

NEW HOPE NEWS



OCTOBER 2025

God's work. Our hands.

New Hope Lutheran Church
4801 Sun Valley Drive El Paso, TX
79924
Office: 915-821-2079
Email:

Newhopelutheranchurchelpaso@gmail.com

Website:
Newhope915.com

10 AM - Worship

Interim Pastor: Jeff Swanson
505-850-3339

pastornewhopelutheranelpaso@gmail.com

Vicar: Thania Drake
915-799-0448
vucartgabua@gmail.com

President: Vicki Gannon
Vice President: Steve Marshall



Birthdays

12 – Adele Guzman
14 – Ron Tollette
19 – Emily Horstman
Maria Tollette
29 – Kurt Moore
31 – Jeff Strom

Anniversaries

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2025

Blessing Corner: Blessing of the Animals

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			01	02	03	04
			Crochet Group 1pm Outreach 6:30pm Zoom	Ladie's Night Out – Ardivinos 5:30pm		Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out Empty Sheds 1pm
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Blessing of the Animals – 10am Pastor Steve Heetland	Rummage Sale Set- up 9am	Rummage Sale Set- up 9am	Rummage Sale Set-up 9am Crochet Group 1pm	Rummage Sale Set-up 9am Finance Meeting 9am	Rummage Sale 4-7pm	NO Katie's Food Pantry Rummage Sale 8am – 1pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Council Meeting 11:15am Pastor Jeff Swanson		Dove Circle 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm			Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 10am/Baptism Fellowship 11am Service Meeting 11:00am Pastor Jeff Swanson		"Get Together" Lunch noon	Crochet Group 1pm	Retired Teachers Group 9:30am		Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Reformation Sunday Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Birthday Cake Sunday Joint Reformation Service 4pm Vicar Thania Drake		Property Meeting 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm Game Night 7pm			

Ladies Night Out



11100 Sean Haggerty

Thursday, October 2, 2025

5:30 PM





Excellence In Leadership:

Thania, Susan, Christine and Pastor Swanson would like to enlist your prayers as they embark on a 13 month journey through the "excellence in leadership" course. They are joining other folks (lay and clergy) from across the ELCA as well as siblings from other denominations. You may ask them once in a while what they are discovering or what they find challenging. Most of all, please engage with them in prayer and conversation along the way as they work to develop skills to help take us into the future.

Worship in October!

Don't forget your animal pics (past and present) on Sunday the 5th! We have dedicated this worship to celebrating creation and the many critters we share our homes and world with!

Oct 26th will offer two worship opportunities. Our normal Sunday service at 10am and/or a community celebration service at 4pm. This year Pastor Swanson will offer the message at the 4pm service and we will join together with folks from Cristo Rey, Milagro de la Frontera, Peace and St Timothy's. For those who long for choral singing, here's your chance to arrive early at 3:30 for a "pick up choir" rehearsal! We will sing together during the offertory! A community fellowship meal will be served following our worship time together.

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Salvation Essay #6. A Brief Essay; Jesus and Salvation. “The Way” in Transition. By Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor at New Hope Lutheran Church, El Paso Texas

The early followers of Jesus referred to their faith as “The Way.” Probably this was based on Jesus’ teaching that he is “The way, truth and life.” Key and essential were Jesus teachings about “salvation” leading us through the challenges and imperfections of life, into eternal life.

The Way was born in Jerusalem and nearby surrounding areas. Peter was the leader in Jerusalem and essentially converted Jewish people to The Way...by presenting Jesus as a fulfillment of God’s promises about sending a Messiah to save them. Outside of Jerusalem, there were Jews and people of other faiths ... who also heard the Christian message and became converted to The Way. Both groups were plunged into tumult.

