

# NEW HOPE NEWS



SEPTEMBER 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

915-799-0448

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

President: Vicki Gannon

Vice President: Steve Marshall



## God's work. Our hands.

### **Birthdays**

5 – Craig Sharp  
7 – Jean Cozad  
9- Mark Swendiman  
14 –Karla Marshall  
16 –Mark Gifford  
21 –Kathy Brosch  
24 –George Drake  
27 –Kay Reinshuttle

### **Anniversaries**

8 – Angie & Mark Gifford

# CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2026

Blessing Corner: God's Work, Our hands

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

|                                                                                                                                                      |                                                   |                             |                                                                          |                                                  |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                      |                                                   | 01                          | 02                                                                       | 03                                               | 04                                                                                                                    | 05                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                      |                                                   |                             | Crochet Group<br>1pm                                                     | Ladies Night Out<br>6pm                          | Estudio Biblico<br>10:30am                                                                                            | Katie's Pantry<br>9am – until food<br>runs out                                          |
| 06                                                                                                                                                   | 07                                                | 08                          | 09                                                                       | 10                                               | 11                                                                                                                    | 12                                                                                      |
| Sunday School 9:30am<br>Worship 10am<br>Little Disciples<br>Fellowship 11am<br><br>Vicar Thania Drake                                                | Estudio Biblico<br>10:30am<br><br>Happy Labor Day | Dove Circle 1pm             | Crochet Group<br>1pm                                                     | Finance Meeting<br>9am                           | Estudio Biblico<br>10:30am<br><br> | Katie's Pantry<br>9am – until food<br>runs out<br><br>Outreach<br>Meeting 10am          |
| 13                                                                                                                                                   | 14                                                | 15                          | 16                                                                       | 17                                               | 18                                                                                                                    | 19                                                                                      |
| Grandparents Day<br>Sunday School 9:30am<br>Worship 10am<br>Little Disciples<br>Fellowship 11am<br>Council Meeting 11:15am<br><br>Vicar Thania Drake | Estudio Biblico<br>10:30am                        | "Get Together"<br>Lunch 2pm | Crochet Group<br>1pm<br><br>SSA Presentation –<br>3pm Spanish<br>Session | SSA<br>Presentation-<br>3pm English<br>Session   | Estudio Biblico<br>10:30am                                                                                            | Katie's Pantry<br>9am – until food<br>runs out<br><br>Bless This Mess<br>St. Tim's 10am |
| 20                                                                                                                                                   | 21                                                | 22                          | 23                                                                       | 24                                               | 25                                                                                                                    | 26                                                                                      |
| God's Work, Our hands<br>Bible Study 9am<br>Sunday School 9:30am<br>Worship 10am<br>Little Disciples<br>Fellowship 11am<br>Pastor Jeff Swanson       |                                                   | Property Meeting<br>1pm     | Crochet Group<br>1pm                                                     | Retired Teachers<br>9:30am<br><br>Game Night 7pm |                                                                                                                       | Katie's Pantry<br>9am – until food<br>runs out                                          |
| 27                                                                                                                                                   | 28                                                | 29                          | 30                                                                       |                                                  |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                         |
| Bible Study 9am<br>Sunday School 9:30am<br>Worship 10am<br>Little Disciples<br>Fellowship 11am<br>Birthday Cake Sunday<br>Pastor Jeff Swanson        |                                                   |                             | Crochet Group<br>1pm                                                     |                                                  |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                         |

## What Labor Day means

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States.

Though it may be known as the unofficial end of summer, Labor Day is actually a day to celebrate the achievements of workers. According to History.com, Labor Day originated at a time when working conditions in the U.S. were often poor and unsafe.

At the time Labor Day was formed, unions were fighting for “very specific improvements in their working conditions,” Freeman said. Workers were fighting hard for the eight-hour work day most workers enjoy today. And Labor Day was an opportunity for them to come together to discuss their priorities – and for the country to acknowledge the contributions workers make to society.

Labor Day was first celebrated unofficially by labor activists and individual states in the late 1800s, [according to the US Department of Labor](#). New York was the first state to introduce a bill recognizing Labor Day, but Oregon was the first to actually codify it into law in 1887. Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York had followed suit by the end of 1887.

