

# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

**July, 2025**

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*“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)*

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

On the last Sunday of this month, we will be doing a “hymn sing” during worship with some of people’s favorite songs. “This Little Light of Mine” is one of the ones I like best. It is sung in churches, camps, retreats, and preschools. Even if you have never set foot in a church before, you have likely heard it somewhere else. It is a song many of us grew up singing as children. The words and tune are permanently etched into our hearts.

Let’s take a moment, though, to dive into the message of this hymn. It is based on the passage above, which is from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. God has sent us out as lights to shine in the world. This might seem like a daunting task! But God promises that we can do it. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Where does this confidence come from? How does God know that we can shine? We are not lights on our own, but we reflect the light that God has already shown us. We feel the warmth of God’s love and the illumination of grace. It guides us and shows us the way. Our calling, then, is to be a mirror to this light and share it with everyone that we meet. You, and all of us together, can be a city on a hill that provides hope in a gloomy night.

Sometimes life can feel dark. We all know what this darkness can look like: anxiety, worry, conflict, sickness, hatred, prejudice, and any other number of things. Martin Luther King Jr. once preached, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” Let us take these words to heart and follow in the spirit of that old hymn. You are the light of the world. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Peace,  
*Pastor Steve Simpson*





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

The Ash Family on the passing of Cherie's mother, Sharon Pryor.

Mariella Edgar is recovering from knee surgery.

Continued prayers of healing for Joe Bullock, Steve Chew, Sandy Cowden, Joy Elazary, Mary Ann and Lou Fiore, Suzie Frye, Lyla Grant, Kara Henkel, Vi and Chuck Kemmerer, Joyce Lawson, Dorr and Joan Looman, Elinor Martin, Jim and Cheryl Merrill, Katie Murray, Jim and Renee Olmstead, Karen Reed, Phyllis and Wayne Rickert, Madeline Swope, Jane Taschereau, and the Shaver Family.

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



We rejoice with Kailey and Cameron Wood on the birth of Louie (Lulu) Violet. She was born on June 3rd and weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. Proud brother is Otto and Grandma Kara DeMelfi.

## Social Justice Small Group

The Social Justice Small Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 2-3 PM. If you would like a safe place to discuss your concerns regarding issues of social justice and how to respond to God's call to care for each other, you are welcome to join. Please contact Karen Ingram to receive Zoom information.



## Sunday School

We are taking a break this summer. We thank Ann Church, Gaye Khan, Lorie Paulson, Ardy Tamburro, and Karen Ingram for teaching our young children about Jesus and God through songs, crafts, and stories. Classes will resume on Sunday, September 7th.

We have room for a few more volunteer leaders. A planning meeting is being held on Thursday, August 7th, from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM in the library. Lunch will be provided. We will discuss the curriculum, review video materials, and map out the program from September '25 – June '26. Please let Karen Ingram or Pastor Steve know if you will be there.



Dear friends,

Thank you for all of the kind words, hugs, cards, and flowers, and especially the fun lunch for my retirement. I am still amazed at the number of people who came or contacted me; there was definitely a lot of love on June 1.

I'll admit I miss you and will for a while. The earliest I can come back to worship will be December. Before then I can have texts, notes, or the occasional cup of coffee with folks as long as it's away from New Hope property.

Until then I'm checking out other congregations in the Conejo

Valley, and finding new routines in retirement. For the most part it's a lot of fun, and there's plenty of family "stuff" to keep me busy.

Again, thank you for everything,

*Deacon Lynn*



## Take a Mulligan

By Jane Taschereau

In the twenty-five or so years of my previous and middling golf life, I took my share of mulligans.

For the non-golfer let me explain. You step up to the tee, adjust your stance, take a perfect back swing - keeping your left arm straight and your head down and let 'er rip. The ball, with a seeming mind of it's own, finds some dense bushes. Your partner says, "Take a mulligan" which is a do-over shot that doesn't count or score. Life's a lot like golf (no, really). You try to do it all right; sometimes you just flub up!

That is when our glorious Lord reminds us that he sent his Son to give us another chance. A sort of mulligan.

So...keep swinging and count your strokes, my friends; the great Greens Keeper has your back!

P.S. Please replace your divots.





Rev. Craig R. Beeker

*Celebrating 35 years  
of faithful ministry*

*Honoring a life of ministry,  
worship and leadership*

On June 24<sup>th</sup> Pastor Craig Beeker celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. For nearly 30 of those years, he faithfully served our congregation with his grace-filled leadership and care. Though he now serves afar, his selfless dedication to God and to God's people continues to bear fruit in our lives and in the life of this church.

You are invited to share a message with Pastor Craig on our New Hope Lutheran Church Facebook page (or Pastor Craig's at Craig Beeker) or contact the church office for other ways to connect.

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We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith,  
your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our  
Lord Jesus Christ.

(1Thessalonians 1:3)





Join us Sunday, July 27th, for Hymnfest 2, a special worship service devoted to the power of music in our faith journey. We will come together for a Celebration of Song in Praise - lifting our voices in beloved hymns and meaningful praise songs that have shaped our spiritual lives.

Music is a gift from God that speaks to the heart, reminds us of truth, and connects us to one another. Help us make this a shared and joy-filled service by contributing your story: Has a hymn or Christian song encouraged you during a difficult moment? What's your favorite hymn, and why? Please share the song title and your story with us! Tap the button, below and complete the online form, or there will be forms available on the table in the narthex this Sunday. Suggestions should be received by July 13th. Thank you!





## 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 - 4:30 PM. The Third Quarter of July, August, and September has been assigned. Thank you to all. The frozen pies and supplies are provided by New Hope. Any questions, text Karen Reed at (805) 405-0518.

## 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.



We will meet on Sunday, July 6th!







Drop your quarters in the  
laundry love jar!

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



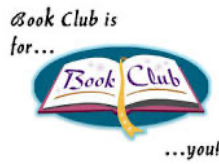
### ITEMS NEEDED FOR MANNA THIS MONTH

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



- Canned pasta sauce
- Canned baked beans or refried beans
- Shelf-Stable Drinks - Juice, Gatorade, etc.
- Toilet Paper, Paper towels, or Tissue
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Fruit - any kind
- Canned Soup - any kind
- Canned meat - chicken or spam
- Coffee, Tea or Hot cocoa
- Condiments - Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, etc.





*"It's not only God's mercies  
that are new every  
morning. It's his miracles!  
Every day, without  
exception, we experience  
miracles big and small,  
visible and invisible,  
tangible and intangible."  
- Mark Batterson*

## July Birthdays

- 1 Gary Alwood
- 3 Wayne Rickert
- 4 John Leland  
Mia Malchow
- 6 Ernie Salmon
- 8 Bonnie Northcott  
Ardy Tamburro
- 13 Chriss Alwood  
Jane Taschereau
- 15 Dorr Looman
- 21 Karen Reed



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or at church on July 1st to discuss "Master Slave Husband Wife" by Ilyon Woo. The future books we are reading are...

August 5th - "The Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger

September 2nd - "March" by Geraldine Brooks

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



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