

# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

**May, 2024**

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”*

*- 1 Peter 4:10-11*

What does generosity mean to you?

Over the past couple of months at New Hope, we have been looking at the “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” according to the author Robert Schnase. Each of these practices encourages us to grow as a congregation and engage in new missions. And now we have finally made it to number five: radical generosity!

When we talk about generosity in the church, we often focus the conversation on money and finances. And, to be fair, that is certainly part of it. Everything that we have belongs to God, including our budgets. But we cannot stop there. God calls us to be generous in every part of our lives.

The author of 1 Peter reminds us of all of this. We have all been blessed by God in our own way: “like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” Some of us are handy and others are good with technology. Some people are brilliant decorators, while others are expert problem solvers. Some folks are fantastic cooks, while others are beautiful painters. We could create an endless list of the talents in this congregation. These are the things God wants you to share.

God calls you to be generous. Why? Because God has been generous with you! We have been given life and love. We have been given forgiveness. We have been given a place on this earth. And, at the same time, God did not create us to live in isolation. Christ calls us to be in relationship with one another and share what we have received. We can lift each other up and make God’s love tangible in the world. The Holy Spirit works in you.

So, this May, let’s live into the generosity to which God has called us. Let’s give from everything that we are: our time, our talents, and our finances. When we work together, we become God’s hands in the world.

Peace,  
*Pastor Steve Simpson*

## From Deacon Lynn

For those of you who get emails from church, you may have noticed that recently about every 2-3 weeks, New Hope sends out another reminder of a scam. It's gotten common enough that Pastor Steve has put a closing line on all of his emails: "Please note: protect yourself from phishing. New Hope staff will never ask for an urgent favor or the purchase of gift cards via email. Please delete these emails without responding. Thank you!" It bears repeating: no staff member of New Hope will ever email or text you with a request to "help them out" by purchasing gift cards for them. It just won't happen. If you get such a text or email, it is a scam.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Department and the Fillmore Police Department have issued the following reminders to help folks 60 and over (the biggest target for scammers) recognize scams:

- Protect your identity online and on your phone: don't post personal information on social media sites like Facebook, and don't answer texts from unknown numbers.
- Don't rush decisions. Scammers tend to create a sense of urgency to induce fear. Virtually no real source will tell you that what they need has to be done in the next fifteen minutes, or an hour.
- Government and/or law enforcement won't demand payment via certain methods (gift card buying, access to your account information, etc.)
- Have a "secret word" or password phrase to recognize that a call is really from a family member. One common scam involves someone posing as a grandchild (or other adult relative) who needs money for bail or medical bills immediately.

These are a few ways to avoid common scams. A reminder that has been around for close to a century is still valid: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you have been "offered" participation in anything else you believe to be a scam, let me know. I'm always collecting current ones to warn folks against.

*Deacon Lynn*





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

Karen Reed fell and broke her arm.

Evelyn Colby and her family on the death of her brother, Allen Leland.

Patricia Hill and her family on the death of her grandmother, Patricia.

Continued prayers of healing for Joe Bullock, Evelyn Colby, Sandy and Amanda Cowden, Lou Fiore, Suzie Frye, Lyla Grant, Eilene Green, Carlos Gutierrez, Kara Henkel, Vi and Chuck Kemmerer, Joyce Lawson, Leila Mader, 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, Ardy Tamburro, Jane Taschereau, and Fred Turner.

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



Dear New Hope Family,

Thank you for your care and concern during Steve's 9 year battle with cancer and subsequent passing. I appreciated all the food and cards of encouragement. I was so touched to see so many of you at his celebration of life and am grateful for my New Hope Family.

Love, Suzie Frye



Please update your church directory with the following change:

**Dyanne Schultz**

dyanneTWA@gmail.com



## Supper's 8

It's time to sign up for Supper's 8 again. Our next groupings will begin in June. Supper's 8 is a group of adults (singles or couples) who get together for a meal in a home. It is a wonderful way to enjoy each other's company in a warm and friendly setting outside of church. Someone hosts and provides the main dish and everyone else brings a part of the meal. We have a rotating schedule so you will have a chance to share a meal with many members of the congregation during the year. It meets 3 times a year. You can sign up to host in a certain 3-month time or not host at all. When you sign up, just make sure you put your name in the proper time sheet that works for you. Sign-ups for this program is on the poster board in the narthex or you can contact Gail McGinnis. This has been a very successful event and those involved have all enjoyed it. This past year we had 36 participants and hope to have many more this next time.



