

# NEW HOPE NEWS



FEBRUARY 2026

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](mailto:Newhopelutheranchurchelpaso@gmail.com)

Website:  
[NewHope915.com](http://NewHope915.com)

10 AM - Worship

Interim Pastor: Jeff Swanson

505-850-3339

[pastornewhopelutheranelpaso@gmail.com](mailto:pastornewhopelutheranelpaso@gmail.com)

Vicar: Thania Drake  
915-799-6448  
[vicarthania@gmail.com](mailto:vicarthania@gmail.com)

President: Vicki Gannon  
Vice President: Steve Marshall



## Birthdays

1 – Diana Kohn  
8 – Brianna Marshall  
17 – Debbie Strom  
18 – Monika Hughes

## Anniversaries

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## February 2026

### Blessing Corner: Soup-er Bowl Tackle World Hunger

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am  Vicar Thania Drake			Crochet Group 1pm  Annual Written Reports Due Ladies Night Out 5:30pm Noodles & Dumplings			Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Council Meeting 11:15am Installation of Council Forum – Discuss Report Pastor Jeff Swanson		Dove Circle 1pm Outreach 4:15pm	Crochet Group 1pm  Finance Meeting 9am			Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out  
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Congregational Meeting  Pastor Jeff Swanson		"Get Together" Lunch 12pm	Crochet Group 1pm  Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru Ashes 4pm – 5pm Service 6pm	Game Night 7pm		Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out  Prayer Journaling - St. Tim's 10:30am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Birthday Cake Sunday Lunch-Cristo Rey 1pm Border Conference Bishop Meghan Aelabouni	Border Conference Retreat at Peace 10am – 4:30pm	Property Meeting 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm  Soup Supper 5:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Service 6pm	Retired Teachers 9:30am	Mix & Mingle with St. Tim's & Peace at Peace Lutheran - 6pm	Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out  Prayer Journaling - St. Tim's 10:30am

# Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Drive-Thru Ashes 4:00–5:00pm

6:00pm Worship Service with  
Imposition of ashes and communion

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday symbolizes Christian belief that humans were created from dust, and will return to dust and ash when they die. This is offset by the belief that the death of Christ allowed for people to be more than simply dust, it allowed for an eternal life in heaven. Some Christians have ashes placed on their forehead as a symbol of penitence.

O God, open my ears to hear Jesus' call, open my eyes to see where I'm heading, and open my hands to be led by your Spirit.





**The season of Lent is a time when we prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the sacred observances of Christ's death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter. In Lent, we recognize we are simply dust and ashes without Christ, we confess our sins to God, and we follow Christ to the cross, where we are made whole again. In the early Church, the six weeks of Lent were a time of training and instruction for converts to Christianity who were preparing to be baptized on Easter. The English word "Lent" is derived from the Germanic root for "long," because Lent occurs in spring, when the days lengthen.**

**Forty Days.** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Sundays are excluded from the counting of the 40 days because they still remain "little Easters" even during this solemn season. The number 40 is significant because, at the start of his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days fasting, praying and resisting temptation, as we are called to do during Lent.

**Three Disciplines.** Traditionally these three disciplines are associated with Lent:

**Fasting.** Skipping a meal once a week or refraining from eating certain foods affords us the opportunity to spend more time feeding on the Word of God and being spiritually nourished through prayer and meditation.

**Abstinence.** Removing a particular bad habit, sinful indulgence or guilty pleasure from our daily routine frees us to engage in activities that are God-pleasing and reflects in a small way the self-sacrifice that Christ endured for us.

**Almsgiving.** Giving something extra during this time—to our church, to the poor and needy among us, to charities or other service organizations—is a way to remember that Christ gave up everything to save us from sin, death, and the devil and to free us to live a new life in him.

**One Focus.** Our focus during Lent is solely on the cross of Christ. For it was on the cross that the sinless Son of God suffered and died for us that we might be fully forgiven and live forever with him in heaven. Reading Scripture verses about the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion and putting a cross in a prominent place where we can see it often keep our focus strong.

## *Pondering The Passion*

The word “Passion” in the context of Lent does not refer to intense romantic love, but to the sufferings of Christ from the night of the Lent Supper to the death on Good Friday.