Jerusalem Christians: Jews largely rejected Christians as heretics. Romans considered Christians a reform offshoot of Judaism. Jews also challenged Roman authority and rebelled. There was ongoing insurgency, guerrilla war, against the Romans after Jesus’ crucifixion in 33 AD. In 67 AD the Romans sent about 10,000 combat troops from Syria to seize control and restore order. They made a BIG MISTAKE. The combat troops carried equipment to build a base camp. They were NOT configured with weapons ready for fighting. Jewish insurgents ambushed them, drove them to the sea and killed about 5,800. The Romans responded by sending nearly 50,000 troops. From 67-70 AD the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem which was about five times bigger than our largest sports stadiums today! About 1.1 million people were killed and at least 100,000 were made slaves. Catapults, bladed weapons, arrows and fire! Bloody times! Imagine being an early follower of Jesus in the midst of the tumult. Israel ceased to be a nation until 1948 when Allies created and imposed a Jewish homeland.

Christians outside Hebrew lands: Paul was a Jew; NOT in Jerusalem, but in Syria. Around 36 AD, a young Christian named Stephen proclaimed his faith and some Jews became upset. The Romans retained exclusive right to decide Capital Punishment. They largely reserved this for crimes such as treason and murder. Stephen did neither. Yet a mob decided to kill Stephen for religious heresy, by stoning. Throwing stones is hard, sweaty, work so the killers removed their coats. Paul came along on a visit to Jerusalem, likely to arrest and imprison Christians and approved of the killing. Paul guarded the coats, probably from pickpockets and thieves. After the killing, Paul had a change of heart and head. He switched from being a persecutor of Christians to the most prominent missionary. His letters

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survive as informative writings; 13 of the 23 writings (excepting the 4 Gospels) and about 24% of the New Testament. He established at least 14 churches during 4 missionary journeys. Between 47-57 AD he traveled to Turkey, Syria, Israel, Spain, Malta, Greece, Rome, Cyprus, Malta and more!

Saint Luke was another early convert to Christianity. He was from Antioch, Turkey. He wrote 27.5% off the New Testament, including the Gospel of Saint Luke and Acts of the Apostles, which is early church history.

Many of the Jewish Christians from the Hebrew lands wanted converts to first become Jews and follow Jewish laws. Imagine telling males in the Greek, African, Roman and other Mediterranean lands that they had to be circumcised in order to become Christians! Yikes! There was no infection nor pain control. Yikes again! So The Way adapted; welcomed conversion based upon the confession of faith in Jesus who loves us and provides salvation.

Between the Roman destructive attacks upon Jerusalem, and the hard work of Saint Paul, Saint Luke, and the scores of followers....The Way largely disconnected from the Hebrew lands, transitioned to the wider Roman Empire. The message was that God's free and unmerited grace, via Jesus, provides salvation. "Welcome!" was the inclusive format.

Then resistance to The Way began.... Lions, Tigers, Bears, Oh My! Fire and Gladiators too!



We will be resurrecting a “tried and true” fund-raiser, the

RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 4-7 pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 8am – 1pm

Areas where we need your help -

Saturday, October 4, 1pm – Empty Sheds for Rummage Sale

Need Trucks and Women & Man Power

Monday – Thursday, October 6 – 9, 9am – Set up for Rummage Sale

Help at the rummage sale, Oct 10 & Oct 11

Saturday, October 11 – 1pm Clean up

Reformation Sunday , October 26

This is a day to focus on knowing God truthfully and understand who we are as people of faith and children of God in light of God's unbelievable grace. Reformation Sunday is a festival day where we celebrate and remember our history, but it should also be a day to reexamine our faith. The message of Reformation Sunday is God's love for us. It is a love that frees us and redefines us a people of God and as members of the whole body of Christ. His love works in our hearts to help us shine for Him.

Martin Luther's faith journey began with an errant belief that God's demand for righteousness must be satisfied by our own doings. We are saved through faith alone that is received through grace alone, by authority given through Scripture alone. All of this is through Christ alone. Martin Luther sparked the Reformation with his 95 Theses, but realized that salvation comes through faith and not works ignited the revolution that changed the world.





A word of hope on Reformation Day

Oct. 31, is Reformation Day. As the church remembers over [500 years of the Protestant Reformation](#), we are also reminded of our need for Jesus. Given recent [incidents of hate](#), intolerance and violence, Jesus' message and way of life continue to be relevant today.

