

# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

**April, 2024**

*“We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” (1 John 3:16-18)*

He is risen!

The story of Easter is at the very core of Christianity. Christ died on a cross and was raised to new life. Because of this, we know that God will raise us as well. Easter is a vision of things to come. Nothing can separate us from the love of God; grace is even stronger than death.

As wonderful as this is, however, the Bible does not end with the resurrection. It is followed with a call to action. 1 John says that, because Christ laid down his life for us, we ought to dedicate our lives to one another.

What does this mean? It means that we are called to help those who are in need. They are not to be neglected or forgotten. The Bible refers to our fellow human beings as “brothers and sisters.” God has made us into a family, and we should treat one another as beloved siblings.

I find the final line in this passage particularly powerful. Love is about more than words or simple speech. True love requires action. This is not to suggest that our words do not matter; we have all experienced the power of speech. Unkind words can bring pain or harm. Words of support can inspire and bring compassion. But our ministry as Christians is to move beyond conversation into action. It is one thing to say “I love you,” but it is another to make it tangible.

As you probably know by now, we have been talking about the “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” at New Hope, and for the month of April, we will be focusing on “Risk-Taking Mission and Service.” God implores us to serve one another. What ways do you serve the people around you? What might be new ways in which you can serve?

Hold onto the story of Easter. The resurrection is a promise of grace, but it is also a calling. We are to take up the cross and serve our neighbors.

*Peace,*  
*Pastor Steve Simpson*



## From Deacon Lynn

Thank you to everyone who took over some part of what I normally do while I was on leave in January and February...and the part of March that I ended up recovering from a brief bout with covid. I found that one of the things that I missed most was putting together and sending out Home Touch. That's our weekly letter that goes out, either by mail or email to everyone retired or 65+ who would like a copy. It consists of a devotional and page of puzzles or Bible quizzes that we get from a national service called Home Touch Ministries. Then, a few years ago we decided to add a New Hope page as well. This has a letter or devotion each week from me, or from Pastor Steve, and a page of prayers from the congregation.

About a dozen people who don't "do" email get Home Touch mailed to their home. The same information is emailed to over forty addresses each week as well. If you, or someone you know, doesn't get the mailed version and would like to have it, please tell me that you'd like to be added to the list that way by telling me at church or leaving a message at the office (818-889-8700) or emailing me if you're responding on behalf of someone else.

If you don't currently get the email version and you would like to, then email me at [lynn@newhopeagoura.com](mailto:lynn@newhopeagoura.com) or leave a message at the church office and I'll happily add you to the list. It's one more way to keep our Senior Ministry going and keep folks in touch with each other and New Hope.

If you currently get Home Touch and you'd like to suggest a change or addition to the way we do things, then get in contact in one of the ways listed above.

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, Suzie Frye, Lyla Grant, Eilene Green, Carlos Gutierrez, Kara Henkel, Vi and Chuck Kemmerer, Joyce Lawson, Jim and Cheryl Merrill, Debbie Niebolt, Ava Grace O'Connell, Cindy O'Hare, Ahoo Pilehvari, Sue Poulson, Sharon Pryor, Wayne Rickert, Suzanne Sahlie, Madelyn and Stan Swope, Jane Taschereau, and Fred Turner.

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



*I wanted to express my thanks and praise, with a long overdue thank you to all the wonderful friends and family of faith at New Hope Lutheran.*

*I literally could not have executed Matt's Celebration of Life without your time, talents, love, and support. I want to especially thank Pastor Steve and Deacon Lynn for reaching out with love and guidance. Laurie who's dedication, computer skills, friendship, and patience throughout the whole experience from start to finish and for pointing me towards Grief-share for bereavement support. David and Christine Cohen for their musical gifts, Terry Paulson for videotaping the service, and uploading it so that friends and family unable to attend could be part of it. And Chris Chigaridas for*

*generously helping me with the yacht club venue.*

*The entire congregation continues to shore me up as I try to navigate the most difficult time of my life.*

*I have learned many new skill sets in my grief journey.....for example; if you have an event that has floral arrangements, Hospice of the Conejo is happy to repurpose them to patients in hospice. They also are grateful to have any durable medical equipment to use in their "loaner program" for people in hospice that are in need but do not have the means to afford them. They also have a patient/pet program that will help assist patients to walk/take care of their pets. Griefshare.org is a fantastic Christian based bereavement group that offers in person as well as online support for those of us that are navigating the grief journey. Calvary Church Westlake also has a program for the underserved community to provide "interview" clothing ... one of the only places I could find that needs/and puts to good use business/business casual clothing.*

*I feel very blessed to call New Hope Lutheran Church my home.*

*With love and a thankful heart,*

Sandy Cowden



### Ladies Luncheon

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13th at 11:30 AM for lunch and an opportunity to hear Kathy Rogers speak and see slides of her recent trip to India. Please let

us know if you are able to come by signing up in the narthex or email Gail at gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com by April 8th so we can plan the food.



