listed in the monthly newsletter, please let me know as we don't want to miss wishing you a Happy Birthday. Gail McGinnis

-
gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com

OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH. LET'S ALL BE IN PRAYER FOR PASTOR STEVE, DEACON LYNN, AND DEACON NATALIE THIS MONTH AND EVERY MONTH.

LSSSC to Host Color of Hope Gala at Historic Mission Inn in Riverside on October 7th

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSSSC) - a leading provider of social services programs in Southern California - will host its annual [Color of Hope Gala & Awards](#) on Saturday, October 7th at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside. The gala theme Mission Possible - a twist on the Mission Impossible movies - ties into their efforts to transform the San Bernardino Central City Lutheran Mission (CCLM) into a comprehensive Community Wellness Campus. Our New Hope Lutheran member, Dr. Terry Paulson, has been nominated for their 2023 H.O.P.E. Award in the Lifetime Achievement Award category. With a fundraising goal of \$320,000, the evening includes a welcome reception with silent auction, gourmet dinner and desserts, awards ceremony, speakers, live auction, and a live art project and subsequent auction of an original art piece by artist and homeless advocate Brian Peterson from the Faces of Mankind project. General admission tickets are \$150 (early sales). For those not able to attend in person, virtual attendance can be secured for \$50. For tickets visit www.lsssc.org or call (714) 685-1800 ext. 1213. The Mission Inn is located at 3649 Mission Inn Avenue and complimentary parking will be provided.





ALL HANDS ON DECK

Our congregation once again showed its generosity by exceeding the \$2,000 amount needed for the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits! Thank you, thank you!

God's Work and Our Hands will be in action on Sunday, October 1st after church as we assemble the personal care kits. Please come to the Youth Room, and be ready to assemble one or many kits. Each kit should only take a few minutes to assemble. Many hands make the work go quickly!

Social Justice Small Group



Global Outreach Update

New Hope is such a giving community. Between Jane Taschereau's greeting card sale and additional donations, \$2,750 was donated to the Hawaii Community Foundation to support their recovery efforts in Maui. Thank you for your generosity.



2024 Council

Ann Ashamallah

John Bell

Joe Bullock

Deacon Lynn

Mary Gallagher

Karen Ingram

Gaye Khan

Natalie Larkin

Tom LaVanne

Gail McGinnis

Burnis Reed

Pastor Steve

Outgoing Council members are Leila Mader, Robin Martin, and Chuck Titcomb. Thanks for all your years of service to the Council and congregation.



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.



You are invited to be a part of our 50th Anniversary Timeline!

We would like to include your household on our 50th Anniversary Timeline posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Flowers, butterflies and sun bursts are located in the white basket on the bulletin board ledge.

Please choose one, add your household name and the year you first came to New Hope, then pin it closest to date you started attending New Hope.





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 on our church website. 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.



Earthquake Preparedness

October is earthquake preparedness month. Have you updated your home emergency kit? How about the one in your car? This is a good time to be sure your flashlight works. Do your shoes still fit? Has your emergency food expired? Now is the time to take action and be prepared. Several attachments are included with this newsletter to help you review what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. (See the next 4 pages). More information is available at the following websites: shakeout.org, aarp.org, redcross.org and ready.gov. If you want to participate in a statewide drill on October 19 at 10:19 AM, register at shakeout.org.

What You Can Do *During* an Earthquake

At the first sign of shaking

- Drop to the ground
- Take Cover by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture.
- Hold on until the shaking stops.

Sometimes smaller tremors come before or after a larger earthquake. Because we never know until the shaking has stopped which quake is the main event, it is essential to Drop, Cover, and Hold at the first sign of shaking.

If you are inside

- Kneel down under a desk, table, or bench. If there aren't enough sturdy pieces of furniture to get under, kneel next to an interior wall but away from windows, overhead light fixtures, and tall pieces of furniture that might fall over.
- Stay under cover until the shaking stops (at least one minute). Face away from windows, and bend your head close to your knees.
- Hold on to the table leg or desk (a few inches above the ground to avoid pinching fingers). Cover your eyes with your other hand. If your "shelter" moves, move with it. If you don't have a "shelter" to hang on to, clasp your hands on the back of your neck to protect your face.

If you are outside

- Move into the open, away from buildings, fences, trees, tall playground equipment, utility wires, and street lights.
- Kneel or sit on the ground and cover your head and face with your hands.
- Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

If you are in a car

Pull over to the side of the road—away from overhead power lines, trees, and overpasses. Stay in the car until the shaking stops.



- Don't try to take cover in a doorway during an earthquake. The door may slam on you.
- Don't run outside during the shaking or use the stairways or elevators. Many people are killed just outside of buildings by falling bricks and other debris.
- Don't turn on the gas again if you turned it off; let the gas company do it.
- Don't use your telephone for the first 90 minutes after an earthquake, except for a medical or fire emergency. You could tie up the lines needed for emergency response.

What You Can Do After an Earthquake

1. Once the shaking has stopped, look around for possible hazards to determine if it is safe for you to move before getting up and helping others. If time permits and there is a small fire that can be put out with the fire extinguisher, do that.
2. If you are inside, decide whether to evacuate or stay put.
 - Any of the following require immediate evacuation: fire, damage to structure, a gas leak, or hazardous materials spill. In some situations, you may choose not to evacuate or to delay evacuation. For example, if there is a slight shaking with no apparent damage and another hazard such as severe weather, it may be more dangerous to move children outside.
 - If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and then quickly leave with the children, and shut the gas off at the outside main meter.
 - Unless you must evacuate immediately (fire, severe damage to structure, gas leak, or hazardous materials spill), check all children and adults for injuries and give first aid for injuries before evacuating.
 - Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury (fire and flooding). Instead, cover them with a sturdy table or whatever is available and send someone for medical help after the earthquake shaking stops.

