

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

October 2025

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

(2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

Has there ever been a gift you were truly excited to give?

When Christmas gets closer, I often find myself thinking about the presents I will give the members of my family. I want to find the perfect thing to show how much I care. Maybe it will be a book about a subject they love, or a movie I think they will enjoy. It could be a board game I know they have been eager to play. Sometimes I will make a donation to a charity in honor of that person.

After spending so much time thinking about the perfect gift, I've noticed a strange thing happens: I am more excited to give the present than they are to receive it! When you pour your heart into something, it gives you joy. Giving can be an expression of love.

The Apostle Paul talks about this in the book of 2 Corinthians. He speaks about how the early church, which was still in its infancy, should share with one another. We often think of giving as an obligation. We do it because we feel that it is a requirement. But Paul reminds us of something sacred: we are called to be cheerful givers! Why? Because we are excited to share. We have experienced blessings, and now we wish to share those blessings.

We will begin our stewardship campaign in early October. You will receive a letter with more details, or you can look at our weekly emails for more information. For this little newsletter article, however, I want to keep things simple. God teaches us to be cheerful givers.

Our theme for stewardship this year is "You Belong, Now Bless." New Hope is a place where we come to find community. We see it on Sunday mornings as we gather for worship. We hear it in the music as we raise our voices in song. We see it every day during the week as our building is filled with people attending support groups. The church is a beacon for healing and belonging.

At its core, stewardship is truly a cheerful thing. When we give to the church, whether it be a gift of finances or your time, you support the community. It forms New Hope into a space for healing and love. And now, blessed by this community, we look for new ways to share the good news of Christ: we are loved.

So we give cheerfully! Because, guided by the Holy Spirit, we trust that we have something sacred to share. We share healing, we share love, we share community. With all of my heart, I thank you for your thoughtful stewardship and giving over the past year. I look forward to us sharing the gospel in new and exciting ways in the future.

Peace,
Pastor Steve Simpson



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

Renee Olmstead on the passing of Jim.

Continued prayers of healing for Joe Bulock, Steve Chew, Sandy Cowden, Mariella Edgar, 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, Karen Reed, Phyllis and Wayne Rickert, Madeline Swope, and Jane Taschereau.

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



Children's Sunday School is held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. We are using the Spark Children's Bible this year to share Bible stories, and will be learning some songs and doing crafts. We can use an aide on the 3rd and 4th Sundays. Please let Karen Ingram or Gaye Khan know if you'd like to help. All children are welcome!

LWR Hygiene Kits

We assembled 200 personal hygiene kits on Sunday, September 7th, God's Work Our Hands day in the ELCA. Many thanks to Karen Ingram, Gail McGinnis, Gary McGinnis, Lorie Paulson, and Sue Poulson for obtaining Thrivent action grants totaling \$1,250, which

helped purchase the supplies. Thanks, too, to the anonymous donor who paid the balance. Our assembled hygiene kits will be delivered with the Piecemakers Quilts to the LWR in-gathering at Mt. Cross on October 23rd. Thanks to all who helped!



The New Hope Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund will be accepting applications for Fall grants to authorized charities starting October 1st. We welcome requests from any New Hope member for consideration. The applications, with guidelines, can be found on the New Hope website under Ministries. All requests for distribution must be to the Endowment Committee by October 22nd.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Church, Sue Poulson, Kathy Rogers, Ryan Dibley, or Gaye Khan for guidance.

We are truly blessed with these gifts to be able to help others in need and look forward to recognizing worthwhile causes.



First Monday Prayer Gathering

You are invited to come to the Prayer Chapel on Monday, October 6th, from 5 PM - 6 PM to join others in prayer. As Jesus said, "where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am also." Our hour of prayer begins by praying for those on our Sunday prayer list and the prayer chain, and our personal

prayers. Then we will share prayers for a cause, beseeching God to hear our prayers.

On October 6th we will pray for victims of gun violence and an end to the problem. On November 3rd we will pray for all elections being held November 4th, giving thanks for election volunteers, safety at the polls, and praise that our process let's our voices be heard. On December 1st we will pray that the joy of Christ's birth and the Peace He brings will be felt around the world.

2026 Council

Elections were held at the September 28th Congregational Meeting to fill one vacancy. We give thanks to Mary Ann Fiore for her willingness to serve on Council. Her three-year term will begin January 1, 2026. Joe Bulock, Karen Ingram, and Gaye Khan volunteered to serve another three years on Council. The 2026 Council members are John Bell, Joe Bulock, Mary Ann Fiore, Karen Ingram, Gaye Khan, Natalie Larkin, Gail McGinnis, Burnis Reed, and of course, Pastor Stee. Many thanks to Mary Gallagher for her years on Council and all she did to serve this church. Thank you ALL for your service.

