

# NEW HOPE NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2025

God's work. Our hands.

## **New Hope Lutheran Church**

4801 Sun Valley Drive El Paso, TX  
79924

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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  
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 2025

Blessing Corner: God's Work, our Hands

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

	01	02	03	04	05	06
			Crochet Group 1pm Outreach 6:30pm Zoom			Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
Worship 10am Fellowship 11am God's Work, our Hands Grandparents Day  Pastor Mike Hamilton		Dove Circle 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm	Finance Meeting 9am		Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Council Meeting 11:15am  Pastor Jeff Swanson		"Get Together" Lunch noon	Crochet Group 1pm			Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10am Fellowship 11am Service Meeting 11am  Pastor Jeff Swanson		Property Meeting 1pm	Crochet Group 1pm Game Night 7pm			Katie's Food Pantry 9am – until food runs out
28	29	30				
Worship 10am God's Work,our Hands Sunday Fellowship 11am Birthday Cake Sunday  Pastor Ron Brooker						

## 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 7

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.



Join us in worship whether online or in-person at 10am on Sundays.

September 7th is "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday and we will join with ELCA Lutherans across the US as we worship with special emphasis on our work in the world together "with our hands"

# LUNCH

*in Alamogordo*

The LNO group invites the men to  
lunch at Pastor Steve Heetland's  
restaurant.

20 SEPTEMBER 2025

1223 N. New York Ave  
Alamogordo, NM

PLEASE RSVP







### God's Work ~ Our Hands

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. Scheduled for Sept. 28, "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

# New Hope News

in a day of service. This call for service unites all the ELCA expressions to focus on serving and accompanying our neighbors.

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

water bottles, granola bars, peanut butter/cheese cracker packages, school supplies for teens, individual cookie pkgs.(NO homemade cookies), jerky sticks, playing cards, mp3/radio with batteries, silly putty, yo-yo, pocket games, puzzles, small packages of kleenex, socks, personal hygiene products for teenage **boys only**

on September 28 at 11:00am after worship service.

**Wear your God's Work, Our hands shirt to Church on Sunday, September 28**



## ELCA News:

Four recent “Church” events for which you need awareness.

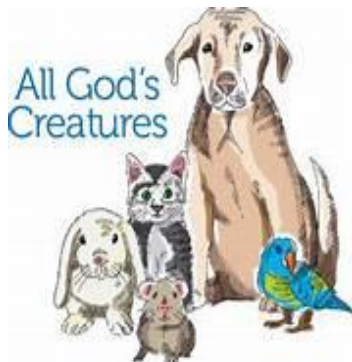
1. New ELCA Presiding Bishop was elected at recent ELCA Assembly. Bishop Yiehriel Curry. Recently served as Bishop in Chicago area. Elected for six year term.
2. Revised Common Lectionary which many denominations use for church year lessons is revised. Lessons will reflect more inclusivity.
3. The ELCA Social Statement on marriage was revised by ELCA Assembly vote to remove reference to marriage being between a “man” and “woman”. In my opinion and observation, our beloved ELCA has taken another step to recognize sacredness of gender diversity in marriage.
4. The New Revised Standard Bible has been updated to reflect new scholarly insights into ancient Biblical languages and modern English expression.

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

**GOD'S  
WORK  
OUR  
HANDS**

**September 28, 2025**

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Blessing of the Animals  
October 5, 2025 10:00am

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October 4, 1pm – Empty Sheds for Rummage Sale  
October 6 - 9, 9am – Set up for Rummage Sale  
Friday, October 10 - 4-7pm Rummage Sale  
Saturday, October 11 - 8am – 1pm Rummage Sale



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
AND  
BAKE SALE  
NOVEMBER 8, 2025  
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

# Email Scam:

Someone is attempting scams via our emails on the website.

Greetings New Hope  
Scammers are at work by misrepresentation.

Two recent email contacts were made to New Hope members by scammers indicating they were me...Pastor Swanson. One sought purchase of gift cards. Another sought a private correspondence. And used "prayer" as a ruse! Another email was directed to me and asked for an electronic copy of our church directory. I did not comply.

