

# newhope news

***Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills***

***November 2026***

*“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.”*

*(1 John 3:1-2)*

The promise of God’s love is forever. This is the simple message that is at the heart of our faith. God created us and guided the people of Israel. Jesus was born as a human being to be close to us. Christ died on the cross to show us forgiveness. The core foundation for all of this is God’s unstoppable love. That is where it all begins and ends.

The first Sunday in November is All Saints Sunday in the church calendar. Like Christmas and Easter, this is a holiday in the church year. It is a day in which we remember our loved ones who have died over the past year. We will be reading their names during the prayers as a reminder: the ones that we love are also loved by God.

One of the readings for that day is from the book of 1 John. It speaks to that same, simple promise that is at the foundation of our faith: “Beloved, we are God’s children now.” The people in the early Christian church lived a hard life. Many were persecuted for their faith, and they lived under the heavy thumb of the Roman Empire. But yet they found hope in what Jesus taught them: we are God’s children. God watches over us like a loving parent.

What an amazing thing. Christ has made us family with God. What does that mean? It means that nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are drawn close to the Lord who made us. When we remember the ones that we love, those who have passed on, we also remember the promise of the cross: we have been made God’s family. Death is not the end of the story. As the Bible reminds us: “When Christ is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.”

As we mourn, remember that you are not alone. You are surrounded by your friends here at the church. We are all the family of God together. And even more, you are surrounded by the grace of God. You are loved. And God loves the ones you love. We are all held in God’s embrace.

*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, Ben Henkel, Vi and Chuck Kemmerer, Beverly Larkin, Joyce Lawson, Joan and Dorr Looman, Elinor Martin, Jim and Cheryl Merrill, Katie Murray, Ava O'Connell, 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.



Please update your church directory with the following change.

**Gail McGinnis**

gsmcginnis3696@gmail.com



*I just wanted to thank everyone who so graciously provided toiletries for Interface and our WIN project! You really do make a difference! I appreciate your help.*

Mary Ann Fiore

## Laundry Love Update

Thank you for your support of the LaundryLove program! Over \$130 of loose quarters were collected during September and October. This should provide over 20 loads of laundry. God Bless Burnis Reed for his stewardship in this outreach.



The Social Justice Small Group will meet by Zoom on November 11th 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.



## Bread Breakers

We had 10 people at our October Bread Breakers lunch. We invite you to join us on November 19th at 11:30 AM at Lure's Fish House (30970 Russell Ranch Road, Westlake Village) for a delicious meal. Feel free to bring a friend. For more information, contact Karen Ingram.



## Thanksgiving Service

The Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be Sunday, November 22nd at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1600 Erbes Road, Thousand Oaks at 7 PM.



## Food for Manna

There are a lot of hungry people in the Conejo Valley. If we each could bring a food item each week, think how it would help fill the shelves at Manna. The holidays are coming and wouldn't it feel good to help feed others. The black Manna box is in the hallway and food will be taken to them each week. Check out the items Manna is requesting on page 10 of this newsletter. They also appreciate recycled shopping bags.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

- Muhammad Ali





## Finance Update

Thank you for your continued generosity in 2026! Your giving through September amounted to \$292,073; expenditures were \$292,599. Both donations and spending are tracking slightly better than the budget, but we still anticipate a deficit at the end of the year.



## October Council Meeting Highlights

- Council approved repaving the parking lot. It seems to be needed every seven years. It will be funded via the New Home New Hope Building Fund.
- We leased a new copier without features that we didn't use. It will save over \$2,000 a year.
- We spoke with the Naslund Foundation (Light of Hope) group that meets at church twice a day, five days a week, about expectations going forward. They agreed to increase their donations and will maintain a reasonable number of participants.

## Agoura Hills Development

Members of Council met with Robby Nesovic from the Agoura Hills Planning Division for an update on the various housing developments approved by the city. Three separate developments in the Agoura Road corridor are in various stages of construction. We are anticipating over 500 people/families coming into the immediate area within the next 3 years and the Council is planning how best to make them feel welcome.



## Woven Together

New Hope has begun our annual pledge drive to prepare for our 2027 budget calculations. Please send your pledges to the office or contact Joe Bulock. Thank you for your generosity.

Dear Church Congregation,

I would like to thank all of you for your blessing of the quilts that The Piece Makers made to share with the world through Lutheran World Relief. Fifty-seven quilts were blessed on Sunday, October 11th and all were taken to the In-gathering on Wednesday, October 21st. Four of us went to Mount Cross Lutheran Church in Camarillo and delivered 12 boxes of quilts. Thank you to those of you that contributed to the group so we could make the necessary purchases to complete and send the quilts out into the world.

*Kathy Rogers*



Join us for  
the next

# LADIES CRAFT & CHAT

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

10AM - 12PM

at the home of  
*Ardy Tamburro*

PLEASE SEE ARDY FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

about this fun monthly gathering!

