

# NEW HOPE NEWS



MAY 2026

God's work. Our hands.

## New Hope Lutheran Church

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79924

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10 AM - Worship

Interim Pastor: Jeff Swanson

505-850-3339

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

Vicar: Thania Drake

915-799-0448

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

President: Vicki Gannon

Vice President: Steve Marshall



### Birthdays

1 – Elizabeth Mullins  
17 – Susan Solem  
22 – Seth Marshall  
26 – Judy Edwards  
27 – Ursula Oakes

### Anniversaries

17 – Christine & Howard Swan

# CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2026

Blessing Corner: Navy Federal Credit Union



SUN                      MON                      TUE                      WED                      THU                      FRI                      SAT

						01	02
						May Day	Katie's Food Pantry 9am – 2pm
03	04	05	06	07	08	09	
Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am  Vicar Thania Drake			Crochet Group 1pm	Finance Meeting 9am  Ladies Night Out 5:30pm Avila's	Bingo Night 6pm Peace	Katie's Food Pantry 9am – 2pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Happy Mother's Day Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Vicar Thania Drake		Outreach Meeting 11:30am  Dove Circle 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm			Katie's Food Pantry 9am – 2pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Council Meeting 11:15am  Pastor Jeff Swanson	Brosch Memorial Service 10am	"Get Together" Lunch 12pm	Crochet Group 1pm			Katie's Food Pantry 9am - 2pm  Prayer Journaling 10am – St. Tim's	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Birthday Cake Sunday Pastor Mike Hamilton	 Memorial Day	Property Meeting 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm	Retired Teachers 9:30am	Game Night 7pm	Katie's Food Pantry 9am - 2pm	
Bible Study 9:00am    31 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10am Fellowship 11am  Pastor Jeff Swanson							

# MAY DAY

The roots of May Day go all the way back to ancient world. For the Romans, the first of May stood at the heart of the Floralia, a weeklong festival to honor Flora, goddess of youth, spring and flowers. When the Romans reached the British Isles, their Floralia festival collided with the Celtic holiday of Beltane, also held on May 1. Elements of both celebrations combined to lay the foundations for what became known as May Day. – which, by the medieval period, had become a cherished holiday throughout Europe.

Every year, villagers would go “a-maying” venturing out in the early morning to collect flowers and decorate their town for the day’s festivities. During the day, villages would hold a number of games, pageants and dances and many would crown a young woman “May Queen” to preside over the fun. At the heart of the festivities stood the maypole. Pulled into town by a pair of flower-adorned oxen, the pole (usually cut from a birch tree) was raised and decorated with colorful streamers that villagers could hold as they danced.



## MOTHER'S DAY

May 10, 2026

The origin of Mother's Day as we know it took place in the early 1900's. A woman named Anna Jarvis stated a campaign for an official holiday honoring mothers in 1905, the year her mother died. Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society. Wishing all Mother's a very Happy Mother's Day.



# New Hope News



**Memorial Day** is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2026 occurs on Monday, May 25. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. • Early Observances of Memorial Day.

**The Civil War**, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags

**Decoration Day** On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

**History of Memorial Day** Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars. For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday. • Memorial Day Traditions Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. • Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because it unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

## 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 MAY:**

May	3 – Vicar Thania Drake
May	10 – Vicar Thania Drake
May	17 – Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor
May	24 – Mike Hamilton, Retired ELCA Pastor
May	31 – Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim 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.

# Worship News

Join us Sundays at 10, online or in person, as we grow together! Help us to be the "church that is" not the "church which was". Help us be relevant in our ministry and our worship! We sure could use more of you to help us, especially if you are used to a laptop and are willing to learn. If so please send a message to Susan (the worship team leader) at 915-577-9720 so we can get you involved! See you in worship!

