

NEW HOPE NEWS



APRIL 2026

God's work. Our hands.

New Hope Lutheran Church

4801 Sun Valley Drive El Paso, TX
79924

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Website:

NewHope915.com

10 AM - Worship

Interim Pastor: Jeff Swanson

505-850-3339

pastornewhopelutheranelpaso@gmail.com

Vicar: Thania Drake

915-799-0448

Vicarthania57@gmail.com

President: Vicki Gannon

Vice President: Steve Marshall



Birthdays

3 – Aracely Heredia

13 – Ruth Huckaby

CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL 2026

Blessing Corner: Grace Place

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
			April Fool's Day Crochet Group 1pm	Maundy Thursday Service 6pm	Good Friday Service 6pm	Katie's Food Pantry 9am – 2pm
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Easter Celebration Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Easter Egg Hung 11:15am Pastor Jeff Swanson			Crochet Group 1pm	Finance Meeting 9am Ladies Night Out 6pm		Katie's Food Pantry 9am – 2pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Congregational Meeting Council Meeting 11:15am Pastor Jeff Swanson	Worship Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	Outreach Meeting 11:30am Dove Circle 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm			NO Katie's Pantry Craft Fair 9am – 3pm Prayer Journaling 10am St. Tim's
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Service Meeting 11:15am Vicar Thania Drake		"Get Together" Lunch 12pm	Crochet Group 1pm	Retired Teachers 9:30am		Katie's Food Pantry 9am – 2pm
26	27	28	29	30		
Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Birthday Cake Sunday Vicar Thania Drake		Property Meeting 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm	Game Night 7pm		

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service, April 2 – 6:00pm

Good Friday Service, April 3 - 6:00pm

Easter Celebration, April 5 – 10:00am

Easter Egg-Hunt, April 5 – 11:15am

Easter

Alleluia!

The Lord is Risen Indeed!

Easter Celebration

Sunday, April 5 10:00am

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. Easter is the fulfilled prophecy of the Messiah who would be persecuted, die for our sins and rise on the third day. Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew daily hope that we have victory over sin. Easter is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.



EASTER

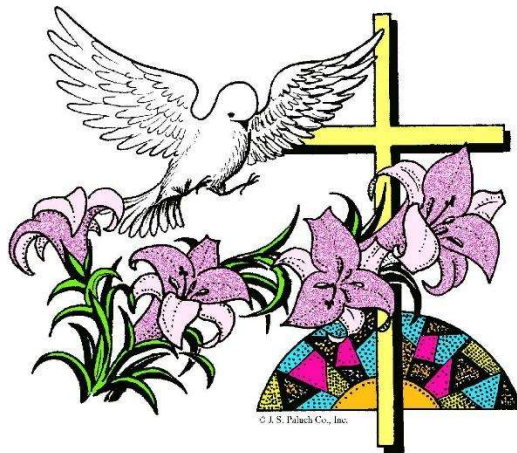
Palm Sunday is March 29. Palm Sunday is the Christian holiday that occurs on the Sunday before Easter. This celebration commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, mentioned in each of the four Gospels. Jesus entered the city knowing He would be tried and crucified and welcomed His fate to rise from the grave and save us from sin! Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus' last days to the cross.

Let us praise God for sending His Son to earth, the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins, and our eternal life in Christ through faith.

Maundy Thursday is April 2. The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word for "Command." The "Maundy" in "Maundy Thursday" refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper, that they should love and serve one another. It is a good thing to remember the Last Supper and Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. It is good to remember the Lord's example of humility.

Good Friday is April 3. On Good Friday, Christians focus on Jesus Christ's death. The night before he died, Jesus and his disciples took part in the Last Supper and then went to the Garden of Gethsemane. There, Jesus spent his last hours praying to the Father while his disciples slept nearby. Good Friday is observed as a day of sorrow, penance and fasting.

