

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

New Hope Lutheran Church

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Katie's Pantry – 915-494-0456

<https://www.facebook.com/Katiesfoodpantry/>

Welcome - Thank you for sharing worship

Leading Worship

Ministers	Every Member and Friend
Presiding	Pastor Jeff Swanson
Music Director	Gail Manago
Worship Assistant	Martina Jackson
Reader	Larry Tarin
Ushers	Leta Marsh, Larry Tarin
Tech Team	Kathy Brosch, Debbie Strom, Jeff Strom
Sound	Howard Swan, Kitt Swan
Video	Craig Sharp, Steve Marshall
Song Leaders	Susan Hernandez, Martina Jackson, Christine Swan
Flautist	Carol Riley

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Labor Day Litany

God, we ask your presence and blessing upon workers, this Labor Day and every day.
God of care, empower us to move and rest in your restorative justice for all.

For the parents raising children,
For the teachers inspiring curious minds,

For the cooks feeding our hunger,
For the farmers feeding the world,

For the construction workers housing us,
For the healers keeping our health,

For the animals helping and befriending us,
For the climate scientists listening to our planet,

For the trees breathing with us.

God of care, empower us to move and rest in your restorative justice for all.

ELW 880 (Red) O God, Beyond All Praising

- 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
- 2 The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.
- 3 Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

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Prayer Of The Day— *this prayer collects us together in prayer before the triune God and turns us toward the scripture themes of the day.*

Let us pray. God, we are grateful for the laborers among us. Protect and empower them in their daily work. Make us ever mindful of their contributions to our lives and communities. God of care, empower us to move and rest in your restorative justice for all. **Amen.**

Come Holy Spirit and speak to us through the scripture readings,

Assigned but not read: Psalm 112 The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)

The First Reading is from the 25th Chapter of Proverbs

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading is from the 13th Chapter of Hebrews

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading is from the 14th Chapter of Luke

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt

themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.”¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.”¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Oh Christ.

Message:

Pastor Jeff Swanson

ACS 1036 (Blue) Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

- 1 Commonwealth is God's commandment;
common goods are meant to share.
Tables set and doors wide open
welcome angels unaware.

Refrain

Plead for the peace of all creation.
Pray for a place where grace is found.
Shanti, pax, shalom, maslaha:
common good is holy ground.

- 2 Sharing lavish gifts and blessings,
love that not one mite withholds,
stretch out arms to friends and strangers:
God has sheep of many folds. *Refrain*
- 3 Genders, races, tribes, and nations,
hear the Holy One who calls,
biding all to work together,
bridging lives and breaching walls. *Refrain*

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Creed The creeds were originally teaching tools used in preparing people for baptism. They were learned by heart and used in the celebration of baptism itself.

Please join with me and Christians across the ages in affirming our faith by reciting the ancient words of the Apostle's Creed:

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the

Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Lord we know you are near and we ask for your inspiration. We pray for leaders of New Hope and the church around the world. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the well-being of creation. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the leaders of El Paso, the state of Texas, this nation and nations around the world. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those in this congregation who share hospitality. Give all of us a spirit of welcome and care for others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

Peace - *Matthew 5:23-24 If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Also Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, "greet one another," a symbol of peace and of love.*

The God of love and peace be with you always.
And also with you.

Our Offerings to God *in gratitude to God we return a part of what he has given us as an offering realizing that all we have is God's. The offering that is gathered is for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need locally and worldwide.*

Enjoy the special music as the gifts are gathered.

After the gifts are gathered, please stand as you are able and join in singing.

In The Singing

ELW (Red) 466

1 In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,

Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.

2 In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people, *Refrain*

Refrain

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;

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Let us Pray, Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The Meal

Communion - Simply being here makes you a part of the New Hope Family. We invite and welcome everyone to share this sacred time of fellowship, forgiveness and renewal. More importantly, it is Jesus himself who welcomes and urges you to come forward.