Social Justice Small Group

The Social Justice Small Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 2-3 PM. If you would like a safe place to discuss 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 the link.



We're thrilled to introduce Manna's **Boo-tique Pumpkin Auction!**

Each hand-painted pumpkin is lovingly created by a talented local artist and Friend of Manna. All proceeds help Manna in our efforts to carve out hunger right here in Conejo Valley!

Here's how you can join the fun!

1. Bid on your favorite pumpkin between **Sep 26 - Oct 17!**
Use the "**Buy Now**" option to secure your pumpkin and eliminate the competition.
2. We'll deliver your pumpkin right to your porch!
(From Camarillo to Calabasas)
3. Feel the joy of knowing your purchase brings us closer to a full table for all!
4. **Spread the Boo-tique buzz!** Share on social media and tell your friends! The more people who see these gourd-geous creations, the better!

Our goal is to raise \$7,500, turning pumpkins into groceries, hope, and support for families throughout our community.

Purchases are tax-deductible beyond the value of the pumpkin—a little extra treat for your generosity!

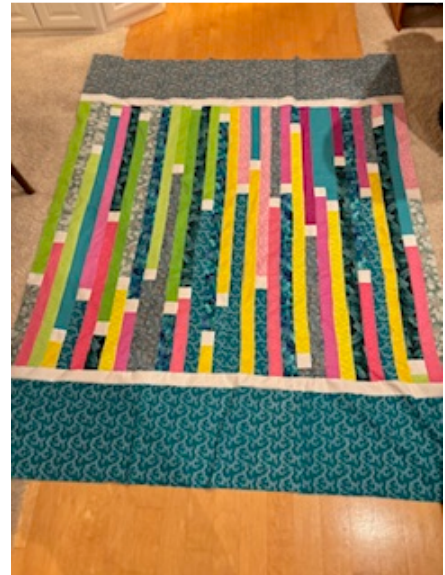
Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank & Pantry
95 N Oakview Drive Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

The Piecemakers

The ladies of Piecemakers have been very busy this year, as of today, 47 quilts with more to come before the Blessing of the Quilts during the service on October 19th. We are proud of our accomplishments and would love to have anyone that would like to help tie knots on Sunday, October 12th stay for a little while after church. Most of our quilts have been machine quilted, so don't worry it won't be 47 quilts, only a few. We'd love to have congregation participation. It's such a wonderful experience knowing that our quilts will go out into the world to help comfort other people. If you would like to help by contributing to help pay for our batting that is used in each quilt and the shipping, we would really appreciate it. We've been very fortunate to have so many people contribute the fabric we use for the quilts.

Here are pictures of our recent layering and sewing of quilts. Our cupboards are full of quilts and soon will go out into the world.

Thank you Piece Makers: Bonnie Bell, Holly Dolliver, Gail McGinnis, Lorie Paulson, Kathy Rogers, Alison Rowe, Bonnie Schulze, and Ardy Tamburro.



CHRISTMAS GREENERY

It's that time of year to order your greenery. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE talk to our neighbors, friends, and co-workers and encourage them to send direct delivery gifts. Everyone has a special person who is difficult to shop for and they will love receiving a fresh green wreath or other decoration that fills their home with the aroma of Christmas. The direct delivery gifts are a great idea for companies to send to their clients. It's a special way to say 'THANKS.' Be sure and make the unique opportunity known to all who like to have beautiful fragrant and REAL Christmas greenery surround them at the holidays. And don't forget to order greenery for your own home too! The greenery will arrive shortly after Thanksgiving. You can order greenery from Gail McGinnis after worship services on October 26th, November 2nd, and 9th, email (gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com) or call me at 805-523-7884 and I will be happy to take your order. An order form will also be in the Friday email. If your order will be going to the same people you have sent to in the past, I have all your information on the computer so make it easy on yourself. Checks can be payable to New Hope Lutheran Church, just be sure to mark it for "greenery." You can also Zelle your money to Laurie at the church. The prices and pictures of greenery are below. There is no charge for delivery. Prices include the sales tax. All orders are due to me no later than November 13th.

HOLIDAY GREENERY



22" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$44

2 - 10' Western Cedar Gift Garland - \$55

Gift Centerpiece with LED Candle - \$44

Noble Fir Gift Door Swag - \$45

28" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$52

Cone Gift Basket - \$40

Evergreen Gift Set - \$82



Donate to the Altar Flower Fund

Let us recognize your special
someone or event during our
worship service announcements
and in our newsletter

Dedicate flowers online at:

[www.newHopeAgoura.org/
altar-flower-donations](http://www.newHopeAgoura.org/altar-flower-donations)




*Prayer
Chapel*

Monthly Prayer
Gatherings

We Meet again
October 6th
from 5 - 6 p.m.