Easter is April 5. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. Easter is the fulfilled prophecy of the Messiah who would be persecuted, die for our sins, and rise on the third day. (Isaiah 53) Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew daily hope that we have victory over sin. **Alleluia! Christ has risen indeed!**



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Easter Egg Hunt



Grab your basket for Easter egg hunt

**Easter, April 5, 11:15am after Easter
Service**

At the activity building

**The children will be decorating an
Easter Egg Bag to gather eggs with.**

Easter egg hunts originated in 16th-century Germany when Martin Luther was said to have had the men in the congregation hide eggs for the women and children to find.

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Thanks to so many who helped to create meaningful worship during the Lenten Season into Holy Week! The soup and bread makers, the singers, the readers, those who provided meditations, those who brought items for the "garden of rawness", the YouTube monitors, the slide team, the paper copiers and folders, thanks to all of you for your spirit of participation and collaboration!

Please join us as your schedules allow on April 2nd at 6pm "Maundy" Thursday. "Maundy" literally means "mandate" and refers to the "new commandment" that Jesus gave "to love one another". Together we will recall the Last Supper as we celebrate communion together.

Good Friday is April 3rd and we'll have a service of "word and song" a meditative time together also at 6pm

April 5th is Easter! Join us for a resurrection celebration at 10am!

See you in worship as we grow together!

Christian Just War Theory as Developed by St Augustine in 5th Century and Theologian Thomas Aquinas in 13th Century

Paraphrases From History:

4th Century Question: “So ... If you Christians are so good. For humanity ... then put a stop to the suffering of war.”

St Augustine’s Answer: “Because of Sin, as a human condition, Christians cannot stop war. But we can and do have some things to say about why, when, where, and how wars should be conducted. And our duty in the aftermath.”

- **Jus ad Bellum (Justification for War):**
 - Just Cause: War must be for a righteous reason, such as self-defense or protecting against aggression.
 - Legitimate Authority: War must be declared by a sovereign state or recognized authority.
 - Right Intention: The goal must be to establish a just peace, not vengeance or conquest.
 - Last Resort: All non-violent options (diplomacy, sanctions) must be exhausted.
 - Reasonable Hope of Success: A war that is futile, causing unnecessary death, is not justified.
 - Proportionality: The expected good must outweigh the potential evil and destruction.
 - Public Declaration: The war must be officially announced.
- **Jus in Bello (Conduct in War):**
 - Proportionality: The violence used must not be excessive in relation to the concrete military objective.

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- Discrimination/Non-combatant Immunity: Soldiers must distinguish between combatants and civilians, protecting non-combatants from intentional attack.
- **Jus post Bellum (Justice After War):**
 - Concerns the, justice in peace settlements, reconstruction, and dealing with defeated parties.

Some Modern Thinking Considerations

- The damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave and certain.
- All other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective.
- There must be serious prospects of success.
- The use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated.

Comment

There is no such things as a “purely” just war. Because in order for just war criteria to be applied, one belligerent must have violated God’s love, justice, peace, human and environmental wellness, intent as revealed in a serious, prayerful, Biblical discernment and conversation.

Personal Reflection

There is one life dynamic that holds me back from being a pacifist; avoidance of self-righteousness. Am I so holy and privileged and special above others who are suffering in war....that I should stay safe on the sidelines? I think not! So the best I can do is engage as a thinking Christian. The Just War Theory is key; forces me to grapple with the ethics of Jesus.

The Last Word:

Reverend Doctor Dietrich Bonhoeffer blamed WW2 not on evil, but **STUPIDITY.**

Bible Wisdom:

New Hope News

Did You Know?

Fact: To better serve our congregations, we now have an El Paso Ministerial Association. We normally meet the first Tuesday of each month, using Zoom. 3-4 PM.

So What?: At our first meeting we established a list of clergy authorized to serve our congregations. We also included outreach to United Church of Christ and Presbyterian USA pastors.