Scriptural accounts of these last days in Christ’s life are called the Passion narratives. Make an effort to read some portion of one of the Passion narratives (listed below) each day of Lent. Then spend five to ten minutes simply pondering the words you have just read

Matthew 25:14 – 27:66

Mark 14:1 – 15:47

Luke 22:14 – 23:56

John 18:1 – 19:42

## Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Drive-thru Ashes 4:00-5:00pm

6:00pm – Worship Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes

### Wednesday Soup Suppers

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

5:30pm – Soup Supper

6:00pm – Worship Service

(Holden Prayer Service and “Call to I AM” Meditations)

John 6:35-40                    John 10:11-18

John 8:12-20                    John 11:17-27

John 10:1-10

(Sign up to bring soup and/or bread)

### Palm Sunday, March 29

10:00am Worship Service

### Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 2 - 6:00pm

Good Friday, April 3 – 6:00pm

Easter Celebration, April 5 – 10:00am

## **“Get Together” Meals**

Ladies Night Out  
With Peace and St. Tim's  
February 5, 5:30pm  
Noodles & Dumplings  
6303 N Mesa

---

New Hope “Get Together”  
February 17, 12:00pm  
Carnita Tio Juan  
10059 Dyer



# New Hope News

**Salvation Essay #8. 18 January 26. A Brief Essay; “Lions, tigers, beasts, fire, sword and worse!”**

**By Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor at New Hope Lutheran Church, El Paso Texas**

In Essay #7, I offered reasons that Christians who moved into the wider Roman Empire, especially Europe and Asia Minor, were often unwelcome, ostracized, frequently persecuted by violent means. Their properties were confiscated. Many were executed and killed as public entertainment in arenas.

Roman Catholics saved much history. Thank you! Perhaps some are embellished. But the stories, even in minor form, are horrendous. And yet, tremendous inspirations for the saving love of Jesus.

For example, 7 March 203, Carthage in North Africa, two young women were killed, by beasts and sword, as public entertainment. Perpetua; a young mother. Nursing. Felicity; a pregnant young slave woman. She was allowed to give birth before she died. Perpetua was allowed to nurse her baby.

With Perpetua and Felicity, three more Christians whom we know nothing about were killed by letting wild beasts devour them before the cheering crowds; Revoicatus, Secundulus, and Saturninus. These anonymous Christians represent myriads of martyrs, saved for heaven by Jesus as stated in the Revelation Letter. Verse 7:14. "...These are those who have come out of there great tribulation..."

Her father pleaded Perpetua; save her life by renouncing faith in Jesus. She pointed to a pot and and stated that the pot is a “pot” and nothing else. She then stated that she is a Christian and no other faith. Perpetua dreamed before execution. In the dream she stepped off a ladder and unto a snake’s head. Interpretation; she would step into heaven, welcomed by Jesus, and evil ... eventually crushed.

Another was Polycarp. Martyred 155 AD. Smyrna, Turkey. Polycarp was burned alive and pierced with a spear for refusing to burn incense to the Roman Emperor. He stated about Jesus; "Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King and Savior?" At his death, he said: "I bless you, Father, for judging me worthy of this hour, so that in the company of the martyrs I may share the cup of Christ."

## New Hope News

Nero, the Emperor, wanted to clear Rome of overcrowded slums where impoverished Christians resided. Whether Nero was the instigator, is still debated, but 10 of 14 districts burned beginning 18 July, 65 AD. Fact: Nero built a palace on some cleared lands. Some historians stated that Nero played a fiddle during the fire. A caustic saying sticks as critique of powerbrokers, who are frivolous in a crisis instead of relieving suffering. Hence the saying; "Nero fiddled while Rome burned."

Senator Calepodius was a wealthy Roman official. He and sixty five of his family and servants became Christians. On 10 May, 232, Calepodius was tortured first, then all martyred. We do not know how the others died. But Senator Calepodius was drowned.

On 10 August, 258, Rome, a Priest named Laurence was martyred. He was 32 years old. Imprisoned for the crime of food distribution to the poor. In prison, he converted other prisoners. The Emperor, Valerian, got mad and had him tied to a bed of irons, and slowly roasted to death.

How many Christians were martyred? We don't know. But scholarly estimates range; many thousands to millions! I suspect the higher numbers. Why? Historical documents reveal that at least ALL SEVEN of the major Roman Emperors executed official massive persecutions until 311 AD. Yep!

In 1883, artist Jean Leon Gerome painted "A Christian Martyr's Last Prayer." Depicts a ferocious lion in an arena before a cheering crowd. Huddled Christians. One standing, leading a prayer...to Jesus.

So...Salvation faith via Jesus, among early Christians, was tested. Salvation by Jesus was not a mere bumper sticker type of bragging slogan! We do well to humbly study, and thank God for their witness.

