

CALENDAR

Jan 1 - Worship - Lay Leaders 9:30 a.m. (Pastor Jessica on vacation)

Jan 8 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Jan 10 - Deanery - 9:00 - 12:00 noon St. Peter, Doss

Jan 10 - Blanco Ministerial Meeting 10:00 a.m. - Trinity Lutheran Church

Jan 12 - Co-APT meeting—Blanco High School Library 11:30 a.m.

Jan 15 - Council Meeting - directly after worship

Jan 17 - The Listening Team meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Jan 22 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Jan 22 - Free Community Meal 12:00 noon -1:30 p.m.

Jan 23 - 26—Tri-Synodical Conference.

Jan 29 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Feb - 17—18 Listening Team Seminar—all are welcome NHL will cover seminar costs.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Sunday January 22nd 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

9th & Elm Street 830-330-0017 www.newhopeblanco.org

newhopelutheranblanco@yahoo.com

New Hope Lutheran

9th & Elm P.O. Box 754 Blanco, Texas 78606 830-330-0017 Rev. Jessica Cain pastor@newhopeblanco.org

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

VOLUME VIII—ISSUE I

JANUARY 2017

Synod Youth Leaders Meet at NHL



The youth workers of the synod meet on even-numbered months at NHL. They spend time in conversation, planning, and worship. At the end of the meeting, they head to Old 300 BBQ for some lunch. All are welcome to attend and see what is happening and in the works for the youth of our synod.

Thank You to the congregation for giving \$50.00 to help with the Blanco Coalition on Awareness, Prevention, and Treatment of substance abuse's Blanco Middle School Lock-in. Pastor Jessica served as a chaperone at the overnight event.

Thank you to the congregation for the awesome donation of supplies, time, and money to helping refugees who were recently released from detention centers.

Thank you all for your generous Christmas Gift! I just had to buy a new computer, so I will use this money to pay for that. Thanks for your continued support of my family and me. We are so blessed to be a part of New Hope. Pastor Jessica

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:

- Jan 1 - Foegelle
Jan 8 - Greathouse
Jan 15 - Knoll for Granberg
Jan 22 - Johnson
Jan 29 - Tomlinson
Feb 5 - Knoll/Villarreal
Feb 12 - Foegelle
Feb 19 - Greathouse
Feb 26 - Knoll for Granberg

Birthday's/Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- Jan 4 - Nelson Jonas
Jan 5 - Cyndy Hounsell
Jan 18 - Katherine Foegelle
Jan 23 - Eleanor Kirkscey

ANNIVERSARY

- Jan 1 - Connie Granberg and Henry Knox



## FREE COMMUNITY MEAL - January 22nd

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 December meal was Ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, roasted sweet potatoes, corn and desserts. January meal will be January 22nd.

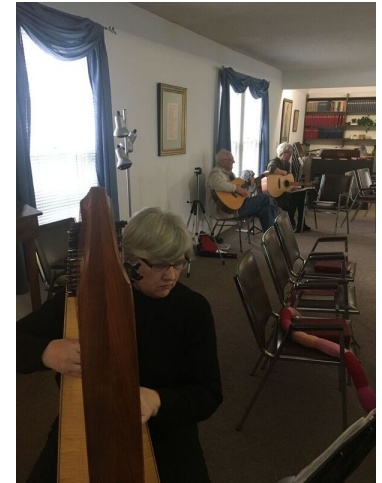
Thanks to all who work to make our community meals a great success. We had about 65 people attend on December 18, and we look forward to 2017 as our meals move back to the fourth Sunday of the month. Special thanks to Helen and Tanja, who plan and execute the meals each month. We couldn't do it without them!



Community Meal



Susan - Harpist, played for our guests



Alan, Becky - guitarists with Travis sung Christmas carols to our guests.

### The Listening Team

The next meeting for the Listening Team will be Tuesday evening January 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Everyone from the congregation is welcome to attend.



Helen, Nelson, Pastor Jessica, Becky

## 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**.

Recently, I got lost driving out to our monthly pastors' meeting. In December, we met in Doss. If you know anything about Doss, you know it's pretty much just ranchland. Well, I have a bad habit of thinking I know better than my GPS and making up my own paths. This time, I decided it would be best to listen to the GPS directions—even as I turned onto a dirt road, down what was clearly someone's ranch. "Certainly," I thought to myself, "This is just a temporary situation. In just a minute, I'll get back onto a real road and I'll get to the church."

Several minutes later, when the "real road" failed to materialize and it was clear that I was simply driving around someone's ranch, I finally decided to turn around. I called Wes to ask him to help me with directions because my phone had no signal and I couldn't look up new directions. He wasn't able to answer the phone, so I made my way back to the main road and took a leap of faith. Much to my surprise (and relief), the church materialized right around the next bend. I had been less than five minutes from my destination, but the trip ended up taking about half an hour.

Sometimes it is easy for us to follow a similar path in other areas of life. We make a mistake in our careful diet, so we just give up and gorge on poor food choices. We have a fight with a family member or friend and disintegrate into screaming angry half-truths at each other. We skip worship for one week, or forget to read Scripture and pray so we just give up entirely. Yet, like my misadventures in Doss, we have strayed only slightly from our intended path. How much easier would it be to turn around immediately, to reset, and to find our destination just around the next curve?

My mission developer coaching cohort recently discussed the three main questions that every person or organization asks: Why? How? What? All too often, we answer these questions in the wrong order—starting with the what instead of the why. When we do so, we get bogged down in answering all sorts of technical questions without considering whether the *what* even fits with our *why*. So we concentrate on winning the fight against our loved one (the what) rather than the why of our relationship. We concentrate on the details of what our Bible reading and prayer *should* look like instead of considering *why* we are participating in these activities in the first place.

As a church—both here at New Hope and in the wider world—we have a habit of getting caught up in the what: what times and dates we should meet, what the worship space looks like, what number of attendees or money is "enough." If we continue to focus on these questions, we are almost guaranteed to fail in our goals. No one wants to join us for our "what." They want to join us for our purpose, our dream, our mission. At every step of our journey together, we should be checking our actions against our "why." If our purpose is "worshiping God, serving others" and being a place where all are welcome, how does *this* worship service, *this* event, *this* meeting serve that goal? If it doesn't, should we still pursue it? Do we need to make changes? Why are we here?

Peace,

Pastor Jessica

P. S. There is a really excellent TED talk about this very principle. You can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sioZd3AxmnE#t=1080.8418837> or simply search for Simon Sinek Ted Talk.