

newhope news

Lutheran Church - Agoura Hills

June, 2024

Jesus said: "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

(Mark 4:30-32, our gospel reading for June 16)

One year, I decided to try growing zucchini. I bought this little plant from the hardware store, and carefully placed it in my small garden in the backyard. I don't exactly have a green thumb, and I had no idea that zucchini plants have a unique characteristic: they are huge! That tiny garden was taken over by giant leaves in just a few short weeks.

It was an amazing thing to see! It wasn't long until I was putting zucchini in everything: pasta, stir fry, bread, and salads. My poor wife has declared that she never wants to see that vegetable again.

Sometimes something small can grow to have a huge impact. As seen here in the Gospel of Mark, this is what Jesus teaches us about the kingdom of God. Now, sometimes when we picture God's kingdom, we imagine it as something far away and distant. But that doesn't have to be the case. Christ calls us to make God's love real, right here and now. The kingdom of God can be here today, and you can be a member of it.

So what can we learn from Jesus here? Plant seeds of love. It may start off as something small: a kind word, a donation to charity, a listening ear, a hug, or a card in the mail. But small seeds can grow. God's promise to you is that love can flourish; it becomes like a great shrub, branches spread in all directions. You never know what impact your love may have. But here is the trick to it: you have to love.

My prayer for us this summer is that we all plant a garden. May we fill the world with seeds of grace, understanding, and compassion. You are a citizen of God's kingdom, and now is the time to share!

Peace,
Pastor Steve Simpson

From Deacon Lynn

Lately New Hope has talked a lot about Intercessory Prayers, or what's called the Prayers of the People during worship. We've made a few changes, and may make a few more, as we try to get into a prayer mode that works for as many people as possible. I won't say "that suits everybody" because I don't think that's going to be possible. In the beloved, but complicated, family of God, we don't always agree on even some of the most important stuff. Before covid, we used the same prayer pattern for years: during the Prayers of the People, there was a place where folks prayed out loud individually, about their cares and concerns. Once we got back together post-covid, we needed to change so that our worshipers online could hear, and add, prayers as well. That meant that there was a microphone for people on the floor, which began to make for some challenges.

We've tried to come up with a way to pray so that everyone feels included without putting a mic in anybody's face. Silent prayer, or prayer speaking a word or phrase didn't seem to work well. Right now, we're trying the "prayer tree" in the picture below. During corporate prayer, people have the chance to write their prayers on sticky notes, and put them on the tree. After services, you're invited to grab a prayer journal to jot down the prayers of others to pray for them during the week.

Will this be the "forever" way we do things? Probably not. But it's a way to try and see what works for now. Thank you all for being flexible and loving to your neighbor as we pray for each other and lift our cares and concerns to God.





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

Continued prayers of healing for Joe Bulock, Evelyn Colby, Sandy Cowden, Lou Fiore, Suzie Frye, Lyla Grant, Eilene Green, Carlos Gutierrez, Kara Henkel, Vi and Chuck Kemmerer, Joyce Lawson, Leila Mader, Jim and Cheryl Merrill, Debbie Niebolt, Ava Grace O'Connell, Cindy O'Hare, Ahoo Pilehvari, Sue Poulson, Sharon Pryor, Karen Reed, Wayne Rickert, Suzanne Sahlie, Madelyn and Stan Swope, Ardy Tamburro, Jane Taschereau, and Fred Turner.

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



Love all my birthday cards that were sent to me by my church family. Thank you and sending blessings to you all.

Evelyn Colby

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and other support during my illness. They all have been a blessing to us.

Joe and Lynn Bulock



Supper's 8

It's not too late to sign up for Supper's 8. Our next groupings will begin in June. Supper's 8 is a group of adults (singles or couples) who get together for a meal in a home. It

is a wonderful way to enjoy each other's company in a warm and friendly setting outside of church. Someone hosts and 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. This has been a very successful event and those involved have all enjoyed it. This past year we had 36 participants and we hope to have many more this next time.

If you want to sign up, please call Gail McGinnis (805-390-4133) or email her at gsmcginnis@roadrunner.com ASAP as groups are being put together very soon.



Make A Difference with Thrivent Action Teams

Many of you are already clients using Thrivent investment options. I am the Southwest Area Thrivent Member Board representative for Southern California and Arizona. I was recently reminded on how few take advantage of the Thrivent Action Team opportunity to make a difference. As a Thrivent member, you are allowed to fund two Action Teams a year. It's simple: 1) Find a need you want to help; 2) Apply for your project at thriven.com/actionteam; 3) Lead your team; 4) Share your success. You receive "Live Generously" T-shirts for your team and \$250 to buy supplies or feed volunteers. As an area representative, I can initiate unlimited action teams. At New

Hope, we are committed to focus on serving and loving as Jesus loved. The options for your Action Team are almost unlimited. I hope to get funds to help our hiking group restore a trail. You could get funds for fabric for quilts or quarters for the laundry program. Many congregations have found that doing a variety of action teams in their community helped grow their church. On Thursday, June 13th starting at 8:30 AM, the men of New Hope are doing an action team to repair the labyrinth and weed that area. Join us. We even welcome women! With any luck, we may even have an extra T-shirt for you! Need help, talk to me and let me help with your first project!