It wasn't until June 28, 1894 that Congress passed an act naming the first day of September a legal holiday called Labor Day.





Sunday, September 13

National Grandparents Day has more than one origin. Some people consider it to have been first proposed by Michael Goldgar in the 1970s after he visited his aunt in an Atlanta nursing home. Spending \$11,000 of his own money in lobbying efforts to have the day officially recognized, he made 17 trips to Washington DC over a seven-year span to meet with legislators.

Others consider Marian Lucille Herndon McQuade, a housewife in West Virginia, to have been the main driver for the day of observance. Throughout the 1970s McQuade worked hard to educate the people about the important contributions senior citizens made and the contributions that they would be willing to make if asked. She also urged people to adopt a grandparent, not for one day a year and not for material giving, but for a lifetime of experience.

In any event National Grandparents Day was finally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1978. Marian McQuade received a phone call from the White House to advise her of this event. Many people believe that National Grandparents Day was inspired by her efforts. A presidential proclamation on September 6, 1979, made this day official – it designated Sunday, September 9, 1979, (being the “first Sunday of September following Labor Day”) as National Grandparents Day.

Each year the President is requested to issue a proclamation to: designate the first Sunday in September after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day; and to call on people, groups and organizations to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The official song of National Grandparents Day is “A Song for Grandma And Grandpa” by Johnny Prill. The official flower for the day is the “forget-me-not” flower.



Little Disciples!!! WOW! we have 14 amazing servant volunteers who staff this important children's ministry every Sunday. We are blessed by little ones among us, the energy they bring, and the adult servant leaders who make time to guide them!

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is Sept 20th at New Hope! Expect some changes to our liturgy with a focus on service, and a chance to use your hands for "God's work" in a service project following worship.

### Communication Team



Our communications team has text messaging up and running! Thirty-one of you have opted in to receive occasional text messages from New Hope (that's most of our grown ups!) If you would like to receive text messages but haven't opted in yet, please let either Susan Hernandez or Jeff Strom know so that they can get you added.



Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. Scheduled for Sept. 20, "God's work. Our hands." is our annual day of service and an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. "God's work. Our hands." is a way for us to be church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. Our congregations do this work every day — loving their neighbors and improving their communities. One of the greatest examples of how our congregations share love with their neighbors is through their feeding ministries. This year marks the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, and we're excited to celebrate the impact that thousands of people from our church have made on communities around the world. These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. This year we invite you to extend your service opportunities from Sunday, Sept. 8, through Oct. 16, which is World Food Day. We know that, every day, our congregations are doing the work of loving their neighbors and improving their communities. "God's work. Our hands." Every day. "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.": SHARING GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE As Lutherans, we know the difference that God's grace and love in Christ have made in our daily lives. Because of this, we work together to help others experience that same love and acceptance. We live out this vision through worship and service in our congregations and communities, through our individual vocations and through our collective work as church together. "God's work. Our hands." offers a special opportunity to be church together and to share Jesus' love by inviting others to join in a day of service. This call for service unites all the ELCA expressions to focus on serving and accompanying our neighbors.

## New Hope News

### **Need help to fill bags with:**

16 oz. water bottles, unfrosted granola bars, peanut butter/cheese cracker packages, individual cookie pkgs, small packages of kleenex, socks, cans of Vienna sausages, tuna or chicken packets, ziplock bags – gallon size, bandanas, hard candy, plastic ponchos

on September 20 at 11:00am after worship service.

**Wear your *God's Work, Our hands* shirt to Church on Sunday, September 20**

## **Mark Your Calendars**

### **For September, October and November Events**

Ladies Night Out

Thursday, September 3, 6pm Nour Mediterranean Café on Mesa

With Peace and St. Tim's

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"Get Together" Lunch

Tuesday, September 15, 12pm Cattle Barron at 1700 Airway

Anyone who is able to get is welcome at this "dutch treat"

monthly event

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Social Security Presentation

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3pm – Spanish Session

Thursday, September 17, 2026 3pm – English Session

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"Bless this Mess" at St. Tim's on Montwood, Saturday, September 19 10am – 12pm