### Hot Meal Program

Our Hot Meal Program is progressing smoothly. It's fun to see how people, who are new to baking pies, are enjoying being a part of this program. As always, thanks to our consistent volunteers.

Starting April 7th, there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex to fill in the months of June - September with volunteers.

Thank you all.  
Karen Reed



On Thursday, May 2nd, the Southeast Ventura County YMCA is hosting it's 25th annual prayer breakfast at Cal Lutheran starting at 7:30 in the morning. This breakfast is not a fundraiser for the YMCA, rather it supports the wide mission to promote spiritual values within the community. New Hope Lutheran is proud to be a silver sponsor of the event. As a sponsor, the New Hope family is encouraged to attend. The more people, the better. Please plan to attend by making reservations in the church office. The program will include prayers for friends, family, government, leaders, our nation, and the world. Thank you for your support.

Fred Dunn



## CROP WALK UPDATE

Our CROP Walk was a great success! The New Hope team raised almost \$2,000 to support CWS as well as local organizations including Meals on Wheels, the MANNA Food Pantry, and Harbor House. Our participation included many donors, about 10 walkers, one dog, one pastor and a registration helper. Special thanks to Jane Taschereau who raised over \$500 in proceeds from her cards. The weather was perfect, and everyone who supported was uplifted by joy. I want to thank everyone in the New Hope family for their contributions to this activity.

Blessings,  
Fred Dunn



## 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.



Kathy Rogers, our Scrip Coordinator, is 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.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We'll be having our Prayer Shawl meeting on Sunday, April 7th at 9:15 AM in the room behind the kitchen. Come see what we're about!



## Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk

The morning of March 22nd was wet and raining. But that did not deter a large gathering of families and friends from making the Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk a success. The walk generated nearly \$110,000 and every dollar goes to cancer research.

Team New Hope For Linda raised nearly \$3,500 with your help and that of countless others. For the competitive members, Team New Hope was number six among 43 teams.

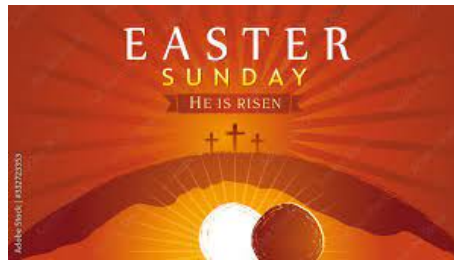
Thanks for your generosity and support to give hope to those afflicted by this disease.

Thanks, Tom LaVanne

newhope  
Mission Endowment Committee  
is accepting applications for grants,  
now through May 31, 2024

Proposals to support religious, charitable  
or educational projects through non-profit  
organizations will be considered.





EASTER MORNING, March 31st at 10 AM

New Hope Lutheran Church



Hey Kids! Bring your Easter baskets this Sunday and join in an Easter Egg Hunt that will take place immediately following our worship service. The Easter Bunny will be here for a special visit and to take pictures with. Don't miss out on this fun event!



Our next gathering will be Saturday, April 6th

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](mailto:csvp@crpd.org)



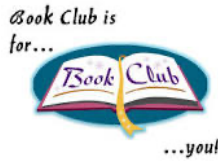
Drop your quarters in the  
laundry love jar!

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



### April Birthdays

- 2 Lorie Paulson
- 9 Fred Dunn
- 15 Sue Koons
- 23 Linda Barry
- 25 Sue Poulson
- 26 Sarah Olelewe

The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or in person on Tuesday, April 2nd to discuss "The Henna Artist" by Alka Joshi. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

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

June 4th - "Good Night, Irene" by Lis Alberto Urrea

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."

- John Holmes



*The deadline for all articles for the May newsletter is April 25th. Be sure to email them to [gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com)*

"The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing that you will make one."

**New Hope Lutheran Church**  
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**[www.NewHopeAgoura.org](http://www.NewHopeAgoura.org)**