Terry Paulson

WHAT MAKES A DAD

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
And the depth of a family need.
Then God combined these qualities,
As there was nothing more to add,
He knew that His masterpiece was complete.
He called it DAD.

CONGRATULATIONS



Avery Mansmann will graduate from Oak Park High School and will be attending the University of Tennessee at Knoxville this fall and will study Kinesiology/Sports Medicine.

Stella Chudleigh will graduate from Westlake High School and in the fall will attend Arizona State University to study Communications.

Join Us Wednesday, June 26th at 7 PM for "Exploring Political Differences - Seek First to Understand"

There is no question that deep and at times divisive differences exist in our country across our political divide. It's been said that two areas to avoid are politics and religion, but that leaves us unable to constructively talk across those differences. Jesus called us to love as He loved. One does not have to agree to care about listening and working to understand the differences that divide us. Instead of focusing on political candidates, we plan on discussing the key issues that most impact our political choices. The night is not to be focused on debating or convincing others who disagree. Our goal will be to help those attending to better understand the positions of Democrats and Republicans on the issues that matter most. We plan on meeting monthly until the election. Those attending will have a say on what issues we focus on in future months, but for the first session we are selecting the issue identified by Pew Research as the number one issue in current surveys -- How Do We Handle Inflation and Improve the Economy? Put Wednesday night June 26th at 7 PM on your calendar. Then, join us for a night of constructive political dialogue. If you have any questions, talk to Terry Paulson or Karen Ingram.





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 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 4:00-4:15 PM. The frozen pies and supplies are provided by New Hope. Would you like to be a part of this ministry? You can sign up to be a permanent baker, or you can sign up to be an "on call alternate." We will begin sign ups for September through December starting in August. For more information, you can contact Karen Reed at (805) 405-0518 or email kreed0753@gmail.com.



Our next gathering will be Saturday, June 1st

Bonnie Bell's, 1867 Stonesgate Street, Westlake Village

805-338-8161

bonniebella1@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

knit, crochet, loom & pray

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

See Marsha Chew for more information.

Join us in the Amplify room the first Sunday of the month at 9:15a.m.



COME JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND AT 9:15 AM IN THE QUILTING ROOM!



Piece Makers

Quilt Project for Lutheran World Relief

This quilting group meets in the Amplify classroom, every other Thursday, from 9a.m to 1p.m. Our goal is to contribute quilts for distribution through Lutheran World Relief.

Please contact Kathy Rogers if you would like to join us, or for more information.

Kathy can be reached by email:

kathleen.rgrs@gmail.com

Our next meeting is June 6th at 9a.m.



Drop your quarters in the
laundry love jar!

Join New Hope Church
Helping neighbors in
our community have
clean laundry.



ITEMS NEEDED FOR MANNA THIS MONTH

Please place any of these "top priority items of the month" in our Manna Box
in the hallway.

Dry pasta - any kind

Flavored rice - Rice-A-Roni

One pound bags of dry rice

Hamburger Helper

Hot Cereal - Oatmeal

Baking Items - Cake/Cookie Mix, Flour, Sugar

Fresh Eggs - 12 per carton

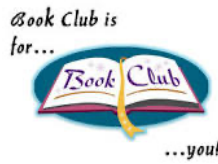
Canned Tuna - Canned Chicken - Spam

Coffee - Tea - Hot Chocolate

Personal Care Items - Toothpaste, Toilet Paper



Manna
CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK



"Instead of giving myself reasons why I can't, I give myself reasons why I can."
- Author unknown

June Birthdays

- 1 Cameron Wood
- 2 Jill Fisher
- 6 Kailey Wood
- 15 Sandy Cowden
- 18 Harper Neal
- 20 Bonnie Bell
- Lynn Bulock
- 26 Karen Orefice

The daytime Book Club will meet at 11:30 AM on Zoom and/or in person on Tuesday, June 4th to discuss - "Greenlights" by Matthew McConaughey. Please join us if you can. The future books we are reading are....

July 2nd - "Good Night, Irene" by Lis Alberto Urrea

August 6th - "Go As A River" by Shelley Read



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

"It isn't where you came from, it's where you're going that counts."
- Ella Fitzgerald

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