In his words and actions, Jesus conveyed a word of God and a word from God. In other words, we know about God's project for humanity, God's kingdom, because of Jesus Christ. Even though Jesus was wrongly accused, tortured and executed, his word about God lasts forever. His resurrection was the divine vindication of his whole life.

In his life, death and resurrection, Jesus promoted solidarity, community, communion with God and each other, mercy, compassion, grace and justice. We all need to hear this message. We all need grace and compassion. God calls us—Christ's church for the sake of the world—to proclaim Jesus' teachings.

On this Reformation Day, my prayer is this: May God's Spirit continue to reform our message so that Christ may be formed in us and in our world.

Martin Luther, the 16th-century German reformer, pastor and church teacher, is another historical example of a Christian proclaiming the word of God to a world in crisis. And [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) proclaimed the word of God during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Both men proclaimed the gospel message to our hurting world in order to spread love and justice. Neither was perfect. Luther's anti-Semitic writings still haunt us as Lutherans, while King's personal shortcomings are also well-documented. Nevertheless, we hold dear their proclamation of the justifying grace of God. We are encouraged by their words calling for a renewal of society, so that our dreams of equality may one day be our reality.

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According to Luke 4:16-20, Jesus, while in his hometown of Nazareth, read the following verses from Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

If our proclamation is not informed, shaped and grounded in Jesus’ life, actions and teachings, we run the risk of proclaiming **our** way and not God’s. When our way is preached, we get bigotry, racism, sexism, war, intolerance, violence and apathy toward those who are powerless and voiceless. Like Luther and King, we must strive to bring freedom to those who are oppressed.

On this Reformation Day, my prayer is this: May God’s Spirit continue to reform our message so that Christ may be formed in us and in our world. Freed by God’s grace, may we boldly proclaim the love of Jesus Christ—word from God and word of God. Let our mouths give voice to hope.





*CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
AND
BAKE SALE*

*NOVEMBER 8, 2025
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.*

*Looking for Vendors To Participate, please contact Karen Miller for
Information at 915-821-2079*

*NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
4801 SUNVALLEY DRIVE
915-821-2079*

We seek in every way to be at peace with one another, to go the extra mile. We seek to be patient, kind, and gentle knowing that our Lord has dealt with us tenderly. Having been forgiven, we are quick to forgive and slow to anger. This is the Christian life, and it is the life of Christ, for our sake.

New Hope is open, and we joyfully and safely gather in person for worship every Sunday at 10am. Let us continue to share God's love. Face Coverings are now optional. All are welcome to receive Communion.



Pastors who will be presiding and preaching in OCTOBER:

October	5-	Pastor Steve Heetland, Retired ELCA Pastor
October	12 –	Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor
October	19 –	Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor (Baptism)
October	26 -	Vicar Thania Drake

Here are some ways for you to be a part of the worship service

We encourage you to worship in person at 10am on Sundays where face coverings are optional and respected. If you aren't able to worship in person you can view the worship service on YouTube live or at a later time which fits your schedule

NEW HOPE UPDATES

New Hope's expenses continue during this time. Please do not forget your offerings. We are grateful for all who send their offerings to New Hope. Thank you for your faithful commitment and your financial support to New Hope. It is very much appreciated and New Hope is truly blessed.

Here are some ways to send your offerings to New Hope:

1. Mail your offering to new Hope to 4801 Sun Valley El Paso, TX 79924
2. Place your offering in an envelope, marked Financial Secretary and drop it in the mail slot in the back of the Office/classroom Building
3. Use bill pay through your bank and your bank will mail a check to New Hope
4. Use Thrivent Choice through Thrivent.com. Click on personal donation, select New Hope Lutheran Church El Paso, Texas and then follow the prompts.
5. Place your gift in the offering plates. Online giving available via our website: newhope915.com

Please keep everyone in your prayers throughout the week. Check on church members, elderly, friends, neighbors and family. Take care of yourself and others.