LAST NAMES "N-Z"  
BRING SNACKS  
- drinks are  
provided -

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

knit, loom,  
crochet, &  
pray



Prayer shawls are created to  
comfort and support those in need  
or to celebrate special events



NEXT MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 10TH!

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



## Women's Advent Gathering

**Tuesday, December 1st - 6:30 PM**

On Tuesday, December 1st, the ladies of New Hope will gather for our annual meeting at 6:30 PM at church. This year, we will be decorating CHRISMONS to place on the Narthex tree. "Chrismons" are traditional Christian ornaments and symbols. Please join us and show your creativity! (No artistic skill required) To know how many ladies will be there, we are asking you to sign up. Look for the sign-up sheet at church on November 15th, 22nd, and 29th.



## Help Decorate the Church

Please save Saturday, December 5th at 10:00 AM. We will be decorating our church for Christmas! Be part of our dedicated group that makes our church sparkle. All are welcome. Thank you, Karen Orefice

## Annual Christmas Dinner

**Sunday, December 13th**



Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 13th at 5:30 PM. Santa Claus will visit with the children at 5:45 PM, followed by a delicious turkey dinner. Don't miss out on a memorable evening with your church family. Sign-ups will begin later in November.



## Win This Beautiful Handcrafted Quilt!



The New Hope Piece Makers are offering a chance to win this beautiful handmade quilt. One lucky winner will be selected in a drawing on November 15.

Tickets are just \$1 each, so be sure to purchase several to increase your chances of winning!

Proceeds from the drawing will help purchase materials needed to create quilts in 2027 for donation through Lutheran World Relief, providing comfort and care to people in need around the world.

Tickets will be available for purchase after each Sunday's worship service, through November 15.

*Thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry!*

WOMEN OF *new* Hope



BALANCE | STRENGTH | STRETCH

## You are invited! women's weekly exercise class

Saturdays- 9:30AM

*All fitness levels welcome!*

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

See Gail McGinnis or Marsha Chew for  
more information

Bring a mat, water, and \$10. We meet in the sanctuary.



*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)





Harbor House®

## 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. Thank you to all. The frozen pies and supplies are provided by New Hope. Any questions, text Karen Reed at (805) 405-0518.

## Holiday décor and Greeting Card fund-raising event at *New Hope!*

Takes place  
Sunday,  
November  
8th

Save the  
date!

SNEAK  
PREVIEW!



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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

Oatmeal Packets

Cold Cereal

Canned Meat (Chicken, Spam, or Ham)

Canned Baked or Refried Beans

Condiments (Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard, etc.)

Toilet Paper or Paper Towels

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

Canned Soup (any variety)

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

Dry Pasta - Spaghetti, Penne, etc.

Canned Beans - Navy, Kidney, Black, Pinto, etc.

**Manna**  
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK

# CHRISTMAS GREENERY

It's that time of year to order your greenery. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE talk to your neighbors, friends, and co-workers and encourage them to send direct delivery gifts. Everyone has a special person who is difficult to shop for and they will love receiving a fresh green wreath or other decoration that fills their home with the aroma of Christmas. The direct delivery gifts are a great idea for companies to send to their clients. It's a special way to say "THANKS." Be sure and make the unique opportunity known to all who like to have beautiful fragrant and REAL Christmas greenery surround them at the holidays. And don't forget to order greenery for your own home too! The greenery will arrive shortly after Thanksgiving. You can order greenery from Gail McGinnis after worship services on October 25th and November 1st and 8th, email ([gsmcginnis3696@gmail.com](mailto:gsmcginnis3696@gmail.com)) or call me at 805-523-7884 and I will be happy to take your order. An order form will also be in the Friday Connection. If your order will be going to the same people you have sent to in the past, I have all your information on the computer so make it easy on yourself. Checks can be made payable to New Hope Lutheran Church, just be sure to mark it for "greenery." Or you can Zelle the money you owe to Laurie Scott at the church. The prices and pictures of greenery are below. There is no charge for delivery. Prices include the sales tax. All orders are due to me no later than November 11th.



## HOLIDAY GREENERY

22" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$45

2 - 10' Western Cedar Gift Garland - \$55

Gift Centerpiece with LED Candle - \$45

Noble Fir Gift Door Swag - \$45

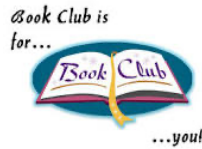
28" Mixed Evergreen Gift Wreath - \$53

Cone Gift Basket - \$40

Evergreen Gift Set - \$83

Reindeer and Sleigh - \$34





## November Birthdays

- 1 Ann Church
- 2 Ada Dibley
- 8 Kara DeMelfi
- 17 Mariella Edgar
- 19 Otto Wood
- 26 Gary McGinnis

The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or at church on November 3rd to discuss "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans.

The future books we are reading are...

December 1st - "Wild, Dark Shore" by Charlotte McConaghy

February 2nd - "Yesteryear" by Carol Claire Burke

Daylight saving time ends. Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, October 31st.

"My message today is.....' Believe in yourself, trust in God, and you can make it.'"

- John Korir



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



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*Count Your Blessings*