

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

August 2026

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12:1-2

In the early days of the church, people had to wrestle with a difficult question: what does it mean to be a Christian? Paul here is writing to followers of Jesus in Rome. It was a challenging place for this new faith to grow. These Christians were far away from Israel and under the influence of Roman politics and culture. Who should the people follow? Rome or Jesus?

Paul still teaches people to follow the way of Jesus: “do not be conformed to this age.” I imagine this would have been a scary calling. Paul tells the church to set itself apart, following a different kind of path. The people of the church are called to walk in the footsteps of Christ’s love. In the face of every circumstance, Jesus tells us to love our neighbors. This would have been a radical message! It is no wonder Paul described it as a "transformation" of the mind.

The calling is no different for us today. We are all pulled in so many different directions. The pressures of life, work, news, and politics can feel downright overwhelming. In the face of all of this, Paul pushes the hard question. Who are you? What gets to determine who you are? Paul says it should be Christ and Christ alone.

I once heard Romans 12:2 translated as “do not let the world push you into its mold.” I believe that is a powerful way of putting it. We should be molded by God’s way of love.

This is not to say God wants us all to be exactly the same. In fact, the rest of this chapter is all about how God gives us different gifts. But still, we are called to be united by our common faith in Jesus. We are called to be united in the love God taught us. We are called to be united as the body of Christ.

Follow Jesus and his love!

Peace,
Pastor Steve Simpson





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

Joan Looman fell and broke her hip.

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 Looman, Elinor Martin, Jim and Cheryl Merrill, Katie Murray, Renee Olmstead, Karen Reed, Wayne Rickert, Madeline Swope, Jane and Rob Taschereau, and Jim Valestrino.

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



New Addresses

Be sure to change these addresses in your church directory.

Bonnie and John Bell

220 W. Paseo de Christobal
San Clemente 92672

Debbie and Robin Martin

2111 Cox Road
Aptos 95003

Sue Poulson

2595 Northshore Lane
Westlake Village 91361



Dear Church,

I can't thank you enough for all the school supplies that you so generously gave to make a difference for Adelante and the Latino community! Many children will have gratefully received the needed items on Saturday, July 25th. The WIN (Women's Interfaith Network) met at Conejo Creek Park for a picnic dinner. It was wonderful meeting people of all faiths, connecting and forming new relationships. After eating and fellowship, we loaded a big U-Haul with all the items that people brought from their places of worship.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Mary Ann Fiore



Bread Breakers

We had 12 people at our July Bread Breakers lunch. We invite you to join us at Lakeview Garden at 11:30 AM on August 20th for fellowship and a delicious Chinese meal (4703 Lakeview Canyon Road, Westlake Village). Feel free to bring a friend. For more information, contact Karen Ingram.



Social Justice Small Group

The Social Justice Small Group meets by Zoom 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.



The ELCA's annual 'God's Work Our Hands' service day is Sunday, September 13th. This year we will be assembling birthday cake kits for Manna and welcome baskets for Many Mansions. Kits will be assembled in the fellowship hall after worship. Everyone is welcome to help assemble!!

"If you ask people what kinds of activities bring them pleasure, it's usually contact with nature, things that are creative, and relationships with people, and the things we do to live simply bring us all of those satisfactions."

- Jeanne Roy



at THE HOME OF
Ardy Tamburro
PLEASE SEE ARDY
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Drinks are provided
LAST NAMES "N-Z"
BRING SNACKS

Prayer Shawl Ministry

knit,
crochet,
loom &
pray

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

For more information go to:

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Sunday, August 2nd at 9:15 AM
in the quilting room.



