

# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

**February, 2024**

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.  
Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.  
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.”  
Psalm 100*



Why do we worship?

Often in life, it can feel like there is too much to do. There is always something at home that needs fixing, another task at work, or a chore that needs to be done. How many of you are preparing to file your taxes right now? I know I am!

Worship is a way for us to set aside time to be with God. The Lord is always with us, of course, but sometimes it is good to listen. When we set aside the distractions, still our bodies and minds, it makes it easier to feel God's love. God cares for you, and wants you to feel that care.

This is one of the big reasons we set aside time for worship. It gives us a break from our busy schedules. We sing, we pray, we learn, we experience God in communion, and we spend time in community. It nourishes our spirit and reminds us of something powerful: God is with you.

As you may know by now, the congregation at New Hope has been looking at the book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase. This month, we will be focusing on the practice of “passionate worship.” This is an important one. Worship nourishes our faith and encourages us to bring God's love to the world.

I encourage you to dive into worship this February. Where do you feel comforted? Inspired? Challenged? Hold onto those moments; they are blessings from God. As Psalm 100 puts it: “Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing!”

Peace, Pastor Steve Simpson

# From Deacon Lynn

First off, thank you New Hope for being so understanding of my need for a bit of time off. Joe's cancer diagnosis came as a shock to both of us, and we've needed some time to ourselves to deal with everything. It was difficult to do that and try to concentrate on work at the same time. I plan to be back by March 1, ready to pick up as much of my duties as possible and still keep the schedule we'll need to while Joe is in treatment.

The good news:

- Joe's cancer is multiple myeloma, of the "normal" variety. There are no mutations present that would make it harder to treat.
- He has started treatment with a regiment of three cancer drugs, and two others to combat any side effects of the chemotherapy. There will be at least six 21-day cycles of treatment; possibly back-to-back, possibly with some breaks between if needed. As I write this, on January 27, the last of the chemo drugs has been delivered. All are either oral meds or an injection; none of the chemotherapy is long infusions.
- We have a very good support system, and lots of prayers. Our kids all live within a 30-minute drive and have been very helpful. We appreciate our good neighbors and our church family and their help.

During February I'm likely to stay worshiping online, and attending the occasional event by Zoom. For the first few Lenten Bible studies, we will be going to the evening Zoom sessions. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Blessings,

*Deacon Lynn*





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

Continued prayers of healing for Joe Bulock, Evelyn Colby, Sandy and Amanda Cowden, Lou Fiore, Steve Frye, Lyla Grant, Eilene Green, Carlos Gutierrez and family, 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, Wayne Rickert, Suzanne Sahlie, Madelyn and Stan Swope, Jane Taschereau, and Fred Turner.

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



We had a small but very dedicated group for the Christmas take-down this year. I want to send a huge thank you to Linda Barry, Mary Ann Fiore, Jerry Orefice, Pastor Steve, Lorie and Terry Paulson, Kathy Rogers, Alison Rowe, and Kris Salmon. You all did an amazing job! We appreciate you.

Karen Orefice



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come by the Quilting Room (behind the kitchen) to our next gathering on Sunday, February 4th 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, support or to recognize a celebration or a blessing.



Hello Friends,

I have been a participant in a small group of quilters since I retired. The group has grown smaller over the years as people have moved away, or have had to drop off because of health issues. The group met the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 to 12:00. We have dwindled to a group of 3 or 4 and finally disbanded in November.

I miss this group of women and Alison Rowe and I thought it would be fun to reconfigure the group with new people. I would like all of you to consider joining this group of friends. Instead of just a quilting group, it would become a crafting group! This means if you like to do crafts, you could bring it with you to this meeting, and craft away as you chit chat with other crafters! If you would like to share what you are doing with the group, this is a forum for doing that, but by all means, there is no obligation to do so. It is purely a social group, made up of my old friends, and new friends, with the thought that we could all be friends!!

The format is simple - I will provide drinks, and if you would like, you could bring a treat or fruit to share. Simple fare: muffins, coffee cake, cookies, hard boiled eggs, cheese plate, fruit... You get the idea. Easy peasy! If you don't want to bring something, that would also be fine.

Meeting: 1st Saturday of every month - 10:00 - 12 noon  
Bring your favorite craft, anything you like to do! No pressure, just crafts and friends.

Location:

Bonnie Bell, 1867 Stonesgate St.,  
Westlake Village  
805-338-8161  
[bonniebella1@gmail.com](mailto:bonniebella1@gmail.com)

or if I am out of town:

Alison Rowe, 2008 Oakstaff Ct.,  
Westlake Village  
805-428-4408  
[alisonrr@me.com](mailto:alisonrr@me.com)



## 'Souper" Bowl 2024

Support your favorite team and our local food bank! Bring nonperishable food item(s) to church on Super Bowl Sunday (**February 11th**) and place in the bin outside the sanctuary. Cast your vote for who will win the big game - **Chiefs or 49ers!**



## Worship & Amp; Music Ministry

We are reviving the Worship & Amp; Music Ministry. Do you have ideas for the hymns/music that we sing on Sunday? Do you have ideas for banners or other visual arts to enhance our worship space? Are you able to type up the worship slides once a month? What would you like to see on Sunday morning? All ages are welcome to help us plan our worship services - all ideas welcome!

