

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

November, 2023

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:11, one of our readings for November 19th)

What does God teach us to do with anger? It is tempting to tear each other down. When we get frustrated, it is easy to lash out in anger. We take out our pain on others when we feel hurt or overwhelmed. We get impatient and snap at people in ways that we later regret. Sometimes our emotions get the better of us.

God calls us to a different way of living. The apostle Paul, writing here in the book of 1 Thessalonians, calls us to build each other up. He teaches us to encourage and support one another in love.

What does this mean? Say “thank you” to someone you appreciate. Support and listen to a friend who is feeling down. Encourage each other to learn and grow. It can mean all sorts of things, but here is the important part: God implores us to live with love for each other.

Later in verse 13, Paul writes: “Be at peace among yourselves.” This does not require us to get along with everyone; conflict is a part of being human. But Christ teaches us to handle conflicts with grace. Even in the moments of the greatest frustration, God teaches us to share compassion. Forgive as you have been forgiven.

Seek to build up with love rather than tearing people down. You can be a constructive part of God’s kingdom.

Peace,
Pastor Steve Simpson



From Deacon Lynn

There's a lot happening in November at New Hope to be aware of:

- Sunday, November 5: All Saints' Sunday. We will remember those who have gone before us, and read the names aloud during worship of those who have passed in the last year.
- Sunday, November 12: Pastor Steve is taking a well-deserved week off and we will use the Service of the Word liturgy, which means no Holy Communion, and some added music.
- Wednesday, November 22: Conejo Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving program. The theme will be "I Have a Dream." The location will be St. Jude's (32032 W. Lindero Canyon Rd., Westlake Village, 91361). Service starts at 7pm. Because there's limited parking, you might want to try and get there no later than 6:45.
- Sunday, November 26 is the last Sunday of the church year. You may have noticed that the lessons each Sunday for the past six-eight weeks have sounded more like we have been "wrapping up" something. That's what happens at the end of the church year, until we end with Christ the King Sunday. Then on the first Sunday in December Advent begins. This year the theme we're using from A Sanctified Art is "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" I hope it speaks to you the way it speaks to me.

Blessings,

Deacon Lynn





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

Sandy and Amanda Cowden on the death of their husband/father, Matt.

Continued prayers of healing for Evelyn Colby, Lou Fiore, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Pat and Kara Henkel, Vi and Chuck Kemmerer, Joyce Lawson, Jim and 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.

LWR Kits and Quilts

Many thanks to you and your generous financial support and gift of time to assemble 201 personal care kits, and to the Piece Makers for their 24 beautiful quilts. Thanks to Gail McGinnis and Bonnie Bell for delivering 24 boxes to Mt. Cross in Camarillo for the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering. You are truly amazing!



Women's Interfaith Network

Over 55 purses and totes were delivered to St. Jude's Catholic Church for the November Women's Interfaith Network service project. WIN will fill the purses with toiletries and feminine hygiene products for homeless women. Thanks to everyone who donated.



We are doing a special Thanksgiving food collection for Manna and are inviting the various groups using our facility to join us. Flyers with suggested non-perishable food items will be available. Collection boxes will be placed in all meeting rooms. Food insecurity and hunger is on the rise. Please join us in making Thanksgiving a little better for our neighbors.



Women's Christmas Gathering

*Monday, December 4th - 7 PM
in the sanctuary*

Ann Church and Natalie Larkin will be leading a time of devotion and a craft project! Come make Christmas gift bags for you to take home, they are a present themselves! All supplies will be provided. A donation to Prototype Women's Center of Oxnard will be appreciated. "Prototype rebuilds the lives of women, children, and communities impacted by substance use, mental illness, and domestic violence. We promote self-sufficiency while ensuring safety and shelter for those in need."

Women, come enjoy an evening of fellowship, crafts, dessert, and the opportunity to help others. We will also be collecting toys to be given to Harbor House for them to give to children at Christmastime.



Decorate the Church

All of you great Santa's helpers, please put Saturday, December 9th on your calendars at 9 AM to decorate our church for Christmas. You are an amazing group who dig in and get it done beautifully and efficiently. The more people we have, the quicker it is finished. As always, everything will be out and ready for you to hang. If you cannot make it right at 9:00, come when you can. Thank you all.

Karen Orefice



Christmas Dinner

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 10th at 5:30 PM for our annual church Christmas dinner. Santa Claus will visit with the children at 5:45 PM, followed by a delicious turkey dinner. Don't miss out on a memorable evening with your church family. Sign-ups will begin later in November.



