



# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

***April and May 2026***

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*“Look, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. “*  
(1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

Christ is risen!

These past 40 days of Lent, we dove into the practice of prayer. Wherever we may be, we can always talk with God. Sometimes those prayers might be joyful, sometimes they might be a lament. Sometimes they are simple, sometimes they are complex. Sometimes we cannot even find the words to say, but God always knows what is written in our hearts. In the end, we trust in this: God hears us and God loves us.

And now we have finally arrived at the glorious message of Easter. This is the ultimate sign of God’s love! Christ has been raised from the dead, and Christ promises us new life. There is nothing stronger than the Lord’s love for you.

I adore how Paul describes the resurrection here in the book of 1 Corinthians: it happens in the “twinkling of an eye.” How joyful! You can imagine Christ raising us up with a smile, the kind of smile so wide that it reaches up to the eyes. Christ looks at you, arms outstretched, to welcome you home.

The message of Easter is a simple one, but sometimes we need to rest in that sacred promise. God loves you. God loves the ones you love. It is an earnest love, shown with a sacred smile. As Paul reminds us, we will all be changed in a moment. You will be with Christ.

Christ is risen indeed.

Peace,

*Pastor Steve Simpson*





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

Continued prayers of healing for Joe Bulock, Marsha Chew and family, Sandy Cowden, Mariella Edgar, Mary Ann Fiore, Suzie Frye, Lyla Grant, Ben and Kara Henkel, Vi and Chuck Kemmerer, Beverly Larkin, Joyce Lawson, Dorr and Joan Looman, Elinor Martin, Jim and Cheryl Merrill, Katie Murray, Renee Olmstead, Karen Reed, Wayne Rickert, Madeline Swope, Jane Taschereau and Jim Valestrino.

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

### Bread Breakers

Bread Breakers is our new small group for those who like to eat out and try new restaurants. All are welcome to come break bread and get to know your fellow members of New Hope. Feel free to bring a friend. Our April 16th meal will be at Country Harvest (3345 Kimber Dr. #C, Newbury Park). Our May 21st meal location will be announced later. For more information, contact Karen Ingram.

### First Monday Prayer Gathering

We invite you to join our First Monday Prayer gathering at 5 PM in the Prayer Chapel. We pray for the individuals on New Hope's prayer chain, as well as concerns for our community at large. On April 6th, we will pray especially for Peace and Justice. On May 4th, we will pray for the women who've made a difference in our lives.

### Hawaii Flood Relief

Several New Hope members have asked me how to help the people of Hawaii as all of the islands recover from the recent floods and torrential rains. There are 3 ways to make a gift through the church: 1) Make your check payable to NHLC and note "LDR-Hawaii" on the memo line - Gary Alwood will send the funds to LDR; 2) Make your check payable to Lutheran Disaster Response and mail it to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8809; or 3) Make a gift online at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) - click on the red GIVE button, click on 'I would like to choose an area for this gift', click the Lutheran Disaster Response box. Mahalo for your support, Karen Ingram.

### Support for Ukraine

You gave \$2,450 for Dave Nonnemacher to take to Ukraine! These funds purchased food and first aid supplies that are being distributed by Dave and the Mariupol Chaplains as this is written. The following note was received from Dave before he headed to Ukraine in March: A big thank you for the donation from New Hope people. The check arrived and I will soon be using the funds to support Ukrainian civilians. On behalf of the, I say 'Dya Kuyu!' I leave on the 18th - prayers appreciated. Bless you - Dave Nonnemacher" Please keep praying for Dave and the people of Ukraine.

### Social Justice Small Group

The Social Justice Small Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 2 - 3 PM. This is a safe place to discuss

issues of social justice and how to respond to God's call to care for each other. Please contact Karen Ingram to receive the link.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Created to comfort and support those in need or to celebrate special events. This group will not meet until May 3rd at 9:15 AM.



The CROP Walk was a huge success. The weather was perfect, and the fellowship was inspirational. New Hope Lutheran had twice as many walkers as last year, and we met some old friends and made some new friends along the walk.

I want to thank the walkers and especially the many donors and sponsors. As a preliminary number we contributed over \$1,500 to the walk.

As you know 25% of the money from the walk stays in the community for Meals on Wheels, Harbor House, and the Harvest Food Bank. Your donations have an impact on food insecurity locally and help enable the continued mission projects of Church World Service around the globe.

Again, thanks to the walkers, donors, and others who supported the 2026 Conejo Valley CROP Walk. Fred Dunn



# Holy Week

- a Worship Service -

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> -

6p.m.

*Join us for a message of the  
Last Supper and the story  
of the cross.*

Our Prayer Chapel will be open Saturday,  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 1-3PM for anyone seeking a  
quiet, reflective space for prayer.