TITHES/OFFERINGS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

☐ MEMBER ☐ VISITOR

☐ \$_____ CASH

☐ \$_____ CHECK# _____



"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

2025 BLESSING CALENDAR

January– ELCA Good Gifts/ELCA World Hunger

February– Soup-er Bowl Sundav

March– Opportunity Center

April– Bunnies, Beanies & Blankets – (UMC Children’s Hospital)

May– La Posada Home – Domestic Violence Shelter

June– Borderland Rainbow Center – With Peace Lutheran El Paso

July Christmas in July (Operation Santa Claus) and Blessing of the Backpacks - School Supplies

August– Church Suppliesa (Replenish New Hope’s Paper Products)

September– God’s Work, our Hands – (Schaeffer Halfway House)

October– Blessing of the Animals (Mandarin’s Retreat)

November & December Luterana Iglesia Cristo

These blessing corners will be funded through New Hope and Thrivent Action Teams.

If you have a Thrivent product you likely qualify to sponsor an Action Team. If you need help setting up a project or need ideas about what to do or simply want to delegate the task to someone else, please obtain information from Christine Swan, the service team leader.

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

OCTOBER BLESSING CORNER



[Mandarin's Retreat](#) A Home for Wonky Cats

Welcome to Mandarin's Retreat, a private home in El Paso, Texas moonlighting as a 501c(3) nonprofit haven for old, sick and abused cats. Please take a look around, meet our kitties and give us a follow on your social media platform of preference!

Our rescue started out under circumstances that could politely be called "emergency" ones and while we have contributed in excess of \$35,000 in 2024 of our own money to keep the kitties taken care of, we are in a dire need of donations. If you have some spare change rattling about in your pocket, please consider donating to us, so that we can continue to help the sick kitties in our care, as well as be ready should the Cat Distribution System deliver any more on our doorstep.

"We provide medical care, food, shelter and hospice services to elderly, sick, injured, and un-adoptable cats and kittens. To keep these felines healthy, we require a stream of food, cleaning, and maintenance items for their continuous care. The items listed in this registry helps us feed the kitties and maintain the Retreat."

New Hope will be collecting animal supplies Please help by donating one or more of the following items! During the month of October

Scotch Brite Heavy Duty Scrub Sponge
Gerber Stage 2 Baby Food – Turkey & Gravy
Gerber Stage 2 Baby Food – Ham & Gravy
Special Kitty Kitten Dinner Variety Pack
(Pate Cat Food) 3oz Cans (24 pack)

Purina Cat Chow Hairball & Healthy
Weight Indoor Dry Cat Food
Purina Cat Chow Complete High Protein
Dry Cat Food with Real Chicken
Lysol All Purpose Spray Cleaner, Lemon
Great Values Sardines in Water
Speical Kitty Scoopable Tight Clumping
Cat Litter, Fresh Scent
\$10 Walmart Gift Card

Blessing of the Animals - October 5

Bring pictures of your pets, past and present to be displayed on the altar rail during the month of October

TRANSPORTATION

Help with Transportation To Doctor's Appointment



For those who find yourself looking ahead, wondering how you are going to get to your next doctor's appointment, etc., take heart!! New Hope now has a Transportation Committee that will do cartwheels to get you to your appointment.

Looking for someone who would be interested in being the new Transportation Coordinator. To be able to coordinate different people to drive people to their next doctor's appointment, to the store, or other places people would need to go. Thanks to Kathy Hamblen for her dedication for many years of coordinating the transportation for people in the church.

Please give 1-2 week notice to plan arrangements.



We have made some significant updates and upgrades to our systems, and we are now STREAMING LIVE once again every Sunday

Service videos will no longer be uploaded as individual files as the live recording will be available. So be sure to subscribe and turn on notifications so that you will receive the email that we are broadcasting.

Having trouble finding them:

On our YouTube home page look under PAST LIVE STREAMS or also under the VIDEOS tab and you will find all our content Remember to hit subscribe and set the notifications so that you know when we are LIVE or posted new content.