Everyone is welcome, no arts/crafts experience is necessary

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**September 20, 2026**

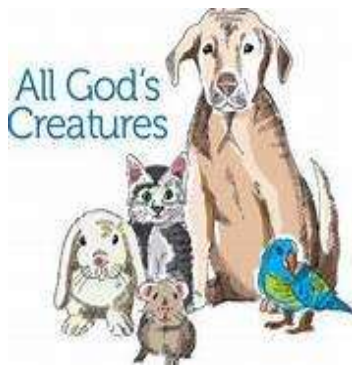
## **Mark Your Calendars** **For September, October and November** **Events**

**Game Night , Thursday, September 24 7pm – 9pm**

**New Hope's Fellowship Building**

**Bring a snack to share and gather to play some cards or board games**

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**Blessing of the Animals**

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**October 3, 1pm – Empty Sheds for Rummage Sale**

**(Need a lot of help and trucks to empty the sheds)**

**October 5 - 8, 9am – Set up for Rummage Sale**

**Friday, October 9 - 4-7pm Rummage Sale**

**Saturday, October 10 - 8am – 1pm Rummage Sale**

## HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA



Saturday, October 31, 4:00-6:00pm

Fun, Games, Food, Prizes

Kids of all ages are welcome

“Bring goodies to share”

Wear your favorite costume

Come with Trunk or Pickup  
decorated and bring a bowl of candy for the  
“trunk or treaters”

Volunteers and donations of candy and money for prizes  
are needed



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
AND  
BAKE SALE  
NOVEMBER 14, 2026  
9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
4801 SUNVALLEY DR.

LOOKING FOR VENDORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
PLEASE CONTACT KAREN MILLER FOR INFORMATION AT  
915-821-2079

# New Hope News

## The 2026 Fall Craft Fair's Quilt

### "North Wind"

Was Pieced and Donated By Vicki Gannon

Triangles Are the Predominated Figures On The Quilt

Which Composed Of Forty-Two "North Wind" Blocks

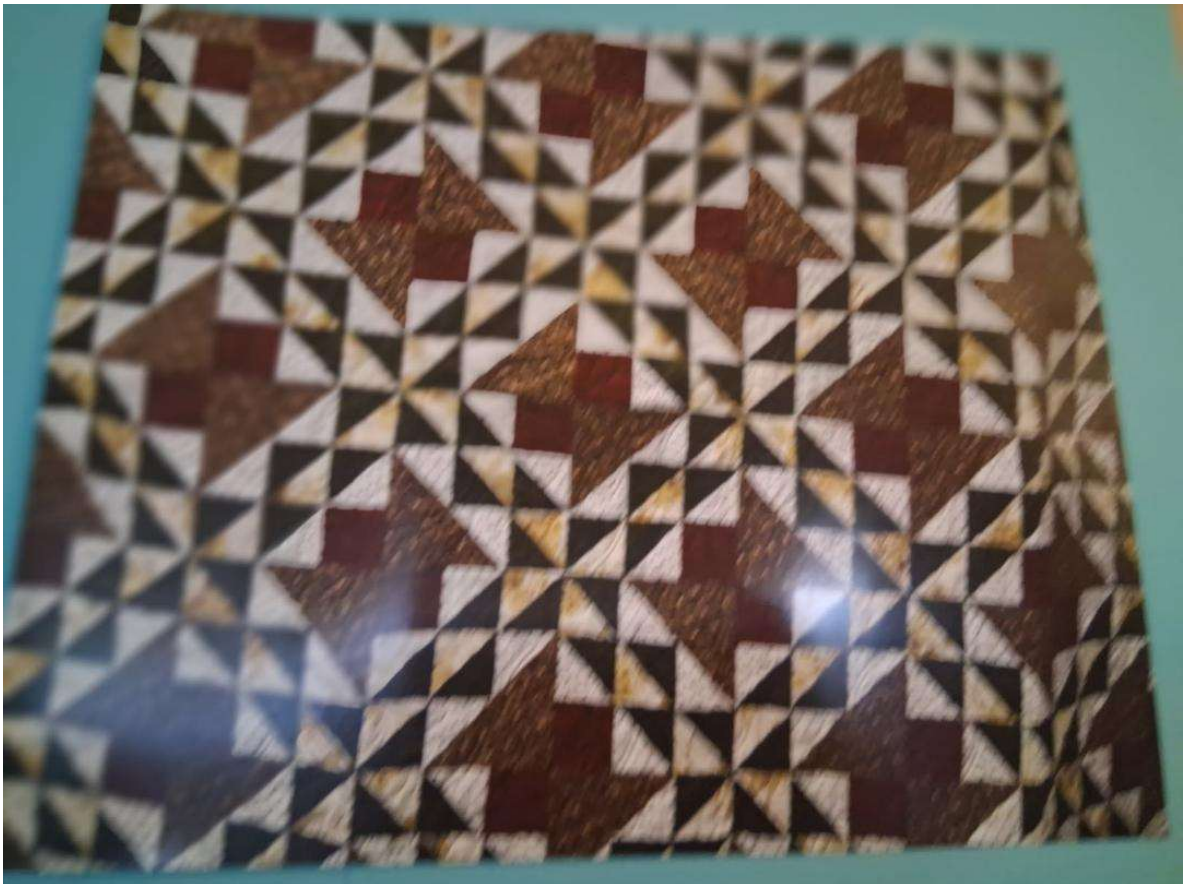
Each Block Is Made Up Of One Large Triangle,