*Holy Saturday - A time for prayer*

 New Hope Lutheran Church

# Easter

worship service

Celebrate with  
us at 10a.m

in person, or  
online at [NewHopeAgoura.org](http://NewHopeAgoura.org)





A SPECIAL EVENING PRESENTATION

# Faith Under Attack

*in Ukraine*

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought systematic efforts to restrict and silence religious groups that operate outside of state-controlled institutions. Churches, mosques, and synagogues have been damaged or destroyed. Clergy and believers of many faiths have suffered intimidation, arrest, and persecution.

## *How Can You Help?*

Join us for an evening of education, advocacy, and prayer in support of people of faith in Ukraine.

**Saturday, April 18th**  
**7:00 P.M.**

### **United Church of Christ Simi Valley**

370 Royal Ave, Simi Valley

- View "A Faith Under Siege" — a documentary by Yaroslav Lodygin
- Q & A and conversation with Ukrainians who left their homeland
- Opportunity to contact your representatives in support of Ukrainians and HR 6856
- Prayers during a candlelight vigil

UKRAINIAN MUSIC PROVIDED BY

*The Kovaleva Duo (piano and violin)*  
*and soloist Ulha Nes*

A Faith Under Siege: Russia's Hidden War on Ukraine's Christians\* is a powerful and moving exploration of the unyielding spirit of Ukraine's evangelical and Protestant communities amidst the harrowing backdrop of Russia's invasion. Directed by Yaroslav Lodygin and produced by Colby Barrett, a former U. S. Marine, and Steven Moore of the Ukraine Freedom Project, this film shines a vital light on a lesser-known dimension of the ongoing war: the systematic persecution of Christians in Russian-occupied territories. Far from being a mere recounting of suffering, the documentary is a testament to resilience, hope, and the enduring power of faith, making it a must-watch for audiences seeking to understand the human and spiritual stakes of the conflict.

# 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 \$67,000 or less, regardless of age

### Conejo Creek South Community Building 1350 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, 91362

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays, and Fridays

February 2 - April 15, 2026

8:30am - 4:00pm

SPANISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Mondays, 8:30am - 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 4 -

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

10:00am - 4:00pm

MANDARIN TRANSLATION

AVAILABLE 10:00am - 4:00pm

*\*This is not a Thousand Oaks Library Program*

*First  
Monday*

Prayer Gathering

*We will meet in  
the Prayer Chapel  
Monday, April 6th  
5-6p.m.*

The logo for 'New Hope' features the words 'New Hope' in a serif font, with a small green leaf icon above the letter 'o' in 'Hope'.

## 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)



## *Celebrating the life of Stephen James Chew*

*A memorial service  
will be held in our sanctuary*

April 11, 2026, at  
11a.m.



*A reception will follow in the Social Hall*



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

We will meet again on April 9th

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



## 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, salads, and desserts each month. Our New Hope volunteers bake the pies then deliver them to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. On the second Sunday, April 12th, there will be a 2 minute talk updating us all on the Harbor House Hot Meal Program and our participation in it." 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**

**Broth - Canned or Shelf-Stable Cartons**

**Canned Soup - any variety**

**Canned meat - Chicken, Ham or Spam**

**Coffee or Tea or Hot Chocolate**

**Canned Baked Beans**

**Instant Ramen**

**Instant Oatmeal Packets**

**Preserves, Jam, or Jelly (Any Flavor)**

**Canned Beans (Red, Navy, White, Kidney, or Garbanzo)**



**Manna**  
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK



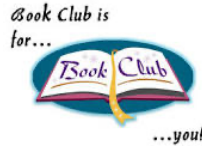
### April Birthdays

- 2 Lorie Paulson
- 9 Fred Dunn
- 11 Anthony Nelson
- 15 Sue Koons
- 21 Cindy Ellis
- 23 Linda Barry
- 25 Sue Poulson
- 26 Sarah Olelewe
- 30 Kris Salmon



### May Birthdays

- 21 Luke Dibley
- 23 Burnis Reed
- 25 Seraphina Poulson
- 26 Linda Leland



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or at church on April 7th to discuss "The Fox Wife" by Yangsze Choo.

The future books we are reading are...

May 5th - "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

June 2nd - "The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich

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

*"Spring: A lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be."*

- Unknown

*"Rain is grace; rain is the sky descending to the earth; without rain, there would be no life."*

- John Updike

*"The best luck of all is the luck you make for yourself."*

- Douglas MacArthur

### New Hope Lutheran Church

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Agoura Hills, CA 91301

818-889-8700

[www.NewHopeAgoura.org](http://www.NewHopeAgoura.org)