Next, we'll consider the human beast, plus fear and salvation faith, from a psychological perspective

# Groundhog Day

Among all of the strange traditions that humans observe, Groundhog Day is probably one of the most bizarre. The day, which is celebrated in the United States and Canada on 2 February every year, revolves around a humble groundhog (also known as a woodchuck) foretelling the next 6 weeks of weather. Only a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil knows for sure.

Originating with German settlers, who came to Pennsylvania in the 1700s and brought their seasonal superstitions with them. The theory goes that if the groundhog emerges from its burrow, sees its shadow because of the clear weather and scurries back into its den, there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If the groundhog emerges and doesn't see its shadow because it is cloudy, then we will enjoy an early spring.

Unsurprisingly, there is little evidence to support the groundhog's mystical powers. However, the tradition persists and has a fascinating history



## The beginning of February has long been an important time of year

Since it falls between the winter solstice and spring equinox, the beginning of February has long been a significant time of year in many cultures. For instance, the [Celts](#) celebrated the 'Imbolc' on 1 February to mark the beginning of the growth of crops and birth of animals.

Similarly, February 2 is the date of the Catholic festival Candlemas, or the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin.

The Candlemas festival is also known amongst the [German Protestant churches](#). In spite of efforts by [Protestant reformers](#) in the 16th century, folk religion continues to link various traditions and superstitions with the holiday; most notably, there is a tradition that the weather during Candlemas predicts the start of spring

## The Germans added animals to the weather-predicting tradition

During Candlemas, it is traditional for the clergy to bless and distribute candles needed for the winter period. The candles represented both how long and cold the winter would be. It was the Germans who first expanded upon the concept by choosing animals as a means of predicting the weather. The formula goes: 'Sonnt sich der Dachs in der Lichtmeßwoche, so geht er auf vier Wochen wieder zu Loche' (If the badger sunbathes during Candlemas-week, for four more weeks he will be back in his hole). Originally, the weather-predicting animal varied by region and could be a badger, fox, or even a bear. When bears grew scarce, the lore became altered, and a hedgehog was chosen instead.

German settlers to Pennsylvania in the United States introduced their traditions and folklore.

In the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Clymer Freas, the editor of local newspaper *Punxsutawney Spirit*, is generally credited with being the 'father' of the tradition.

In the absence of hedgehogs, groundhogs were chosen since they were abundant. Their hibernation patterns worked well too: they go into hibernation in late autumn, then male groundhogs emerge in February to look for a mate.

# New Hope News

## Liars, Cheats, Thieves, and Church

Interim Pastor, Jeff Swanson January 2026

**"Churches are immune to cyber crime. Thieves respect and fear God,** so much that they avoid crimes in churches." "There are so many Christians watching budgets, money handling, that our transactions are 100% secure in congregations." **"It just does not make sense** that anyone would want a church directory of names and address and phone numbers, and emails of beloved church members."

I also received a personal, professional, email...from a superior. The writer wanted me to provide gifts to deserving staff as a benevolent blessing. Get one for myself too. The lying signer fraudulently signed as our beloved, Bishop Megan Aleabouni, complete with address and title. **Evil. Forgery.**

My name was similarly **misused**. Likewise the name of Pastor Jerry Lamb. And Steve, our New Hope Council, Vice President. Our **astute, alert, Vicar, Thania Drake**, noticed the deceitful use of my name. All this in the previous year.

Plus a **deceitful appeal** for Western Union money wire....misusing a veteran friend's name to reimburse him for buying cans of fish and rice for hungry children overseas.

My city recently **lost 250,000\$** to a scammer who obtained a legitimate bill, and politely convinced a dutiful city administrator to change the "routing and transmittal number". The money went overseas to thieves. "The caller was so nice. Knew all the information about the bill. And spoke perfect English."

A devious person wanting favors from the congregation... called me multiple times after he obtained my phone number from the bulletin. He presented a sob story that he was a paraplegic. In another story, he told me that he was a dancer in a local club. **I called him out for lying. That did not dissuade him.** So I told him that I have traced his number, (I did so), and I know his identity and location. He then quit calling.

**Luther was right; there are times and places in which, and to whom, the LAW needs to be preached.**

Scammers asked me to provide, **online, our congregation directory information...**

**Recent fact:** Some of our beloved offerings in our RMS Synod transactions were recently scammed. Thieved. Dutiful RMS staffers and officials caught and stopped the treachery. Fast. Thanks be to God for due diligence!

**Big picture facts from our FBI 2024 Cyber Crime Report.** Attached link.

859,532 Cyber Crime Complaints in 2024

\$16.6 Billion dollars of loss.