One Square, And Twelve Smaller Triangles.

When The Blocks Are Set Together In A Rotating

Pattern They Create An Illusion Of Lattice

Around S Center Block.



# NEW HOPE UPDATES

As a faith community walking through this world together, let us remember the words from Micah 6:8: He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Join us in person or online Sunday's at 10am as your schedules allow. Masks are respected and communion is open to everyone!



## **Pastors who will be presiding and preaching in SEPTEMBER:**

September 6- Vicar Thania Drake

September 13- Vicar Thania Drake

September 20 – Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor

September 27 - Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor

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

1. Join us in person Sundays at 10am. Masks are respected and hand sanitizer is available.
2. 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. Online giving is available via our website at the QR code below. You can make one time or recurring gifts. via tithe.ly or thriveNT charitable.
5. Place your gift in the offering plate.

## Giving QR Code



**Please keep everyone in your prayers throughout the week.** 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

**March** – Bunnies, Beanies & Blankets – (UMC Children's Hospital)

**April** – Grace Place

**May** – Navy Federal Credit Union – Bags for the Brave

**June** – Church Supplies (Replenish New Hope's Paper Products)

**July** – Christmas in July (Operation Santa Claus) and Blessing of the Backpack - School Supplies

**August** – Blessing of the Backpacks – School Supplies

**September** – God's Work, Our hands

**October** – Blessing of the Animals (Animal Rescue League)

**November & December** – Luterana Iglesia Cristo Rey

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

# Blessing Corner



New Hope will join ELCA churches around the world for the God's Work, our Hands Day of Service on Sunday, September 20.

We will gather the following items by September 20 and prepare snack bags for the homeless in our community immediately after our worship service. Please stay and help us with this worthwhile project.

16 oz. water bottles, cans of Vienna sausages, tuna & chicken packets, peanut butter/cheese cracker pkgs., individual cookie pkgs., small packages of kleenex, socks, ziplock bags- gal size, bandanas and unfrosted granola bars hard candy, plastic ponchos

**Wear your yellow God's Work, Our hands shirt that day if you have one.**

# 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.

# 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](http://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  
**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.