## Worship and Music Planning

The Worship and Music Planning Team is meeting after church on May 19th to plan worship services for Pentecost and the summer. Anyone with ideas on how to make our worship experience meaningful for all is welcome. Music, dance, banners – all help fill our soul and

senses, and enhance the message of the day. If you generally watch on line, we want your input too! Please send your ideas to [laurie@newhopeagoura.com](mailto:laurie@newhopeagoura.com).



## Council Changes

Council accepted the resignation of Ann Ashamalla. We give thanks for her service, especially her leadership in the annual Stewardship Drive. Council has appointed Dutch Schulze to fill the balance of Ann's term. We give thanks to Dutch for saying yes. Please thank Ann and Dutch the next time you see them!



## Southwest California Synod Assembly

The annual Synod Assembly will be held May 31st and June 1st at the Southwest California Synod office in Glendale, as well as on-line. This is a time for all congregations in the Synod to gather to celebrate God and conduct the business of the church. New Hope will be represented by Pastor Steve and Deacon Lynn as part of their call, and Karen Ingram will be one of our two lay delegates. Registration is due soon, so if you are interested in participating as a lay delegate, please let Pastor Steve know by May 10th. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



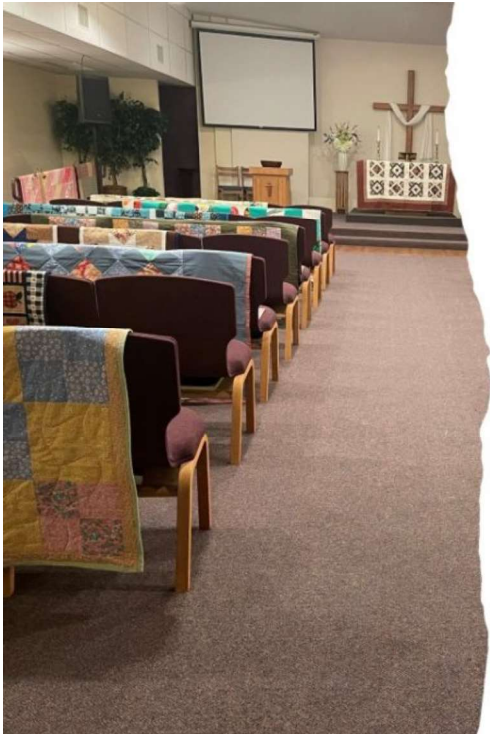
## Our Textile Trip to Jaipur, India

Kathy Rogers and  
Kathryn Murray

*I'd like to thank all the people that attended the talk I did about my daughter and my "Textile Trip to India" at church on April 13th. I'd also like to thank Jane Taschereau for having a neighbor that is from India and she prepared our delicious lunch. Jane and Gail McGinnis were hostesses extraordinaire with preparing the church for the luncheon. Thank you ladies, you are the best.*

*I'd like to let anyone that was not able to attend, that I will be speaking at the Conejo Valley Quilt Guild's next meeting, the same talk. It will be held at the Thousand Oaks Grant Brimhall Library on Friday, May 17th from 2:30-4:30 PM if you'd like to attend. Please let me know if you are interested and I will leave your name at the door as my guests.*

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## Piece Makers

### Quilt Project for Lutheran World Relief

This quilting group meets in the Amplify classroom, every other Thursday, from 9a.m to 1p.m. Our goal is to contribute quilts for distribution through Lutheran World Relief.

Please contact Kathy Rogers if you would like to join us, or for more information.

Kathy can be reached by email:

[kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com)

Our next meeting is May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9a.m.