If you shut off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on. It may take days or weeks before they are able to do so.

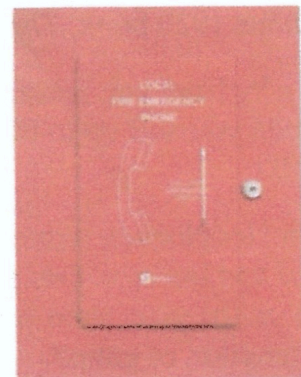
As time permits, you may need to turn off utilities such as gas, electricity, and water.

If electrical wires are crackling inside, shut off the gas first, then turn off the master electrical switch.

If you must evacuate, get out of the building and to your designated safe gathering place, taking the emergency kit along with your list of children and their emergency contacts.

When possible, to reduce the chances of both physical and emotional harm, move children who are able to walk away from danger, away from collapsed buildings, and away from severely injured survivors. If you must leave the area, place a note for the parents outside the door, telling them where you are going.

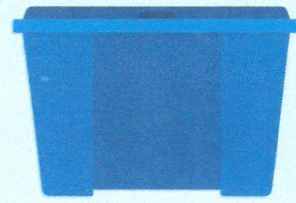
3. Call 9-1-1 if there is a fire or medical emergency. If the phone doesn't work, send someone for help.
4. Treat minor injuries.
5. Reassure the children. Tell them that their parents will come for them as soon as they can, that their parents know everyone will be safe with you, and that you are all together.
6. Listen to a battery-operated radio for instructions and the latest emergency information.



STAY BOX: BASICS

In some disasters, you may be safer staying at home. Damage from the disaster might make that uncomfortable. You might not have water to drink, to bathe or to flush the toilet. You might have no electricity to keep your food cold, turn on a light or charge your phone.

Add items to a Stay Box, for when you can't leave home. Prepare for at least 3 days without water or electricity. Save up a little at a time, until you have enough for everyone in your household to get by. Remember any pets. If you already own a flashlight or a portable radio, keep it someplace easy to find.



STAY BOX

TO PACK NOW

Water

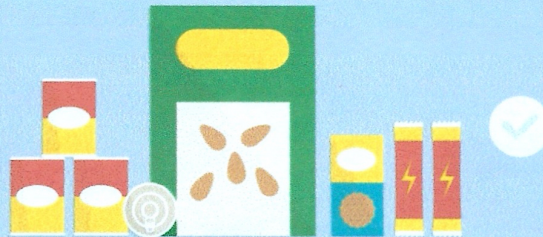
Save up to 3 gallons per person, for drinking and washing.



Food

Set aside foods that won't spoil and require no cooking.

You know best what you and your family like to eat.



Trash Bags

Set aside extra plastic bags, with ties, to use in a bucket for a toilet.



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Write down here what else you should bring for everyone in your household. Clothes? Toothbrush? Think about needs of babies, older adults, people with medical conditions or disabilities, and pets.

[illegible]

CHRISTMAS GREENERY



It's that time of year to order your greenery. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE talk to your neighbors, friends, and co-workers and encourage them to send direct delivery gifts. Everyone has a special person who is difficult to shop for and they will love receiving a fresh green wreath or other decoration that fill their home with aroma of Christmas. The direct delivery gifts are a great idea for companies to send to their clients. It's a special way to say "THANKS." Be sure and make the unique opportunity known to all who like to have beautiful fragrant and REAL Christmas greenery surround them at the holidays. And don't forget to order greenery for your own home too! The greenery will arrive shortly after Thanksgiving. You can order greenery from Gail McGinnis after worship services on October 22nd, 29th and November 5th, email (gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com) or call me at 805-523-7884 and I will be happy to take your order. If your order will be going to the same people you have sent to in the past, I have all your information on the computer so make it easy on yourself. Checks can be made payable to New Hope Lutheran Church, just be sure to mark it for "greenery." The prices and pictures of greenery are below. There is no charge for delivery. Prices include the sales tax. All orders are due to me no later than November 6th.



HOLIDAY GREENERY

22" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$39

2 - 10' Western Cedar Gift Garland - \$50

Gift Centerpiece with LED Candle - \$37

Noble Fir Gift Door Swag - \$41

28" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$45

Cone Gift Basket - \$36

Evergreen Gift Set - \$76

Tall and Snowy Reindeer - \$30



CHOSEN & Free

Join us each week to
watch episodes from
Season 2
followed by a time
of discussion

Wednesdays,
Oct. 11 – Nov. 8
6 - 7:30 p.m.



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.

Join us again beginning October 11th when we will begin watching the second season of THE CHOSEN. Each Wednesday, we will begin with a brief time of meditative prayer, and then watch an episode. Following the viewing will be 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!



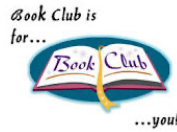
Please place any of these "top priority items of the month" in our Manna Box in the hallway:

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



October Birthdays

- 1 Cheri Ash
- 3 Chuck Kemmerer
- 13 Andrea Carter
- 14 Kathy Rogers
- 15 Mary Ann Fiore
- 17 Darlene Daigle
- 23 Terry Paulson
- 29 John Bell



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and in person on Tuesday, October 3rd to discuss "We Begin at the End" by Chris Whitaker. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

November 7th - "Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman

December 5th - "West With Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge

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

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH. YOU WILL GAIN AN EXTRA HOUR OF SLEEP!



"Don't follow the path. Go where there is no path and begin the trail. When you start a new trail equipped with courage, strength, and conviction, the only thing that can stop you is you!"

- Ruby Bridges

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