\$ 19,372 Average loss per complaint

33.3% Increase over 2023 complaints

256,256 Complaints with loss

## Liars, Cheats, Thieves, and Church

Interim Pastor, Jeff Swanson January 2026

I was **thieved** in a congregation for several hundred dollars. Moons ago. Minneapolis. So was the church Treasurer. He was also the astute, keen mind, virtuous, and esteemed Vice President of General Mills! The thieves made up a fake shipping document that I had ordered routine items. I protested the order to the company and I was deceitfully assured by an apologetic employee who made the fake order, and heartfelt apology, that the order was their error and was cancelled.

I had no knowledge of the **fake bill** which arrived a month later. The thieves forged my information. They sent a bill and the Treasurer paid it. The States Attorney said; "You and the Treasurer trusted each other. You two were focused on Jesus ministry. The thieves were focused on stealing...Jesus money."

**Peace Lutheran in Las Cruces** recently sent this warning far and wide: "We are seeing and hearing of a rise in scam emails COMING FROM STAFF AT PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH requesting gift cards, money, or sensitive information. These emails often come from names such as "Rev. Hannah" or "Pastor" but it is from a fake email address."

I recently heard about another Rocky Mountain Synod congregation being **scammed** via a "down payment" for handicap access, via a **wheelchair** ramp.

I could go on and on....with despicable....examples.

## What to do?

1. **Remain diligent.** Process offerings, deposits, counting, and all transactions...using sensible, secure, accounting procedures. And be safe! Do not handle money alone. **Some thieves maim and kill for money.**
2. **Protect personal information.** Names, phone numbers, addresses, and personal e-mails in bulletins and church directories, are treasure troves of information for thieves.
3. Consider this: our congregations operate amongst an increasingly **security conscious population**. Young and seniors! If people sense that we who operate congregations are careless with their information, well, they may avoid us.
4. **Learn.** Cyber and information thieves have a term; "Dumpster Diving." Some root around in trash looking for information to exploit. Have and use a shredder.
5. **Educate.** Without turning congregations and operations into territorial mindset, fear based, fortress operations, include cyber security awareness in church discussions.

# New Hope News

## Liars, Cheats, Thieves, and Church Interim Pastor, Jeff Swanson January 2026

6. **Appoint someone or a small team** as information and financial security monitors and educators. Have written procedures. Include in appropriate reports and meetings.

7. **Admit and prevent the terrible effects of thievery collateral damage.** When we experience thievery within or upon our church operations, three negative ramifications happen: (1) The money and information is absconded for unholy purposes. (2). Those giving the offerings lose trust. Confidence is damaged. (3). Guilt, shame, blaming, divisiveness, anger, lost trust, and worse happen immediately amongst those in church administration and precious congregants. Then the “ABC Dynamic” often erupts: Accuse. Blame. Condemn.

Thievery events require us to divert precious time, words, and energies from progressive ministries, to damage control! Yikes!

Negative energies get injected into the life of church operations. Humans get spiritually, mentally, wounded. Victimized! Yikes even more!

Jail, divorces, even suicides, are far too often ramifications. So, let's not make skullduggery easy for the thieves.

8. **Study the FBI report** attached below and other documents to learn about cyber crime. Thievery.

9. **Develop a culture** for information security for our holy work and precious people. God gave us a sense of moral responsibility. Talk about security.

10. **Pray and stay focused on ministry.** Use God-given brains God to mitigate risk.

**Bottom Line:** Minister via the ethic of Jesus, and the love of God at work via the Holy Spirit, so that the root causes of thievery behaviors are mitigated in society. At the same time protect church assets and people from evil exploitations.

Amen! Jeff Swanson

Military Veteran: Member of Inspector General Team  
Extensive Elected and Appointed Treasurer Service  
Master of Management Sciences, Emphasis on Non-Profit Organizations  
Cyber, and Information Security Experienced, Educated via Military Schools  
Military Budgets Manager and Accountant  
Church veteran of three violent crimes on church properties  
Wounded. Alerted. Love our ELCA and all of us....

FBI Cyber Crime Report 2024

[https://www.ic3.gov/AnnualReport/Reports/2024\\_IC3Report.pdf](https://www.ic3.gov/AnnualReport/Reports/2024_IC3Report.pdf)

Next I'll write about violent crime in churches, and security.