## **Synod Assembly Fun Facts!**

The Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly was held April 23-25 in Colorado with voting members from across our "synod", which includes all of the ELCA congregations in El Paso, all of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. (The word "synod" is rooted in the Greek meaning "walking together")

### **Did you know?**

- Jeff and Debbie Strom attended the assembly as voting members from New Hope!
- Pastor Jeff Swanson was recognized during the assembly for 45 years of ordained ministry!
- Steve Sparks and Christine Swan submitted video prayer petitions which were used during opening worship of the assembly! (all offered prayers were via video on the screen in the worship center at Bethany Lutheran, the assembly site hosts)
- Donna Swanson was a "water bearer" from the Border Conference at the opening worship of the assembly!
- Photos from the El Paso Reformation Service last fall (thanks Caroline for documenting for us!) were included in the gallery of pictures at the assembly, as well as a photo of Christine and Vicki along with friends from Peace Lutheran delivering "beanies, bunnies and blankets" to the Children's Hospital.
- George Drake was elected to the synod discipline committee which meets if needed
- Susan Hernandez was elected on to the "congregational ministries committee" which supports ministry across the synod with programs such as the Lenten series "Why Church" for congregations to utilize.





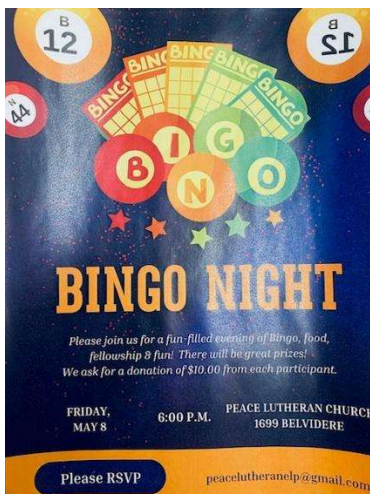
"Little Disciples" is coming to New Hope on June 7th as an activity time in the sacristy (during the sermon/message) for the amazing little disciples in our growing community! Grown ups are needed to staff the activity time so please check your calendars for dates which would be available for you to lead an activity with a second adult to help you! Once upon a time we were all "little disciples" who had grown ups mentoring us. We will have some training time later in May so keep your ears open and we will get info to the volunteers regarding volunteer screening. Activities will be ready for you on the days you volunteer so you don't have to invent them unless you want to! Help us grow our church with this important ministry.

# Mark Your Calendar

May 7, 5:30pm -Avila's Mexican Restaurant



May 8, 6pm – Bingo Night at Peace



# Mark Your Calendar

May 23 – 10am Prayer Journaling at  
St. Tim's



May 19, 12pm – “Get Together” Lunch

Buon Giorno Caffè

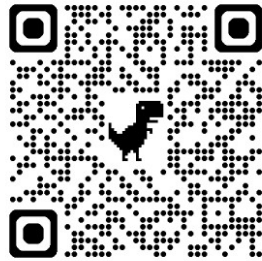
# NEW HOPE UPDATES

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](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

We proudly support  
**BLESSING CALENDAR**

**January** – ELCA Good Gifts/ELCA World Hunger

**February** – Soup-er Bowl Sunday

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

**April** – Grace Place

**May** – Navy Federal Credit Union

**June** – Church Supplies (Replenish New Hop’s Paper Products)

**July** – Christmas in July (Operation Santa Claus) & Blessing of the Backpacks – school supplies

**August** – To Be Determined

**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



Please Donate New Travel-sized personal care items  
for deployed solidiers  
During the month of **May**

Saving Cream  
Hand Sanitizer  
Deodorant  
Toothpaste

Toothbrushes  
Wash Cloths  
Shampoo  
Lip Balm

Soap  
Lotion  
Razors



# 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.

# VIRTUAL SERVICES

## WE ARE ON THE AIR

Each Sunday between 10:00 and 10:15 we will begin broadcasting service on 90.1 fm. If you would like to come to the parking lot or live within 1 mile of the Church you should be able to pick up our signal.





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. <http://youtube.newhope.social>

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.

We Are On YOUTUBE!

Search

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH EL PASO

And be sure to subscribe!

Subscribe to our

**You** **Tube** Channel

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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### 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 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 - July

August - December

**Next Meeting: May 12, 1pm**



# OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

## Opportunities To Help

New Hope has several ways in which 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.

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## 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)



# New Hope News

New Hope QR Code



JUST FOR FUN

# MOTHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH

WYUPBUTDNLK  
NRQZWNBTMQT  
TUEVESSECUK  
PBSISREAIUE  
DWTIEMICEQQ  
RALNSOKHSTC  
PUNESMOERZG  
CILVIMORUGQ  
PAIOKYCHNAX  
YSFLOWERSJO  
PESGUHACNRG

MOMMY	TEACHER
LOVE	KIND
HUGS	PATIENT
KISSES	NURSE
FLOWERS	COOKIES



Peace  
be with  
you