Piece Makers

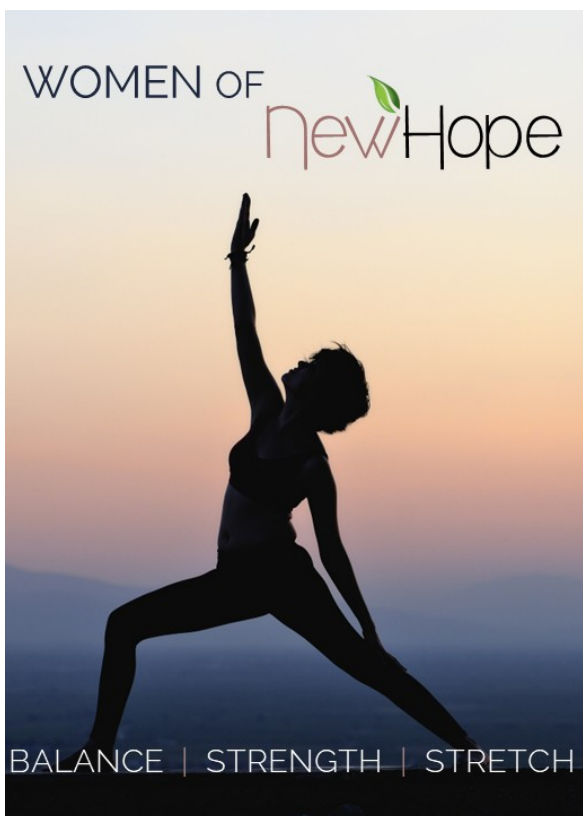
Quilt making for Lutheran World Relief

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

We will meet again on July 30th

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

We will be meeting on July 30th, August 13th and 27th!



WOMEN OF
new Hope

You are invited!

INTRODUCTORY exercise class

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND – 10AM

Build muscle, tendon strength and
endurance to improve memory,
coordination and balance,
and increase flexibility.

All fitness levels welcome!

This class is complimentary but donations to
WELCA are appreciated. (\$10 suggested donation)

Email Gail McGinnis or Marsha Chew to
signup by August 16



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.

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)



July Council Meeting Highlights

- * Council accepted the resignations of John Bell and Natalie Larkin from their roles on Council. Ernie Salmon was appointed to Council in a Finance Committee role.
- * Ernie and Kris Salmon were approved as members of the Congregation.
- * The Audit Committee comprising Dutch Schulze, Alison Rowe, Darlene Daigle, and Tom LaVanne will review the 2025 financial records.
- * Modifications to the Congregational Constitution have been proposed. If accepted by Council, the new document will be addressed at the September Congregational Meeting.

Finance Update

Donations in the first half of 2026 amounted to \$229,687 while expenditures were \$193,161. Thank you for your support of the New Hope programs! Over \$500 was donated by the community for the purchase of folding chairs. We have 20 new chairs to replace the broken ones. We are also working on spot cleaning others to extend their viability.



Piecemakers

Just to let all know that the Piecemakers, makers of quilts, are to be donated to Lutheran World Relief, have been busily creating 45 beautiful quilts so far this year. We still have 3 months to go before we bless our quilts and then pack them up to be delivered to a church in Camarillo in October. The quilts then go to the distribution outlets to go off into the USA and the world.

I would like to thank all of the people that have donated fabric to keep us sewing. We could use some monetary donations to purchase more batting and cover the shipping costs if you are so inclined.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful support from our church. The quilts go off into the world to places that we will not know a particular quilt will end up. The purpose is to provide warmth, shelter and a warm hug to prove that someone cares. Here are a few pictures of the ladies as they create the wonderful quilts. Kathy Rogers





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. Fourth quarter sign-ups will begin at the end of September. 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

Canned meat - Chicken, Ham, or Spam

Instant Oatmeal Packets

Cold Cereal

**Individually Wrapped Snacks (Granola Bars, Protein Bars,
Chips, Cookies, etc.)**

Dry Pasta

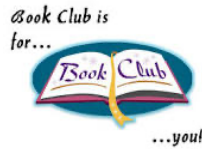
Canned Tomato Products (Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Paste, etc.)

Small Jars of Peanut Butter or Jelly

Canned Baked Beans

Instant Potatoes

Manna
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK



August Birthdays

- 3 Dutch Schulze
- 4 Marsha Chew
- 5 Debbie Martin
- 6 Joan Looman
- 10 Scott Ash
- 14 Ryan Dibley
- 17 Joe Bulock
- Dyanne Schultz
- 18 Stan Fisher
- Rob Taschereau
- 19 Tom Beddington
- David Cohen
- 23 Leila Mader
- 24 Alison Rowe



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or at church on August 4th to discuss "The Echo of Old Books" by Barbara Davis.

The future books we are reading are...

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

October 6th - "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood

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

If you would like to help with the worship service, we would love to have you volunteer. We can always use more help on a Sunday morning. With lots of volunteers, you only have to do it once every few months. If you are interested in being a greeter, reader, communion assistant, altar care, door monitor, or serve goodies, please contact Gail M c G i n n i s (gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com) and she will be happy to sign you up.

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