# Mark Your Calendar

February 5 – Annual Written Reports Due

February 8 – Installation of Council Members

February 8 – Forum 11am - to discuss annual written reports if needed

February 15 – Congregation Meeting 11am – to vote to approve the annual written reports



---

February 18- Ash Wednesday

Drive-thru ashes 4:00 – 5:00pm

Worship Service 6:00pm

With Imposition of ashes and communion





**New Hope will soon be journeying through the season of Lent into Easter.**

**Wednesday Feb 18th we will observe "Ash Wednesday" with both "drive thru ashes" available in our lower parking lot between 4 and 5pm and a worship service with holy communion and the imposition of ashes in our worship center at 6pm. Choose whichever event works best for your spiritual practice and life circumstances!**

**On the five Wednesdays of the season we will share a pot luck "soup and bread" supper at 5:30pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer with the "Call to I Am" meditations at 6pm. These gatherings will take place in our fellowship hall (contained within our "office-classroom" building). Vicar Thania will lead the "I am" series. I am...the bread of life, the light of the world, the door, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life. Join on any or all Wednesdays which fit your spiritual practice and life circumstances!**

**In early April we will recall the steps of Jesus through holy week, beginning on Palm Sunday at 10am, gathering for holy communion at 6pm on Maundy Thursday, meditations at 6pm on Good Friday and an Easter celebration on Sunday at 10am. Join us as often as you are able. Choose what works best for your spiritual practice and life circumstances!**

# New Hope QR Code



# NEW HOPE UPDATES

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 FEBRUARY**

February	1 – Vicar Thania Drake
February	8- Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor
February	15 – Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor
February	22 – Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

### **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 plates
6. Online giving available via our website: [newhope915.com](http://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.

# 2026 BLESSING CALENDAR

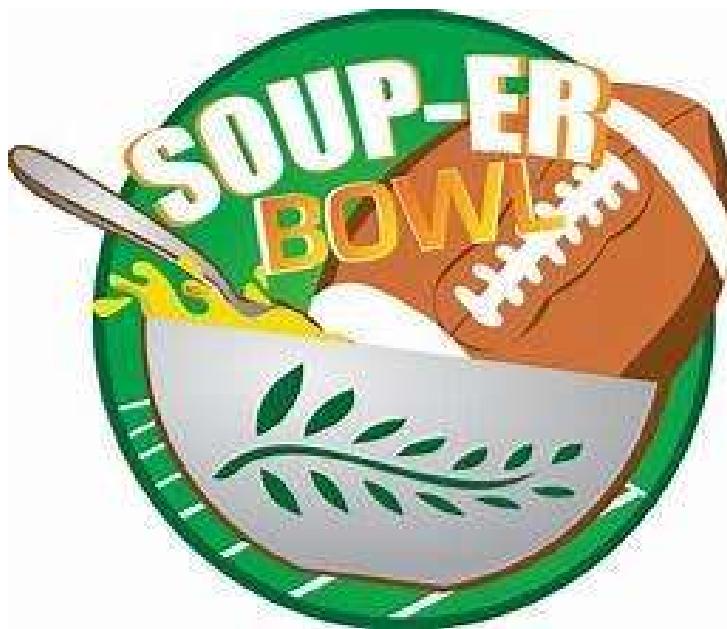
- January** – ELCA Good Gifts/ELCA World Hunger
- February** – Soup-er Bowl Sunday (Katie's Pantry)
- March** – Bunnies, Beanies & Blankets – UMC Children's Hospital
- April** – La Posada or NE Shelter
- May** – Military Month Project for Veterans–Ambrose Guillen Vets Home or Opportunity Center Vets'
- June** – Borderland Rainbow Center
- July** – Christmas in July (Operation Santa Claus) & Blessing of the Backpacks – school supplies
- August** – Church Supplies (Replenish New Hope's paper products)
- September** – God's Work, our Hands
- October** – Blessing of the Animals (Humane Society, Mandarin's Retreat)
- November & December** – 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



**Let's Tackle Hunger for Soup-er Bowl Sunday, February 8**

We ask everyone to bring can(s) of Soup, cereal  
and/or non-perishable food items to be distributed at

**Katie's Pantry**

We want to help make sure no one goes without food in their bowl

Please bring the can(s) of food to church by

**February 22**

and place in the shopping cart in church

# 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 [thrive.com](http://thrive.com)
2. search box type in "thrive choice"
3. once in thrive 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  
CHARITIES®

**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 onetime fundraiser, service activity, or educational event to support an unmet need in our community and how you can help.



## 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)



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 rummage sales and craft fairs and other events as needed.

Schedule for 2026

January - August

September – December

**Meeting – February 10, 1pm**



JUST FOR FUN

## Valentine's Day Word Search

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

candy  
card  
chocolate  
cuddle  
flowers  
friend  
heart

hugs  
kisses  
love  
roses  
smooch  
snuggle



Peace  
be with  
you

