

NEW HOPE NEWS



JANUARY 2026

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
Vicarthania@gmail.com

President: Vicki Gannon
Vice President: Steve Marshall



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

God's work. Our hands.



Birthdays

2 – Larry Tarin
15 – Ingrid Moore
28 – Christine Swan

Anniversaries

The song, "**The Twelve Days of Christmas**" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Ghost, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost.

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day.

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . a partridge in a pear tree. The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments

The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit----Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit----Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Contineny [Chastity].

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

Printed with permission from Catholic Tradition.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Year's Day, also called simply New Year's or New Year, is observed on January 1, the first day of the year on the modern Gregorian calendar as well as the Julian calendar. In pre-Christian Rome under the Julian calendar, the day was dedicated to Janus, god of gateways and beginnings, for whom January is also named. As a date in the Gregorian calendar of Christendom

Civilizations around the world have been celebrating the start of each new year for at least four millennia. Today, most New Year's festivities begin on December 31 (New Year's Eve), the last day of the Gregorian calendar, and continue into the early hours of January 1 (New Year's Day). Common traditions include attending parties, eating special New Year's foods, making resolutions for the new year and watching fireworks displays.

New Year is the symbol of new hopes, new beginnings and celebrations. Many people dream about New Year when they really struggle for happiness. The word 'New' itself means a change. Let's find out what they mean in your dreams. Symbolism: New Year dreams enlighten the mood and indicate celebration times at home.



CHURCH CALENDAR

JANUARY 2026

Blessing Corner: ELCA Good Gifts/World Hunger

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

				01	02	03
						Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Sunday School 9:15am Epiphany Worship 10am Epiphany Potluck 11:30am Pastor Jeff Swanson			Crochet Group 1pm			Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out Ladies "Day" Out 12:30pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Council Meeting 11:15am Pastor Jeff Swanson	Worship Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	Dove Circle 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm	Finance Meeting 9am		Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Service Meeting 11:15am Pastor Ron Brooker		"Get Together" Lunch 12pm	Crochet Group 1pm	Retired Teachers 9:30am Outreach Meeting 11:30am		Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Birthday Cake Sunday Pastor Mike Hamilton		Property Meeting 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm			Katir's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Epiphany of our Lord, January 6. The term "epiphany" comes from a Greek word which means "appearance" or "manifestation". Epiphany was introduced into Western Christianity in the 4th century and is commonly linked in Western churches with the visit of the wise men (Magi) to the Christ child. Through the Magi, Jesus Christ revealed himself to the world as God's own Son. Epiphany is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ, observed on the sixth day of January. The twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany have often been called the "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Epiphany is sometimes called Three Kings' Day. Epiphany puts emphasis on the baptism of Jesus by John (Matthew 3:13-17;Mark 1:9-11;Luke 3:21-22) with Christ revealing himself to the world as God's own Son.

Today, Epiphany, open up to wisdom, let yourself be guided by the stars and the images of your dreams as you follow God's call to find Christ.





"Worship" is a time in which we come together to share in both word and sacrament and it's also our primary outreach....this is most often how we first greet the "stranger" amidst us. So in this new year how will you (that's the general "you", as in all of us) greet the stranger at worship? Will you go to the same seat you always use, pass the peace with those closest to you and rarely venture out? Or, will you seek the "stranger" and get to know them? The "stranger" could be someone who just showed up for the very first time or someone who has been around for a long time but maybe you've never said hello to!

As we look to the New Year, let's celebrate the old year. We are entering 2026 a little closer to the world around us than we were before! I'm deeply grateful for the ongoing work of Jeff Strom with all things techie, for Craig Sharp who quietly serves in the corner helping to bring our worship to those who may not be present with us physically, to Howard Swan who loyally serves us making sure our sound system is up and running and to Kathy Brosch who does amazing work on our weekly slides! We have made so many incremental steps towards reaching out with some technology!!! Yeah team!

In gratitude to all who serve,
Susan (who has the privilege of chairing this amazing team of worker bees
who generously share their gifts with all of us)

Mark Your Calendar

Enjoy Fellowship and Good Food

Epiphany Potluck, Sunday, January 4 11:30am

Bring your favorite dish to share

Saturday, January 10, 12:30pm – Cattle Baron Restaurant, 1700 Airway

All women are welcome to join in a time of community building with ELCA friends in El Paso, to include women from New Hope, Peace El Paso and St. Timothy.

Tuesday, January 20, 12:00pm – Bella Sera Restaurant, 3512 N Yarbrough

Enjoy the fellowship



NEW HOPE UPDATES

New Hope QR Code



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 JANUARY

January	4 -	Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor
January	11 -	Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor
January	18 -	Pastor Ron Brooker, Retired ELCA Pastor
January	25 -	Pastor Mike Hamilton, Retired ELCA Pastor

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

1. Attend in person - all safety precautions will be in place (wear a mask, practice physical distancing, and hand sanitizer is available)
2. If you do not feel comfortable coming into the building, you can listen to the service on the radio in your car in the church parking lot. Virtual Services - begin broadcasting the service between 10:00 and 10:15 on channel FM 90.1
3. Watch the service on YouTube.

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 plate
6. Online giving available via our website: newhope915.com

Giving QR Code



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

BLESSING CALENDAR

January – ELCA Good Gifts/ELCA World Hunger

February – Soup-er Bowl Sunday

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 Supplies (Replenish New Hope's Paper Products)

September – God's Word, our Hands

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

November & December – Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey

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

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, we can help you accomplish that end.

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

BLESSING CORNER

ELCA GOOD GIFTS/WORLD HUNGER



Your donation will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that we do. The items are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. Each community receives exactly the kind of support they need.