THRIVENT

Thrivent Choice "Make a Personal Donation" Maybe you have heard it said many times "follow the prompts" to make a personal donation and have no clue what that actually means or how it works! So here's a little cheat sheet, I did some exploring to figure it out.

First of all, you don't have to be a Thrivent member to use this feature.

Second, it's a way to give via your credit card and rack up more points or miles and the organization (New Hope or someplace else) will get a record of your personal donation and should track that gift for you in the same way as if you had put a check in an envelope, it should be recorded by them for you

Third of all this is DIFFERENT than designating Thrivent Choice dollars for those of you who are Thrivent members

Fourth, it's not so easy as just having a link which is specific to New Hope, maybe we will do that in time, for now below is a cheat sheet to help you if you want to use the Thrivent choice personal donation system

1. go to thrivent.com
2. search box type in "thrivent choice"
3. once in thrivent choice click on "make a personal donation"
4. follow remaining prompts which are self explanatory

NEWS AND EVENTS

We Are On YOUTUBE!
Search

NEW HOPE ELCA

And be sure to subscribe!

Subscribe to our
YouTube Channel

Flowers

Please see the flower calendar in the back of the sanctuary. Flower Dates are still open.



Are you getting the
message?

We are committed to improving our communications and congregational messaging. If you are not getting the message, let Karen Miller know and we will get you added to the email distribution list so that you do not miss out on upcoming events.



NEWS & EVENTS

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

To order a memorial plaque for the memorial wall, please see Karen Miller.



**JOIN US
On
90.1 FM**



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

New Hope collects aluminum tabs to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT



THRIVENT CHOICE

The member advised charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial. Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars that they can direct to help make a difference for New Hope

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Apply to lead a volunteer team in a one time fundraiser, service activity, or educational event to support an unmet need in our community and how you can help.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

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New Hope has several places in which you can come together to grow in community as we study the word together, as we share conversation, and as we discover God's presence in our lives. All we need is you to join in the discussion when your schedule permits. The spirit is at work among us as we grow in relationship with each other. All of these opportunities are open to all members, guests and friends of New Hope.



DOVE CIRCLE (Women's Bible Study)

An Invitation for all women of New Hope and friends to join in Bible Study and Fellowship every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at New Hope in the Office/Classroom building.

"The Gather" magazine is used for the Bible Study, led by members of Dove Circle.

The Dove Circle sponsors events, such as the spring and fall rummage sales and craft fair and other events as needed.

Schedule for 2025

January - June

July - December

Meeting- October 14, 1pm



OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

New Hope has several ways in which you we come together to help others and our community. As we conduct our daily lives think of those that will be aided by your participation.



KATIE'S FOOD PANTRY

Katie's Food Pantry distributes food to our neighbors every Saturday, 9am – until food runs out. Always looking for volunteers to help. See Maria Anez or Pastor Jeff if you are interested in helping. Items needed are bottled water, Gatorade, plastic grocery bags (new or used), garbage bags (33 gal or larger)

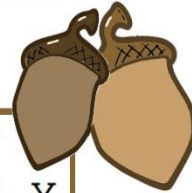


JUST FOR FUN

Autumn



WORD SEARCH



E	A	X	W	A	L	R	S	T	S	T	
T	K	W	Q	U	E	E	F	G	C	N	Y
F	B	O	O	T	S	F	A	E	I	D	L
H	A	E	A	R	C	I	L	S	K	A	I
M	F	E	O	E	A	P	L	S	C	S	E
A	W	H	H	E	P	U	M	P	K	I	N
S	I	H	K	A	R	B	E	T	P	R	D
E	A	A	N	E	Y	N	M	R	O	A	C
O	R	J	X	K	V	S	N	C	G	R	Q
H	L	E	A	F	S	C	A	R	F	I	O



SCARF
TREE
ACORN
HAY

APPLE
FALL
PUMPKIN
SWEATER

BOOTS
RAKE
PIE
LEAF

Peace
be with
you