ELCA Lutherans have official Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterian USA, Moravians, United Church of Christ, and The Reformed Church in America.

All the better to serve our precious congregations.....

New Hope is a "Teaching Congregation".

We've started a Sunday School and we are an official teaching setting for our Vicar to learn how to serve God's people as a pastor.

God's people include us who attend and are long term integral to New Hope ministries. God's people include those who are new and those who are not even here yet.

We welcome all! And we will start an "ELCA Lutheran 101 Class" this Spring. Shall we start an online Confirmation, once per month, for our teenagers too?

Jesus was often referred to as "Rabbi" by disciples and friends, and others. Did you know that "Rabbi" literally means "teacher"?

Thus we proceed following and learning from our Savior and Rabbi....Jesus.

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.

Join us for worship Sunday's at 10am as we grow together. Masks are respected and communion is open to everyone!



Pastors who will be presiding and preaching in APRIL

April	5 – Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor (Easter Sunday)
April	12 - Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor
April	19 – Vicar Thania Drake
April	26 – Vicar Thania Drake

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.

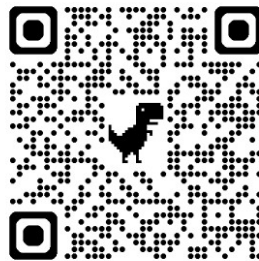
NEW HOPE UPDATES

New Hope is very grateful for the many ways you give to this community! Thanks for your monetary offerings, your presence, and the many gifts and talents you share!

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

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, Beans & Blankets – (UMC Children’s Hospital)

April – Grace Place

May – Military Month Project for Veterans – Ambrose Guillen Vets Home or Opportunity Center

June – Borderland Rainbow Center – With Peace Lutheran Church

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)

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



Grace Place began its journey in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic as a small but dedicated group of servant hearted individuals. Our goal has always been to serve the disenfranchised and vulnerable in our community with love and dignity.

We began our endeavor by providing a warm meal and prayer, thus meeting the physical and spiritual needs of our guests. From small beginnings we grew and today we often feed over 100 guests a day, or up to 500 on special occasions.

- Our services are: Free Meals, Bible Studies, Connection with other Services. Free Toiletries, Free Laundry, Free Showers
- **How you can help:** Sunscreen, Insect Repellent, Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Nail Clippers, Lip Balm, Disposable Razors, Small Package Kleenex, Deodorant, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Hand Lotion, Bottled Water, Individually Packaged Snacks, Body Wash, Ready to Heat Soup, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Socks, Baseball Caps, New or Gently Used



SPRING CRAFT FAIR

AND

BAKE SALE

APRIL 18, 2026

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

4801 SUNVALLEY DR

New Hope Spring Craft Fair Quilt

Hand-pieced and quilted primarily by Ruth Huckaby with Kay Reinshuttle, Vicki Gannon and Sue Olson assisting quilting on the last two rows (members of the Dove Circle). This 76" by 76", "Half-Log Cabin" quilt features greens, browns, and turquoise in a harmonious, earth-inspired palette. It is quilted in blue thread, with stenciled tulip motifs in the 12"X12" blocks and water-lily designs along the border. This is truly a one-of-a-kind piece, which would be a joy to own.



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.

Please give 1-2 week notice to plan arrangements.

New Hope QR Code





welcome
Spring





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

Service videos will not 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.

NEWS AND EVENTS

We Are On YOUTUBE!

Search

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN
CHURCH EL PASO

And be sure to subscribe!

Subscribe to our

You **Tube** 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

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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 individuals from 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: April 14, 1pm
Office Building**



OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

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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 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

EASTER WORD SEARCH

EASTER

BASKET
BONNET
BUNNY
CANDY
CHOCOLATE
DYE
EASTER
EGGS
GRASS
HUNT
LILIES
SPRING
SUNDAY
TULIPS



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

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Peace
be with
you