Different ways to give:

1. Choose your good gift from the tree
2. Either give online at ELCA.org/goodgifts or call 800-638-3522
3. Or write a check payable to New Hope Lutheran Church and place in the offering plate with the ornament and check

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.

New Year Traditions

Many New Year traditions concern food. Here are a few:

Eat Something Special

1. In the southern United States, black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune
2. Eating any ring-shaped treat (such as a “donut) symbolizes coming full circle” and leads to good luck. In Holland, fritters called *olie bollen* are served
3. The Irish enjoy pastries call bannocks.
4. In India and Pakistan, rice promises prosperity.
5. Apples dipped in honey are a Rosh Hashanah tradition
6. In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come, are dropped on the floor (and allowed to remain there!)

Drink a Beverage

Although the pop of a champagne cork signals the arrival of the New Year around the world, some countries have their own traditions:

1. “Wassail,” the Gaelic term for “good health,” is served in some parts of England.
2. Spiced “hot pint” is the Scottish version of wassail. Traditionally, the Scots drank to each other and also offered this warm drink to neighbors along with a small gift.
3. In Holland, toasts are made with hot, spiced wine.

Give a Gift

1. New Year’s Day was once the time to swap presents.
2. Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the new year in Rome
3. Eggs, the symbol of fertility, were exchanged by the Persians.
4. Early Egyptians traded earthenware flasks.
5. In Scotland, coal, shortbread, and silverware were traditionally exchanged for good luck.



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 & EVENTS

We Are On YOUTUBE!

Search

NEW HOPE ELCA

Click on the ELCA Logo

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.



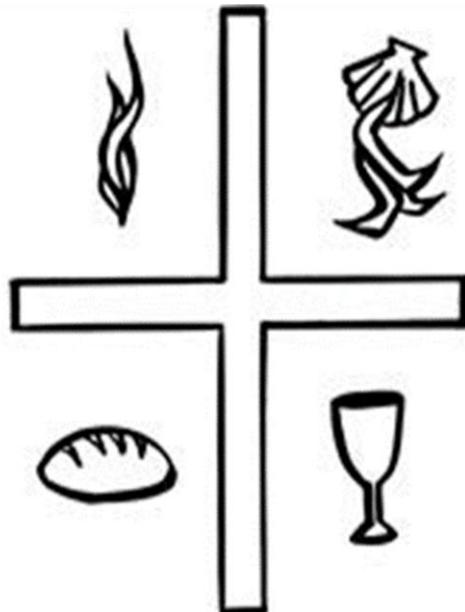
**JOIN US
On
90.1 FM**



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 your 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

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

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 2026

January - August

September - December

Next Meeting: January 13, 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.

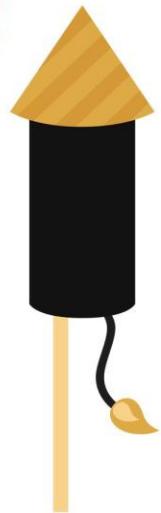
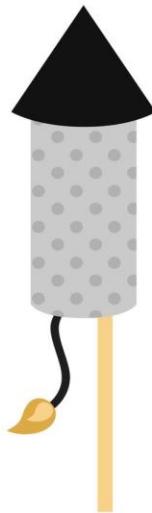
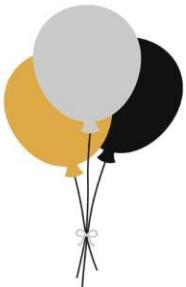
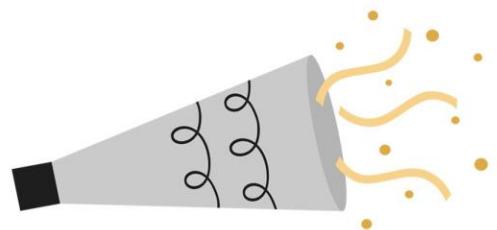


Katie's Food Pantry distributes food to our neighbors every Saturday, 9am – until food runs out.

Always looking for volunteers to help. See Mary Anez or Jeff St. Clair if you are interested in helping. Items needed are bottled water, Gatorade, plastic grocery bags (new or used), garbage bags (33 gal or larger)



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



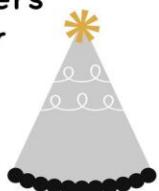
WI HV VVAX RNRZ GOALS AZ Y F
GR BK GZ TY Z I ZZ J Q COMP X B
MD MB TB K TP X NSL TK CXX W T
MI QC CRA E Y WENO Z JK SK R N H
LP DM V X PN Z J LO V Z VY D Z Q G
G PEX AX KO Q N COUNT DOW N I
F VZ ND SS MB P CY WV FT WF B N
TR SP SPARKLER SH Q TO J A D
PJ OLB Y VMS Y LNN N RCAF L I
YL PENS KROW ERI F Z NY CL M
X JKE BD PPGWBKN JUG J WO J
WI S CFS F LD B RGP AJ EX AOK
Q SCA OWD J RMA WRT J H Q H N C
F R Q K J N WPARTY POPPERS O
KE PAU J FG X MIZ X RTS X K Q L
VEN RI YEE B GO Q Y I UPH KY C
Y HIS IRE OT J NO I TULOS E R
Q CSHAPPY GT BOUV CDL R Z G
RM Q G Q X Y B NO I SEMAKER G F
NA ENKV KTY F HRRAY RY I A V

Countdown
Confetti
Midnight
Balloons

Celebration
Fireworks
January
Happy

New Year
Clock
Cheers
Goals

Party Poppers
Noisemaker
Resolution
Sparklers



*Have A
Blessed
New Year!*

Peace
be with
you

