

CALENDAR

Feb 5 - Prayer, Scripture reading, Discussion 9:10 a.m.

Feb 5 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Feb 12 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Feb 12 - Listening Team - Listening to God in the congregation - after worship - to 12 noon.

Feb 14 - Deanery - 9:00 - 12:00 noon St. James , Harper

Feb 17 and 18 - seminar—Triumphant Lutheran in Garden Ridge. All are welcome. NHL will cover seminar cost.

Feb 19 - Worship—Bishop Ray Tiemann 9:30 a.m.

Feb 19 - Brunch after worship

Feb 26 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Feb 26 - Free Community Meal 12:00 noon -1:30 p.m.

Bishop Tiemann will visit New Hope on Sunday February 19th . Brunch after worship to celebrate our new members and to welcome Bishop Tiemann.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

**Sunday
February 26th
12:00 noon to
1:30 p.m.**

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www.newhopeblanco.org

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New Hope Lutheran

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P.O. Box 754
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Rev. Jessica Cain
pastor@newhopeblanco.org

WORSHIP
(9:00 - 9:25 a.m.)Food & Fellowship)
9:30 a.m. Worship

VOLUME VIII—ISSUE II

FEBRUARY 2017

Pastors Corner —Thankfulness

Rev. Jessica Cain

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 1:4-9

This text was one of the readings for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 15. It has been on my mind ever since my first few readthroughs as I prepared for preaching on that Sunday. Paul is writing to the community in Corinth, a small and young (in faith) group of believers. Paul will spend the rest of his letter to the Corinthians correcting their errors—from competing based on who baptized them to divisions among rich and poor to worship practices. Yet he opens his letter with words of thankfulness.

There are many times in life when we forget to be thankful. It is so easy to get caught up in what we lack—in money, in time, in relationships—that we forget how much we have already been blessed by God. Paul reminds us that we do not lack in any spiritual gifts. We have received everything we need to remain steadfast in faith and to share the Gospel message with the world. We are being strengthened even now through God. We have been promised resurrection and new life, partnership with the Son of God. We worship the God who is faithful, even when we are not.

And so today I bring my thankfulness: thankfulness for the amazing community present here at New Hope. I thank God for each and every one of you. I thank God for the gifts with which God has blessed each of you. I thank God for the very existence of New Hope, a light in the midst of a dark world. I thank God that you are inviting me to be a part of this adventure, this great experiment in Blanco. I thank God for the strength you have, for your tenacity, for your endurance in the midst of many trials.

I give thanks to my God always for you!
Peace,
Pastor Jessica

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL - February 26th

12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Our original free community meal began on September 13, 2015 when New Hope hosted a free community meal as part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. It has been an inspiration to watch this endeavor grow into a service to the Blanco Community that has grown and grown each month. Our January meal was Potato Au Gratin casserole, chicken alfredo, Mexican corn, hot dogs and chili, salad and dessert. February meal will be Chicken Parmesan with pasta.

Listening Team

The Listening Team would like to invite you to join us in prayer and devotional practices as we seek to hear God in Scripture and prayer. While we are doing this as a team and individuals, we would also like the wider congregation to be a part of this process. For this reason, we are going to begin a short weekly Bible study/discussion. Starting on February 5 at 9:10, we will gather in the fellowship hall for 15 minutes of prayer, Scripture reading, and discussion. Please come and learn a little more about what are we are doing together and how it reaches out into all of New Hope. Everyone is always welcome at our meetings, as well. We will meet after worship on February 12 to begin planning our next step: Listening to God in the Congregation.

Our next learning seminar takes place at Triumphant Lutheran in Garden Ridge on February 17-18. All are welcome, and New Hope will cover the cost of registration for anyone who wishes to attend. We need to submit registration by February 9.

Refreshment Corner

Each Sunday Morning one of several talented cooks provides a variety of delicious breakfast treats served between 9:00 and 9:25 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come early and enjoy

Schedule:

Feb 5 - Knoll/Villarreal

Feb 12 - Foegelle

Feb 19 - no breakfast - brunch instead

Feb 26 - Granberg

Mar 5 - Johnson/Marshall

Mar 12 - Tomlinson

Mar 19 - Knoll/Villarreal

Mar 26 - Foegelle

Currently we have the list of families that provide breakfast every Sunday. See the list in the Refreshment Corner above. If you would like to be added (or removed) from the list please contact Helen and you will be added or removed in March.

Birthday's/Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 10 - Becky Greathouse

Feb 21 - Tanja Tomlinson

ANNIVERSARY

Feb 20 - Nelson and Carolyn Jonas

Feb 21 - Tanja and Duan Tomlinson

ALL FAITHS MEDICAL MINISTRY



Medical Equipment Ministry: During the more than 20 years that All Faiths Chapel occupied the location where New Hope meets today, its members created and maintained a ministry that provides equipment to local residents who have special medical needs. The storage building on the property houses wheelchairs, walkers, powered hospital beds, braces of many different types, crutches, breathing assistance equipment, and assorted other items. These are available on a no-charge basis with a checkout list. New Hope has committed itself to continuing this ministry in conjunction with the people who founded All Faiths.

If you have a need, call either **Connie Granberg: 833-4423**, or **Alan Cooper: 833-4301**.