

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

March, 2024

*“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say,
‘His steadfast love endures forever.’” (Psalm 118:1-2)*

Lent is the perfect time to allow our faith to grow.

At New Hope, we are continuing to look at the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase. We are already on number three! Over the course of March, we'll be focusing on “intentional faith development.” And there is no better time to develop our faith than these weeks before Easter.

Holy Week leads us up to the Easter holiday. It begins with Maundy Thursday on March 28th. This is the day when we remember the story of the Last Supper, and we celebrate it with communion. The word “maundy” is Latin for “command.” In this case, it refers to Jesus’ command for us to serve one another.

Good Friday is the next day on March 29th. We call it “good” in the sense that it is holy or sacred. During worship, we will be hearing the story of the cross. If you pay attention, you will notice that this service concludes without a formal ending. The story is intentionally left unfinished until the following Sunday.

Easter Sunday is then on March 31st. We rejoice in the story that Christ is risen. Because Christ had new life, we can trust that we will have new life as well.

You could sum up all of Holy Week with the verse above. God’s love endures forever! Grace is stronger than the betrayal of the disciples after the Last Supper. It is greater than our sin. It is more powerful than death. The story of Easter is about an empty tomb. Jesus has conquered death. Nothing is bigger than God’s love for us.

The times for our Holy Week services are as follows. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be done in cooperation with our friends at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in West Hills. Please note the location for each service:

Maundy Thursday - March 28th, 7 PM at New Hope Lutheran Church in Agoura Hills

Good Friday - March 29th, 7 PM at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in West Hills

Easter Morning - March 31st, 10 AM at New Hope Lutheran Church in Agoura Hills



I pray that we can sink into the story of Holy Week this year. May your faith grow!

Peace,

Pastor Steve Simpson

From Deacon Lynn

Philippians 1:3-4: *I thank my God every time I think of you! I always pray with joy, whenever I pray for you all.*

Dear members and friends of New Hope,

Thank you for your patience and generosity while I took more than six week of leave while Joe started his cancer treatment. I cannot tell you how comforting it was to be able to focus on things at home without worrying about anything else. Of course I missed everybody, and I missed being in church to worship and lead worship. I'll be glad to get back to those things this month.

As I write this late in February, Joe is 2/3 of the way through his second treatment cycle. After he finishes four of those, he'll have tests to see whether he can stop there and go on maintenance, or whether he will need two more rounds of treatment. The good news is that he is apparently what his oncologist calls a "super-responder" to the chemo drugs. This means that they found the right combination the first time to have Joe's body respond in the best way possible. His pain is a great deal less, and he's stopped losing weight and actually gains a little bit some weeks. He won't be joining us at church right away yet; his immune system still needs as much protection as possible.

Your cards, letters, and food have been gifts from God. Not having to worry about what we would eat after making the round trip to Ventura on treatment days (that's a story for another time) was wonderful, and the cards were real spirit-lifters. I look forward to seeing you all in person on Sunday, March 3rd.





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

Suzie Frye on the death of Steve.

Continued prayers of healing for Joe Bullock, Evelyn Colby, Sandy and Amanda Cowden, Lou Fiore, 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.



Thanks to those that donated food on Super Bowl Sunday to MANNA. It was greatly appreciated. You can donate food any time - just put it in the MANNA box in the narthex and it will get delivered to them.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come by the Quilting Room (behind the kitchen) to our next gathering on Sunday, March 3rd 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.



Good Gifts

Happy March Everyone! Our Good Gifts order was placed and due to your great generosity, we were able to donate 1 Family Farm (Cow, 2 Goats, 2 Pigs, flock of Chickens), 1 herd of Goats +5 Additional Goats, 1 Fish Farm, 1 Vegetable Garden plus Honeybees, 10 Clean Water Filters, School Fees and Uniforms for 2 Girls for School and 1 Night of Shelter for a Vulnerable Youth. These Gifts keep on giving as it provides communities with opportunities for self-reliance and hope. Thank you all for your great support for this program!!

Blessings,
Merylee Blair



Upcoming Ladies Luncheon

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13th for lunch and an opportunity to hear Kathy Rogers speak and show us slides from her recent trip to India. More details next month.



Hot Meal Program

The Hot Meal Program is off to a good start for 2024. Soon there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex with slots for the second half of the year. Thanks to all who have already signed up and thank you to those who will volunteer for the second half. God loves when we help feed his hungry children.



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 17th. 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. Be sure to find the registration page for the Conejo Valley Walk 2024 and Team New Hope Lutheran. Contact Fred Dunn for more information.



Jane Taschereau will have a card sale on Sunday, March 3rd and all proceeds will go to the CROP Walk. She will have lots of spring and Easter cards to sell.



MEN'S GROUP Men's Bible Study and Fellowship

Thursdays at 8:30 AM

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



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28th at 7 PM

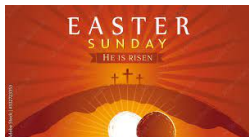


New Hope Lutheran Church

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29th at 7 PM

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

23838 Kittridge Street, West Hills



EASTER MORNING, March 31st at 10 AM

New Hope Lutheran Church

Easter Egg Hunt at New Hope right after worship service.

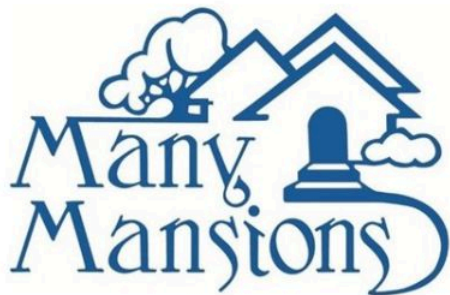




BOWLS OF HOPE

From Empty Bowls to Hopeful Homes

Sunday, March 24th
11 am - 2 pm



HYATT REGENCY WESTLAKE

Adults: \$50 Children: \$15

All proceeds support life-changing services provided to vulnerable members of our community.



Our next gathering will be Saturday, March 2nd

Bonnie Bell's, 1867 Stonesgate Street, Westlake Village

805-338-8161

bonniebella1@gmail.com

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



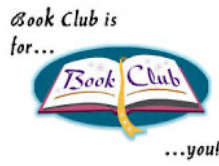
Drop your quarters in the
laundry love jar!

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: 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



March Birthdays

- 5 Gaye Khan
- 6 Lyla Grant
- 11 Steve Simpson
- 19 Taylor Mansmann
Jim Olmstead
- 22 Gerda Sawaya
- 30 Gail Beeker



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or in person on Tuesday, March 5th to discuss "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

April 2nd - "The Henna Artist" by Alka Joshi

May 7th - "The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien Charles

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



**DON'T FORGET TO MOVE
YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH!**



"Don't let anyone interrupt your faith. The people who say, 'But what if....?' Don't listen. When people discourage your dream, it's only because they don't dream as big as you do."

- Jennifer Hudson

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