

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

July 2026

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35-39, one of our readings for July 26th)

What is the most powerful force that you can imagine? Maybe it is a nation, world leader, or a government. Or perhaps it is something from the natural world: an earthquake or a storm. Or could it be something more abstract? Anger, hatred, prejudice. These are all powerful things.

The early Christians of the church faced challenges that we cannot even begin to imagine. They were often ridiculed and persecuted for their faith. Some found themselves cast out by friends or family. Many lived in fear of punishment. Paul, writing in the book of Romans, says that the early Christians were like “sheep to be slaughtered.” Paul would have known this well; he was arrested for his faith and work in the church.

Paul knew the power of hatred, prejudice, and evil. But Paul reminds us that all of these forces are small compared to the love of God. The grace of Christ is unstoppable and endless. There is nothing in all of the universe that is greater. Nothing in all of creation, not even death itself, can separate us from Jesus! God’s love always wins in the end.

This is one of my favorite passages in all of the Bible. It shows us the scope of God’s compassion for us. Nothing can take grace away from you. There is also nothing you can do, no action too sinful, that will make God stop loving you.

The message of this passage is simple: you are always loved. Even in the midst of great difficulty, even in the face of powerful forces, God’s grace for you is always stronger. Christ’s love for you is unstoppable.

Peace,

Pastor Steve Simpson





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

Continued prayers of healing for Joe Bullock, 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.



To the wonderful congregation at New Hope Lutheran,

We offer our sincere gratitude for the endowment given to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in our son Christopher's name. He spent most of his childhood at the church for Sunday School, Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, youth service trips, and activities with our family. It means the world to us that the congregation would be so generous to donate money to the CF Foundation. We are heart broken that he left us so soon but know that he is standing by our Father without sickness or pain. The CF Foundation has made great strides towards a cure for this terrible disease so that hopefully soon no other families will have to endure such heartbreak. We thank

you from the bottom of our hearts for this gift and your continuing love and support.

Stan, Jill, Caity and Alec Fisher



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. We had 12 people in June! Our July 16th gathering will be at 11:30 AM at The Galloping Hen (3085 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd). For more information, contact Karen Ingram.



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.



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.



Finance Update

Thank you for your support of the New Hope programs! Donations through May amounted to \$202,019 while expenditures were \$161,103. However, one note of concern, 20% of people who pledged are behind in their giving. In addition to the budgeted giving, about \$480 (including \$150 in quarters) were donated to support the Laundry Love program, over \$200 was donated for the Piecemakers quilts, and over \$8,000 in Scrip cards were bought.

"Just living is not enough one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower."

- Hans Christian Andersen





June Council Meeting Highlights

- Council approved two programs proposed by the Endowment Committee for funding. Both the No Limits for Deaf Children and Families nonprofit and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (in memory of Chris Fisher) will receive grants from New Hope.
 - A Grief Support Group was approved for funding to address the needs of the congregation.
 - The labyrinth has been approved as an Eagle Scout project and should be started this summer.
 - As identified as a need at the Stewardship bunch last year, an additional monitor was approved for the wiggle room so that the adults can better follow the slides.
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Piece Makers
Quilt making for
Lutheran World Relief

Join our quilting group!
We meet every
other Thursday from
9:30a.m-1p.m

We will meet again
July 2nd

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)



Grief Support Group

We are starting a grief group for our church family here at New Hope. Pastor Erin Martinson, who also works as a grief coach, will be joining us every Tuesday in July at 3 PM (starting July 7th) to teach us about the important work of grief.

A small group will be formed afterwards to continue these sacred discussions.

As you mourn, remember that
God is always with you.



Drop your cash or coin in the Laundry Love jar!

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

*new*Hope

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*

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

We meet once a month in the sewing
room. Join us next time on Sunday,
July 5th at 9:15a.m.

For details about this ministry or to request a
prayer shawl, [tap here](#)





LET'S JOIN!

WIN SUMMER *Picnic* & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Bring your favorite dish to share, connect with people in your community, learn about upcoming WIN service projects, and support local students through a school supply drive benefiting:



Adelante Comunidad Conejo

Serving approximately 160 local families

www.adelanteconejo.org



Signupgenius Link

Sign up for the
school supplies



July 23rd, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

Conejo Creek North Park.

1379 E Janss Rd.



- School Supplies Drive - Signup online -

new Hope will have a collection tub in the narthex each Sunday through July 19th - or - bring your donations to the WIN Summer Picnic on July 23rd -

See MaryAnn Fiore for more information.



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, salads, and desserts 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 (July, August, September) has been completely assigned and the list will be sent out to those who volunteered. Thank you to all. The frozen pies and supplies are provided by New Hope. Any questions, text Karen Reed at (805) 405-0518.

NewHope 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.

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

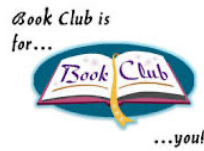
Condiments (Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, etc.)

Canned Chili

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



Manna
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK



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 7th to discuss "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi.

The future books we are reading are...
August 14th - "The Echo of Old Books" by Barbara Davis

September 1st - "The Lion Woman of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali

The deadline for the August newsletter is July 25th. Be sure to email them to gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com

"The seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world."

- Dolly Parton

"If you look at the studies on happy people, what you find is happy people aren't focused on themselves. Happy people are very other-oriented, meaning that they're really focused on other people's happiness."

- Laurie Santos

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