

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

September 2026

"If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 2:1-5 (one of our readings for September 27th)

The Bible is not always easy to understand. There are sixty-six books, written over the course of hundreds of years, from different authors. Even after studying it for such a long time, I often find myself feeling lost when reading the Bible. There is so much going on in there!

I'll find myself "losing the forest for the trees." What is going on here in history? What might the words be in the original language? I get bogged down by theological and academic questions. But sometimes it is better to slow down and ask a simpler question: what does this teach us about our relationship with God and each other?

The book of Philippians is calling us back to the basics of faith. We are called to be of the "same mind" as Christ Jesus. What does this mean? We don't have to overcomplicate it. It means that we love each other. We see ourselves as part of a beloved family of God. We look out for one another and care for each other. As Philippians puts it: look to the interests of others.

If we need a model of this, we only need to look toward Christ. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and listened to the lonely. You are called to do the same. We are called to love one another in a genuine and radical way.

Don't make it too complicated. Sometimes the message is simple. Be of the same mind as Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Steve Simpson





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

The Grant family on the passing of Lyla.

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, Ben Henkel, Vi and Chuck Kemmerer, Beverly Larkin, Joyce Lawson, Joan and Dorr Looman, Elinor Martin, Jim and Cheryl Merrill, Katie Murray, Renee Olmstead, Karen Reed, Wayne Rickert, Madeline Swope, Don Tamburro, 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.

Mary Gallagher

20218 Village 20

Camarillo 93012

Sue Poulson - correction

2585 Northshore Lane

(NOT 2595)

Westlake Village 91361



Bread Breakers

We had 9 people at our August Bread Breakers lunch. We invite you to join us on September 17th at 11:30 AM at Pickles Deli (1940 Newbury Road, Newbury Park) for fellowship and a delicious meal. Feel free to bring a friend. For more information, contact Karen Ingram.



Social Justice Small Group

The Social Justice Small Group will meet by Zoom on September 9th and 30th 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.



God's Work Our Hands

The ELCA's annual 'God's Work Our Hands' service day is Sunday, September 13th. This year we are 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!



August Council Meeting Highlights

- * Ernie Salmon was appointed as Treasurer in addition to his Finance Committee role.
- Council approved Congregational Constitutional amendments and the document will proceed to a vote by the congregation.
- A congregational meeting is scheduled for September 27th.
- A ministry Fair will be held October 11th to highlight options for further developing one's faith talents.

Finance Update

Donations in July amounted to \$25,067 while expenditures were \$34,407. Through July, the donations coming in exceeded the money needed to pay bills by \$24,123. Thank you for your support of the New Hope programs!



Congregational Meeting

Our semi-annual Congregational meeting will be held September 27th. We will elect new Council members, and review and vote on our Amended Constitution as approved by Council. A financial update also will be provided and the 2026 Stewardship Campaign will be introduced. See you then!



- Scheduling notice -
for LADIES CRAFT & CHAT

WE WILL NOT BE GATHERING IN THE
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Join us again October 3rd

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN THE
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Prayer Shawl
Ministry

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

knit,
crochet,
loom &
pray

We meet in the sewing room the first
Sunday of the month at 9:15a.m.

Join us next time, October 4th

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

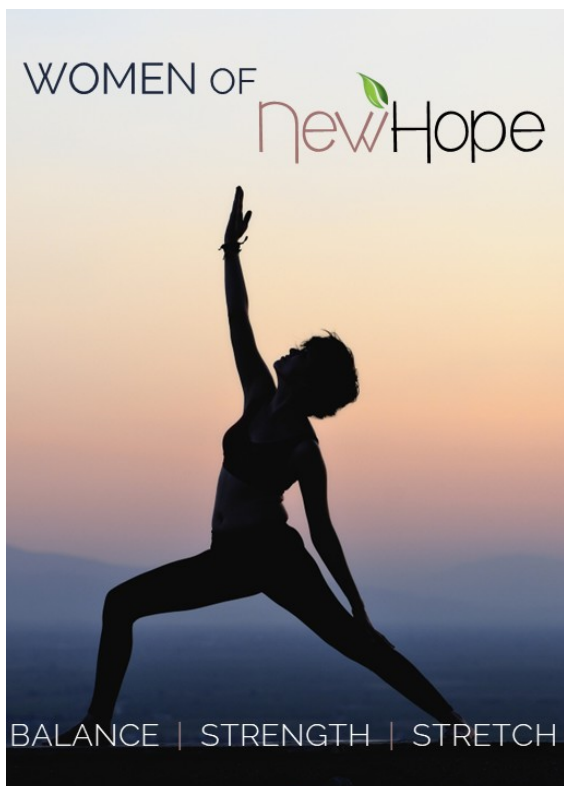




Our quilting group meets every other Thursday,
from 9:30a.m to 1p.m.

We will meet again on September 10th

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



You are all invited!

saturday exercise class

AUGUST 29th – 9:30AM

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

All fitness levels welcome!

No need to sign up – come when you can.
Class tuition is \$10 weekly (cash please)

[TAP Here for more details](#)

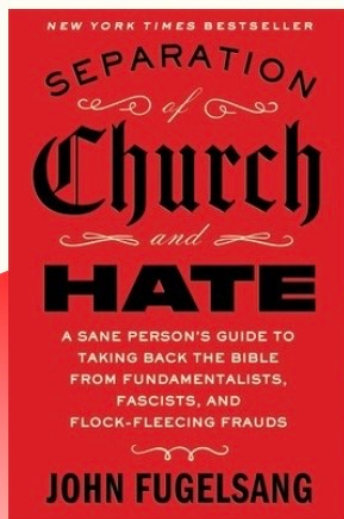
In September, we will only meet on September 12 and 19! Bring a mat, water, and \$10.
We meet in the sanctuary.

SVLC WELCOMES

SPEAKER

John Fugelsang

Author of 'Separation of Church and Hate'



September 17, 2026
Thursday
7:00 p.m.

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4191 COCHRAN STREET, SIMI VALLEY
RSVP (805) 526-7577 OR CHURCHOFFICE@SVLCSIMI.ORG



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)





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

Resumes
September
13th



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

Instant Oatmeal Packets

Cold Cereal

Canned Meat (Chicken, Spam, or Ham)

Canned Baked Beans

Condiments (Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard, etc.)

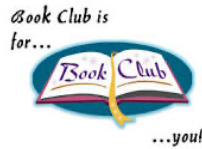
Toilet Paper or Paper Towels

Baking Items (Small bags of Flour, Cake mixes, etc.)

Canned Tomato Products (Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Paste)

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

Manna
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK



September Birthdays

- 1 Suzie Frye
- 8 Kevin Barry
- 10 Bill Speer
- 15 Kathy Ham
- 16 Mary Gallagher
- 17 Moeed Khan
- Renee Olmstead



The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or at church on September 1st to discuss "The Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali.

The future books we are reading are...
October 6th - "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood

November 3rd - "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans

The deadline for the October newsletter is September 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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