The Monthly Prayer Gathering is a time set apart for prayer — You're invited to pray in a small group or spend personal time with the Lord, bringing to Him whatever is on your heart. Printed prayers, books on prayer, and topic suggestions will be available to guide and inspire you. These include prayers for the world, our nation, those in need, healing, employment, peace, and more. Join us, won't you? All Are Welcome.



Celebrating the life of Jim Olmstead

October 4, 2025, at 10a.m.

*A memorial service will be held
in our sanctuary, with a
reception to follow*


Mission Endowment Committee
is accepting applications for grants!
Now through October 22, 2025

Apply at: NewHopeAgoura.org/mission-endowment-fund

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



Prayer Shawl Ministry

*knit, loom,
crochet, &
pray*



*Created to comfort and support those in
need or to celebrate special events*

For more information go to:

NewHopeAgoura.org/ministries/prayer-shawl-ministry/



We will meet on Sunday, October 12th at 9:15 AM.

Scheduling Change



LADIES
CRAFT & CHAT

will not be meeting in October
JOIN US again NOVEMBER 1ST

see
Bonnie Bell FOR DETAILS
about this fun monthly gathering



Our quilting group meets every other Thursday,
from 9:30a.m to 1p.m.

We will meet again on October 9th

See Kathy Rogers for more information about this ministry,
or how you can donate to the cost of materials.



Phishing... Vhishing... Smishing... OH MY!!!



If you receive an email, a phone call, or a text message from a member of the church staff requesting your assistance, or more specifically, asking you to purchase gift cards or provide personal information, please **DO NOT RESPOND**.

This is NOT from the church and is a scam.

Your staff at New Hope Lutheran Church will never contact its members to request the emergency purchase of gift cards or transfer of money. If you ever receive such a communication, please advise the church office ASAP.



VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

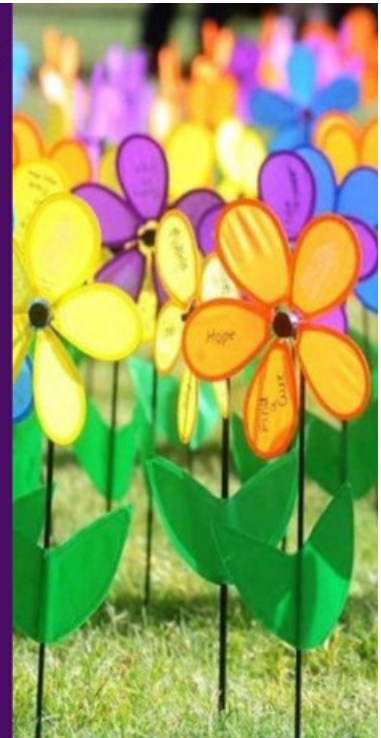
- Registration begins at 9a.m.
- Walk begins at 10:30a.m.

Join or
donate
to
TEAM TUTU

Go to:
www.ALZ.ORG/WALK



Lou Fiore and family



Hot Meal Program
the 3rd 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. Emails to follow. Thank you to all. The frozen pies and supplies are provided by New Hope. Any questions, text Karen Reed at (805) 405-0518.



newHope
Lutheran
Church

Helping neighbors in
our community have
clean laundry



Drop your quarters in the Laundry Love jar!

The cost of washing is \$2.50 for small loads and up to \$6.50 for large washers. Drying time is \$.25 per 5 minutes.

God bless you for your prayers and continued support of Laundry Love, helping the needy in our community! Volunteers are also appreciated! See Burnis Reed for more information.

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 Refried Beans

Broth - Chicken, Vegetable, Beef

Toilet Paper, Paper towels, or Tissue

Boxed Mashed Potatoes

Canned Chili

Canned meat - Chicken or Spam

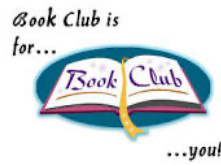
Coffee or Tea

Condiments - Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, etc.

Flavored Rice - Rice-A-Roni



Manna
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK



October Birthdays

- 1 Cherie Ash
- 3 Chuck Kemmerer
- 13 Kathy Aitkens
Andrea Carter
- 14 Kathy Rogers
- 15 Mary Ann Fiore
- 17 Darlene Daigle
- 23 Terry Paulson
- 29 John Bell



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or at church on October 7th - "All the Beauty in the World" by Patrick Bringley. The future books we are reading are...

November 4th - "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon

December 2nd - "Running with Sherman" by Christopher McDougall

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

"What a job to laugh and find humor in each day."

- Anonymous

"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone."

- Neale Donald Walsch



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