In this "meal" of Communion we believe that Christ is truly present and comes to us, in, with and under the bread and wine. Christ's real presence is one of the great mysteries of faith. This gift of Christ's very self in the bread and wine proclaims God's saving Word, feeds and nourishes our faith, forgives our sins, and sends us into the world to continue to be Christ's real presence in the world today.

Christ is here among us.
Christ is truly with us

Words Of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Please join in singing the Lord's Prayer together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive them, who trespass against us, forgive us our trespasses

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Oh Lord, lead us not, into temptation, but, Save us from evil, and the, kingdom, the power and the,
glory forever will be yours

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Invitation To Communion

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.

All are invited to come to the banquet.

Communion Distribution

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say; The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Each person may respond, Amen. The wine is red, if you prefer grape juice is light color. Place your empty cups in the baskets on the side

WOV 778 O Christ The Same

- 1 O Christ the same, through all our story's pages--
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

- 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love in triumph glorified.
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven--
O Prince of life, in all your saving power;
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given:
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.



- 3 O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain;
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

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Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray, Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Announcements

-  **Sign up** sheets in the back table –
“Get Together” Lunch at Buon Giorno
Provide Meals for the Meal Train
-  **Happy** Labor Day

ACS969(Blue) Welcome Table

- 1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
I'm goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
some of these days.

- 2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
I'm goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
some of these days.
- 3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
some of these days.

Text: African American spiritual

Benediction Blessing

We Are Sent Into The World To Share What Has Been Given To Us

Please stand as you are able

Please join in singing the **Sending Song**

***Brothers, sisters, all are we part of God's great family.
As we go from this place, may God keep us in His grace.
May God keep us in His grace.***

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE TODAY.

We are so glad you worshipped here today and invite you again. If you are looking for a faith family we invite you to consider New Hope

The Mission of New Hope is to discover, experience, and share God's love with our hearts, hands and voices.

New Hope's Vision: As followers of Christ we will:
-encourage a spiritual journey
-celebrate the diversity and gifts that each person brings
-learn from each other
-engage with the world around us

Commemorations

**Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872,
Tuesday, September 2, 2025**

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

September 7 – Pastor Mike Hamilton

Readings for September 7: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 *Walk in the way of life and hold fast to God,*
Psalm 1 *They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3), Philemon 1-21* *Paul says: Receive Onesimus as a*
coworker, Luke 14:25-33 *Jesus says: Disciples, give up your possessions and carry the cross*

New Hope QR Code



Radical Love Triumphs

For most of human history wisdom was largely part of an oral tradition. From one generation to the next, wisdom was passed down. These days it sometimes seems that technology has replaced that tradition of shared wisdom. Rather than ask a trusted elder the temptation is to pull out a smartphone and do a quick Internet search. Next thing you know, there it is, wisdom at your fingertips—maybe. Could it be that something is lost in the process? We can find facts online, but virtues like humility, respect of elders, hospitality, servanthood, and peacemaking do not seem to translate as easily in the electronic age. In the gospel reading Jesus takes the time to pass on some ancient-yet-prudent wisdom from the proverbs of Solomon to a crowd of social climbers who obviously were not familiar with such prudence or wisdom. More significantly Jesus lifts up the mysteriously gracious and life-transforming values of the kingdom of God. Jesus lifts up the humility required to take the lowest seat at the table, never hoping to be invited to a place of greater honor or status. Jesus invites his followers to practice the hospitality that offers a banquet of the finest of foods for people who cannot repay. Jesus invites his followers to embody the kind of radical-yet-relational love of Jesus himself. This radical love is taught by both individuals and congregations. Communities of faith by their practices of generosity and compassion embody the love of Jesus in their communities.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Interim Pastor
Vicar
Katie's Pantry Director
Rocky Mountain Synod
ELCA Churchwide

Jeff Swanson
Thania Drake
Mary Anez & The Rev Jeff St. Clair
The Rev Dr. Meghan Aelabouni, Bishop
The Rev Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop