

# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

***June 2026***

*“For if we have been united with him in a death like Christ Jesus, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”*

(Romans 6:5-8, one of our readings for June 21)

Grief is a heavy thing. In the moments in my own life when I have grieved, it feels like there is a weight pushing down on me. It feels disorienting, making it hard to think or even just go through the routine of the day. Small things can become exhausting.

It has been said that grief is “work,” and I could not agree more. Work takes energy. It is tough to sort through all of those feelings and arrive at a place that feels “normal” again. Although, perhaps that normal is very different from what it was before.

Grief is a heavy thing. And it is something that we all experience.

People had the same struggles during the time of the Bible. In this passage from Romans, Paul is writing to the people of the early church. The Christian faith is new and growing. What does this new faith have to say to people who are mourning? What promise does it give?

The promise is that Jesus will set us free. One day we will be free from death. We will be free from that weight of grief that pushes down on us. We will be free from every burden. I adore the language that Paul uses here: “For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.” The promise of the cross is that we will be lifted up to new life.

This does not mean that we cannot mourn. In the Gospel of John, when Jesus learns that his friend Lazarus has died, he begins to weep. Even Christ experienced grief. It is good “work” that needs to be done.

But as you experience grief, remember that Christ is with you. Hold on to the love that you see in your friends and family. And remember the hope of the cross: one day you will be free. In new life, you will be reunited with the ones that you love. You will be united with Christ.

*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 and family, the family and friends of Chris Fisher, Suzie Frye, Lyla Grant, Ben Henkel, 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 June 18th gathering will be at Fusion Grill (2024 E. Avenida De Los Arboles). 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 June 1st, we will pray for the men who've made a difference in our lives as father figures. First Monday Prayer will then break for the summer, resuming the first Monday in October.



### 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 Zoom link.



### Book Discussion

Are you reading "Separation of Church and Hate" by John Fugelsang and wishing you could discuss it with someone? Well you can! Come to Adobe Cantina (29100 Agoura Road) after church on July 12th for lunch and discussion of the book. For more information, contact Mary Ann Fiore or Karen Ingram.



### 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 (brunch, lunch, or dinner) in a home. It is a wonderful way to enjoy each other's company in a warm and friendly setting outside of church. The host 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. If you want to host and can only seat 6 people, that is OK as well. When you sign up, just make sure you put your name on the proper sheet that works for you. Sign-up for this program is on a poster board in the narthex or you can contact Gail McGinnis. This has been a very successful event for many years and those involved have all enjoyed it. We would love to have more participants. Why not give it a try?

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."  
- Saint Francis of Assisi



## Laundry Love Update

Thank you for your support of the Laundry Love program! During the event on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 17 families were assisted with the cost of their laundry expenses. Specifically, \$208 provided 30 loads of laundry. Of this amount, \$60 was collected from 2 months of quarters in the sanctuary collection jar. Contact Burnis Reed if you have any questions.



## May Council Meeting Highlights

- The Endowment Committee proposed changes to their policies and Bylaws, based on the experience after the first 9 years. This was approved and will be reviewed and voted on at the September Congregational Meeting.
- Linda Barry, Joe Bullock, and Karen Ingram, as well as Pastor Steve will represent New Hope at the Southwest California Synod annual Assembly this month in Pasadena.
- A Grief Support Group is being explored to address the needs of the congregation.

Join us for the next  
**LADIES CRAFT & CHAT**  
JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> | 10AM-12PM  
at the home of **Bonnie Bell** *It's the last time!*  
- DRINKS are PROVIDED - **LAST NAMES "A-M"**  
**BRING SNACKS**

## 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.newHopeAgourd.org/  
altar-flower-donations](http://www.newHopeAgourd.org/altar-flower-donations)

*First  
Monday*

Prayer Gathering

*We will meet in  
the Prayer Chapel  
Monday, June 1st  
5-6p.m.*



newHope



Helping neighbors in  
our community have  
clean laundry

*Drop your cash or coin in the Laundry Love jar!*

Contact the church office for details  
on other ways you can donate



**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.

*Prayer Shawl  
Ministry*

*knit, crochet, loom & pray*

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

*Contact the church office for details.*

Join us in the Amplify room the first  
Sunday of the month at 9:15a.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, 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. The third quarter (July, August, September) email sign-ups for delivery dates needed will be sent out soon. Thank you to all. The frozen pies and supplies are provided by New Hope. Any questions, text Karen Reed at (805) 405-0518.

# New Hope Kids Sunday School

We are taking a  
break during the  
Summer.

Join us again  
in the fall!



Pastor Steve will continue to share the Children's Time message each Sunday while our children's Sunday school program is on summer break.

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## 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**

**Instant Oatmeal Packets**

**Cereal**

**Boxed Hamburger Helper or Instant Potatoes**

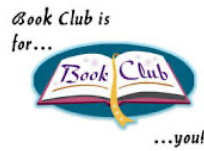
**Condiments (Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, etc.)**

**Canned Chili**

**Personal Care Items (Sanitary Pads, Tampons, Soap, Deodorant, etc.)**



**Manna**  
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK



### June Birthdays

- 1 Cameron Wood
- 2 Jill Fisher
- 3 Louie Wood
- Jennie Chrien
- 6 Kailey Wood
- 15 Sandy Cowden
- 18 Harper Neal
- 20 Bonnie Bell
- Lynn Bulock
- 26 Karen Orefice
- 28 Dianna Fuller
- 29 Stella Chudleigh



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or at church on June 2nd to discuss "The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich.

The future books we are reading are...  
July 7th - "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi

August 14th - "The Echo of Old Books" by Barbara Davis

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

### So God Made a Father

*God thought, "I need someone to provide for the family. Someone who will get up early and stay up late and never complain. I need someone who's willing to make unpopular decisions and stand by them. Someone to provide authority and discipline, as well as love. I need someone who listens more than he talks. Who will stand by his family through laughter and tears, good times and bad. I'll give him broad shoulders, broad enough to carry a little child around town and broad enough to pull more than his fair share. I need someone who's strong enough to open a tightly sealed jelly jar and someone who's tall enough to place the angel on top of the Christmas tree."*

**So God made a father.**

- Anonymous

### New Hope Lutheran Church

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