# Hot Meal Program

the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month

**Volunteer to bake & deliver  
pot pies to Holy Trinity  
church. Pies & supplies are  
provided by New Hope.**



*Sign-up Sunday in the Narthex!*

New Hope Church participates in the Harbor House Hot Meal Program by providing 50 hot chicken pot pies each month. Our New Hope volunteers bake the pies then deliver them to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on the 3rd Monday of each month, between 4:00-4:15 PM. The frozen pies and supplies are provided by New Hope. Would you like to be a part of this ministry? You can sign up to be a permanent baker, or you can sign up to be an "on call alternate." There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex this Sunday, or you can contact Karen Reed at (805) 405-0518 or email [kreed0753@gmail.com](mailto:kreed0753@gmail.com).



Our next gathering will be Saturday, May 4th

Bonnie Bell's, 1867 Stonesgate Street, Westlake Village

805-338-8161

[bonniebella1@gmail.com](mailto:bonniebella1@gmail.com)

# Prayer Shawl Ministry

*knit, crochet, loom & pray*

Shawls are given to  
comfort or support those  
in need or to celebrate  
special events

*See Marsha Chew for more information.*

Join us in the Amplify room the first  
Sunday of the month at 9:15a.m.



**COME JOIN US ON SUNDAY, MAY 5TH AT 9:15 AM**

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.



newhope Lutheran Church  
MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

# Safety and Security Ministry



## Special Event:

**We are pleased to welcome Mark Hollinger on May 5th immediately following the service to talk about Church Safety and Situational Awareness and all are invited to attend.**

The Safety and Security Ministry wants to thank you all for your patience and cooperation as we have worked to identify and implement recommended changes to help keep all who enter our grounds safe and secure.

### Completed since last update:

- Re-directional driving pattern arrows painted in the parking lot to help keep all safe when crossing to or from their cars and when parking and pulling out from a parking space.
- No Parking markings on the driveway when entering so gaining access to our parking lot is not restricted in an emergency.
- Color tape applied to the raised area around the altar to delineate the raised area to prevent falling.
- Locked donation box on the wall in the sanctuary replaced the donation plates.
- Velvet barriers put up in front of the sanctuary doors when the sanctuary is not in use.
- First aid kits purchased for emergency use.
- Exit/No Exit signs posted as needed.
- Flashlights in place in case of loss of electricity.

### In work:

- Audit of all outstanding keys to our building is almost complete.
- Cyber security audit is being conducted.
- Poor lighting and incomplete camera monitoring of the parking lot has been a concern raised by many – evaluation of potential solutions is underway.
- Access to the Youth Room during goodie time is recommended to provide more places for sitting as well as to draw the children away from the proximity to the parking lot so parents can relax and little ones can make use of the play area. We are currently waiting for the outside door to the Youth Room to be replaced/repared.

We welcome your comments, recommendations, or thoughts you want to share with any of our Safety and Security Ministry members or staff.

Pastor Steve, Gaye Khan, Calvin Beeker, Lorie Paulson, Jim Olmstead, Wayne Rickert, and Steve Chew



Drop your quarters in the  
laundry love jar!

Join New Hope Church  
Helping neighbors in  
our community have  
clean laundry.



### ITEMS NEEDED FOR MANNA THIS MONTH

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

**Frozen or fresh ground beef - 1 or 2 pound packages**

**Fresh eggs - any quantity**

**Fresh milk - any kind and any size**

**Canned vegetables - no green beans**

**Canned pasta - raviolis or spaghetti**

**Dry pasta - any kind**

**Flavored rice - Rice-A-Roni**

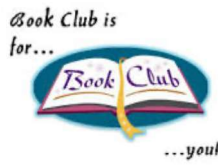
**One pound bags of dry rice**

**Hamburger Helper or boxed potatoes**

**Manna**  
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK







### May Birthdays

- 11 Evelyn Colby
- 13 Steve Chew
- 21 Luke Dibley
- 23 Burnis Reed
- 26 Linda Leland
- 27 Chuck Titcomb

The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or in person on Tuesday, May 7th - "The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien Charles. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

June 4th - "Greenlights" by Matthew McConaughey

July 2nd - "Good Night, Irene" by Lis Alberto Urrea



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

Of all the special joys in life,  
The big ones  
and the small,  
A mother's love  
and tenderness  
Is the greatest  
of them all.



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