Please let Pastor Steve or Karen Ingram know if you are interested, and the best day or time for you to meet.

*Sing a joyful noise to Lord!*



## 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.



### Meal Program

We are off to a good start for 2024 and I want to thank all of you for responding to the need and getting back to me so quickly. A few more people have expressed a desire to bake pies on a limited basis, or as last minute fill-ins than we have previously had (and this is encouraging and appreciated). So I will be adjusting the assignments as needed but will always send out reminder emails. If you have already signed up for a specific date, I will not change that unless you need to change it.

Again...thank you all. Jesus loves us for helping to feed his hungry children.

Karen Reed



## Conejo Valley CROP Walk 2024

Please support the New Hope CROP Walk team by walking or with a donation. This year's walk will be held at Cal Lutheran on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration is at 12 noon, and the walk starts at 1 PM. We will tag up for a team photo prior to the kick-off.

As you know this walk is an example of New Hope Lutheran's "extravagant hospitality." It enables us to support local organizations such as Harbor House, Meals on Wheels, and Manna, as well as Church World Service (CWS) relief efforts worldwide. CWS provides emergency food and resources along with seeds, tools, and programs to help families feed themselves.

Online registration is now available at [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org). Be sure to find the registration page for the Conejo Valley Walk 2024 and Team New Hope Lutheran. Contact Fred Dunn for more information.



*Karen Ingram - President*  
*Mary Gallagher - Vice-President*  
*Gail McGinnis - Secretary*  
*John Bell - Treasurer*  
*Joe Bulock*  
*Ann Ashamallah*  
*Gaye Khan*  
*Natalie Larkin*  
*Tom LaVanne*  
*Burnis Reed*

## Council Updates

Your Congregational Council is studying the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase. The 5 Practices are: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Formation, Risk Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. You will learn more about each Practice over the next several months. Council members have selected the Practice they will be the liaison to. If you have thoughts, questions, comments, or ideas on how to help New Hope engage in any of these areas, please contact a liaison.

**Radical Hospitality:** Gaye Kahn, Mary Gallagher, and Gail McGinnis

**Passionate Worship:** Pastor Steve, Deacon Lynn (post LOA), and Karen Ingram

**Intentional Faith Formation:** Deacon Natalie Larkin

**Risk Taking Mission and Service:** Burnis Reed and Karen Ingram

**Extravagant Generosity:** Ann Ashamallah and Tom LaVanne

"Seeing is believing but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see."

- Guideposts



Be with us  
**Ash  
Wednesday**  
February 14th

✝ **Worship Service - 11a.m.**

This will be a worship service with music and communion.

✝ **Ash Wednesday Reflection Time - 5p.m to 8p.m.**

The church sanctuary will be open during these hours for you to receive ashes and take a moment for peaceful prayer. Votive candles will be available to light.

Wednesdays  
Soup luncheon  
and bible study  
in the Social  
Hall at 11a.m.

7p.m bible study  
by zoom

Zoom link will be provided

Join us during  
the **Lenten Season**

Mid-week Bible Studies  
begin February 21st

# IRS Certified Volunteers Provide

## FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION



In conjunction 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 \$60,000 or less, regardless of age

**Conejo Creek South Community Building**  
**1350 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, 91362**

**Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,**  
**Thursdays, and Fridays**

**February 1 - April 12, 2024**

**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 7 -**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

**10:00am - 4:00pm**

**MANDARIN TRANSLATION AVAILABLE**

**10:00am-4:00pm**

**No appointments taken - First-come, first-served basis. Please read all information.**

### 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 (Marketplace Health Insurance)
- Other relevant information on income, expenses, deductions
- Information for all deductions/credits
- Total paid to child care provider and their tax ID number
- Bank Routing numbers for direct deposit

### 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-B)
- 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

\*This program is not a Thousand Oaks Library sponsored event

For more information, contact CSVP at 805.381.2742 or [csvp@crpd.org](mailto:csvp@crpd.org)



Drop your quarters in the  
laundry love jar!

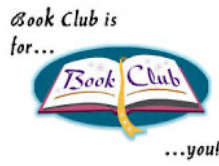
Join New Hope Church in  
helping low-income  
neighbors in our community  
have clean laundry.



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





## February Birthdays

- 4 Bonnie Schulze
- 5 Calvin Beeker  
Uche Olelewe
- 8 Carol Mansmann
- 9 Andrew Mansmann
- 14 Elizabeth Sauger  
Joy Elazary
- 18 Kyle & Logan Ashamallah
- 22 Hannah Mader
- 23 Natalie Larkin



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or in person on Tuesday, February 6th to discuss "Black Cake - a novel" by Charmaine Wilkerson. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

March 5th - "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus

April 2nd - "The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien Charles

*The deadline for all articles for the March newsletter is February 26th. Be sure to email them to [gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com)*



"The only things that we can truly give to each other are the only things that we truly need - an ear to listen, a heart to care, a word of encouragement, and a hand to help."

- Jimmy Carter

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