SAFETY AND SECURITY MINISTRY

In early 2024, the Safety and Security Ministry will be hosting a workshop on Church Safety and Situational Awareness instructed by Mark Hollinger. If you took the CPR/AED, you have already met Mark. There will be more on this as the time gets closer. As part of our mission, we have been researching sources of best practices to create a safer church environment, including security during services. We wanted to share a couple of sources we are using.

Articles from [Living Lutheran](#) and [Brotherhood Mutual](#) have suggestions of easy ways to create a safer church environment.

1. Assigning roles in an emergency, such as who will call 911, who will talk to authorities, and who will talk to the media.
2. Identifying trained professionals within the membership, such as medical professionals, current or former law enforcement officers, and members with military or security backgrounds.
3. Investing in two-way radios to eliminate spotty cell service and scrambling to locate a list of internal phone numbers.
4. Creating a single entrance into the church and assigning an usher or team member to lock doors once your service starts.
5. Monitoring doors and lots during services.
6. Moving the pulpit to the side so that pastors and other groups facing the congregation can be closer to an exit or side room.
7. Drawing attention to the exits by pointing them out to congregants.
8. Scheduling a leadership or staff meeting to spur discussion on how to create a safer church environment.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please reach out to one of our members: Pastor Steve, Karen Ingram, Joe Bullock, Calvin Beeker, Jim Olmstead, Wayne Rickert, Lorie Paulson or Gaye Khan





Council Retreat

Your Congregation Council spent 4 hours on October 21st in Bible study and discussing our gifts at New Hope and how we can use these gifts to do God's work to meet the needs of our community. More details will be forthcoming as we make plans for ministry in 2024. Thanks for your continuing prayers.



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.



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



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, November 5th 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.



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.

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 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." You can also pay for your greenery through Zelle (New Hope account is laurie@newhopeagoura.com) 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

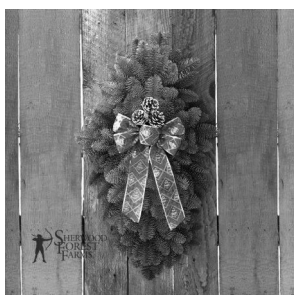
Noble Fir Gift Door Swag - \$41

28" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$45

Cone Gift Basket - \$36

Evergreen Gift Set - \$76

Tall and Snowy Reindeer - \$30



We celebrate with CLU and especially Scott and Melissa Maxwell-Doherty as they received the Christus Award from the Convocation of CLU on October 27th.

2023 Christus Award

The Christus Award is given annually to individuals in recognition of their contributions to strengthen the bridge between the church and the university and/or who have made significant contributions to higher education in the ELCA.

This year's awardees are the Reverend Melissa Maxwell-Doherty and Reverend Scott Maxwell-Doherty who during their illustrious careers at California Lutheran University walked alongside students, staff, and faculty in discernment, compassion, and humility. Both served as loving pastors and steadfast mentors to so many throughout the Thousand Oaks campus and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and beyond.

California Lutheran University is proud to honor Scott and Melissa for their dedication not just to this institution but to the ELCA mission of educating the whole person in body, mind, and spirit, as they are called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all may flourish.



Reverend Scott Maxwell-Doherty

Reverend Melissa Maxwell-Doherty



Drop your quarters in the
laundry love jar!

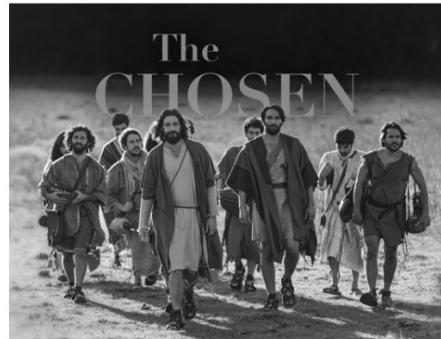
Join New Hope Church in
helping low-income
neighbors in our community
have clean laundry.



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: 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



November Birthdays

- 1 Ann Church
- 2 Ada Dibley
- 3 Jordan Taylor
- 8 Kara DeMelfi
- 9 Ann Ashamallah
- 17 Mariella Edgar
- 26 Gary McGinnis



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or in person on Tuesday, **November 7th** to discuss "Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

February 6th - "Black Cake - a novel" by Charmaine Wilkerson

The deadline for all articles for the December newsletter is November 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!



Jesus, you love us.
Jesus, you challenge us.
Jesus, you send us out
into the world, only to
find there's nowhere
we can go where you're
not already there to
welcome us.

Julia Seymour

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