## 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 one time 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 magazine, "The Gather" knowing and doing the will of God 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 - June

July - December

**Meeting – September 8, 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.

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## KATIE'S FOOD PANTRY

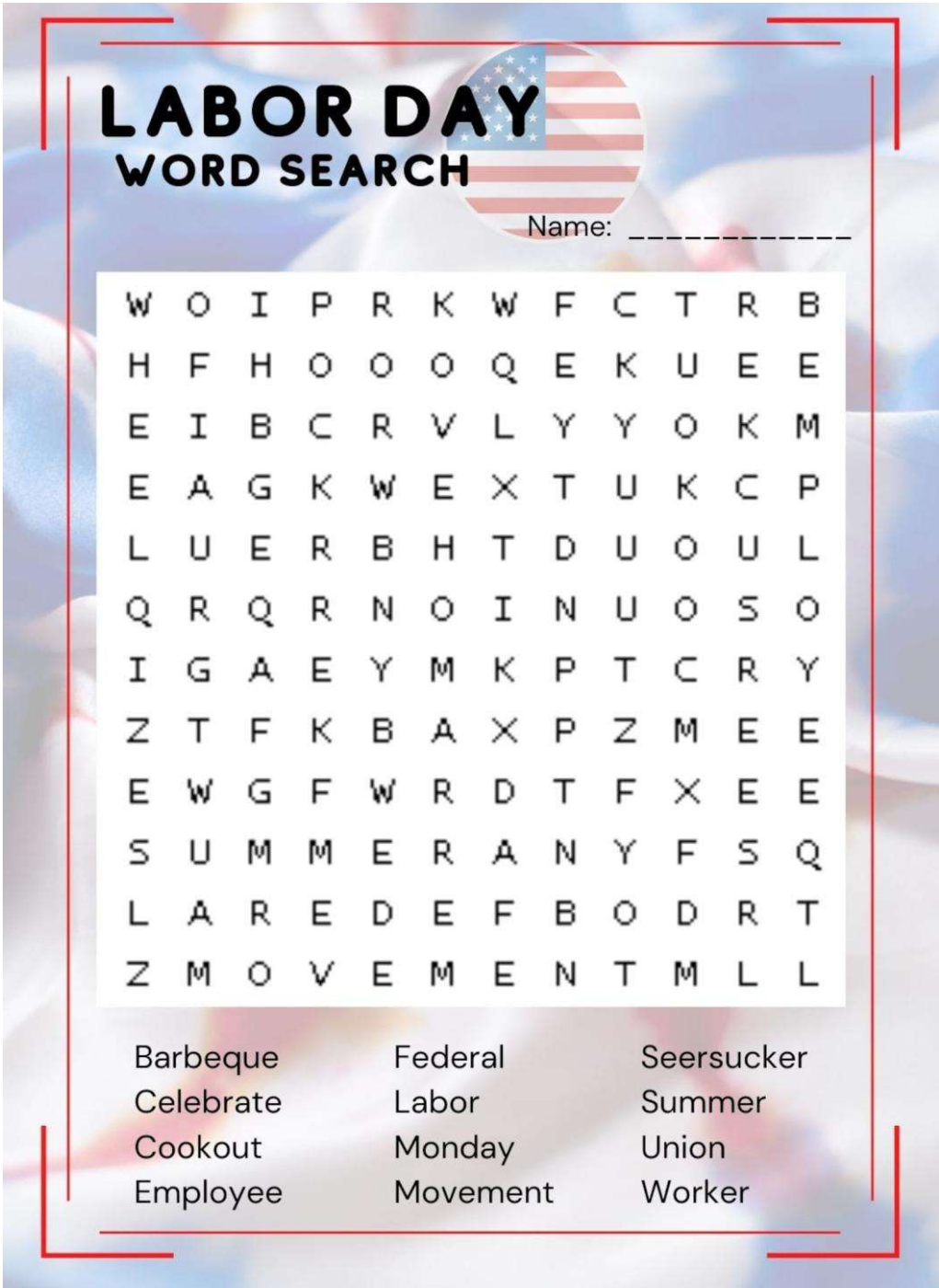
Katie's Food Pantry distributes food to our neighbors every Saturday, 9am – until food runs out. Always looking for volunteers to help. See Maria Anez or Pastor Jeff if you are interested in helping. Items needed are bottled water, Gatorade, plastic grocery bags (new or used), garbage bags (33 gal or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



## New Hope QR Code



## JUST FOR FUN



**LABOR DAY**  
**WORD SEARCH**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

|           |          |            |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| Barbeque  | Federal  | Seersucker |
| Celebrate | Labor    | Summer     |
| Cookout   | Monday   | Union      |
| Employee  | Movement | Worker     |

Peace  
be with  
you