Another person called me day and night and he presented clearly inconsistent and deceitful identity information. I traced his call and told him that I know his real Identity. He has not called back.

If I contact you .. I will be quite clear about your name and mine. And you can always phone contact me or leave a msg or text at 505-850-3339. My additional email is [cjeffswanson@gmail.com](mailto:cjeffswanson@gmail.com).

Don't give anyone whom you do not personally know nor trust personal information. Jesus told us that we are sent forth amongst wolf like persons (predators) and worse. Jesus was not using hyperbole.

Thanks for being safe people in our beloved and safe congregation.

Interim Pastor Jeff Swanson

# 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 SEPTEMBER:**

September 7- Pastor Mike Hamilton, Retired ELCA Pastor

September 14 – Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor

September 21 – Pastor Jeff Swanson, Interim Pastor

September 28 - Pastor Ron Brooker, Retired ELCA Pastor

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

We encourage you to worship in person at 10am on Sundays where face coverings are optional and respected. If you aren't able to worship in person you can view the worship service on YouTube live or at a later time which fits your schedule.

# 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)

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

## TITHES/OFFERINGS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

☐ MEMBER ☐ VISITOR

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ CASH

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ CHECK# \_\_\_\_\_



*"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."* Luke 6:38



# 2025 BLESSING CALENDAR

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

**February** – Soup-er Bowl Sunday

**March** – Opportunity Center

**April** – Rbunnies, Beanies & Blankets – (UMC Children's Hospital)

**May** – La Posada Home – Domestic Violence Shelter

**June** – Borderland Rainbow Center – With Peace Lutheran El Paso

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

**August** – Church Supplies (Replenish New Hope's paper products)

**September** – God's Work, our Hands (Schaeffer Halfway House)

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

**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



Schaeffer House is a community-based residential program located in El Paso, Texas, for adolescent males serving as a step-down program with a focus on rehabilitation, vocational and life skills. Schaeffer House opened its doors to service the youth of our community in 1978. Since that time, we have seen many youths leave and have a positive impact on our community.

Youth who do not have a GED or High School diploma will have an opportunity to attend school in the Socorro Independent School District (Keys Academy). College ready youth can enroll at the El Paso Community College or the University of Texas El Paso. Youth will also be able to obtain employment while at the Schaeffer Halfway House if they have their High School equivalency.

Items needed to support The Schaeffer Halfway House - Please donate one or more of these items and return to New Hope by September 28 -

water bottles, granola bars, peanut butter/cheese cracker packages, school supplies for teens, individual cookie pkgs. (NO homemade cookies), jerky sticks, playing cards, mp3/radio with batteries, silly putty, yo-yo, pocket games, puzzles, small packages of kleenex, socks, personal hygiene products for teenage **boys only**

# 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 call Kathy Hamblen 915-740-2534

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 no longer be uploaded as individual files as the live recording will be available. So be sure to subscribe and turn on notifications so that you will receive the email that we are broadcasting.

Having trouble finding them:

On our YouTube home page look under PAST LIVE STREAMS or also under the VIDEOS tab and you will find all our content. Remember to hit subscribe and set the notifications so that you know when we are LIVE or posted new content.

# THRIVENT

Thrivent Choice "Make a Personal Donation" Maybe you have heard it said many times "follow the prompts" to make a personal donation and have no clue what that actually means or how it works! So here's a little cheat sheet, I did some exploring to figure it out.

First of all, you don't have to be a Thrivent member to use this feature.

Second, it's a way to give via your credit card and rack up more points or miles and the organization (New Hope or someplace else) will get a record of your personal donation and should track that gift for you in the same way as if you had put a check in an envelope, it should be recorded by them for you

Third of all this is DIFFERENT than designating Thrivent Choice dollars for those of you who are Thrivent members

Fourth, it's not so easy as just having a link which is specific to New Hope, maybe we will do that in time, for now below is a cheat sheet to help you if you want to use the Thrivent choice personal donation system

1. go to [thrivent.com](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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**ELCA**

# 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 2025

January - June

July - December

**Meeting – September 9**



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

Federal  
Labor  
Monday  
Movement

Seersucker  
Summer  
Union  
Worker

Peace  
be with  
you