

CALENDAR

- Mar 1 - Ash Wednesday Service - 6:00 p.m.
- Mar 2 - Blanco Ministerial Meeting - Methodist Church 10:a.m.
- Mar 5 - Prayer, Scripture reading, Discussion 9:10 a.m.
- Mar 5 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.
- Mar 12 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
- Mar 12 - Worship - Pastor Kay Johnson 9:30 a.m.
- Mar 14 - Deanery - 9:00 - 12:00 noon .
- Mar 19 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.
- Mar 26 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.
- Mar 26 - Free Community Meal 12:00 noon -1:30 p.m.

Pastor Kay Johnson will be our supply pastor on March 12th.

Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:05 - 9:25 a.m. Please join us in the study of Acts.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

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

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

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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 III

MARCH 2017

Pastors Corner

Rev. Jessica Cain

“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19, NRSV

Just as you receive this newsletter, we enter the season of Lent. March 1 is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of this forty-day journey. Lent is an important time in the church year. We observe this season just as Christians have done for centuries, as a time to prepare our hearts, our minds, and our lives for the day of resurrection. Lent comprises the forty days before Easter; Sundays are not included in counting the days of Lent.

The season of Lent is meant to be a time of contemplation, fasting, and preparation. We look in on ourselves, recognizing our own tendency to sin—as individuals and communities. In the Lutheran church, we fast from using the word “Alleluia” in our worship. We also fast in various other ways: some fast from food in one manner or another. Some fast from bad habits. Some fast from activities. The purpose of this fasting is to take our attention away from things in this world that draw us from God and refocus our attention on the Almighty One. Perhaps you will fast from social media, from an attitude of scarcity, or from silence in the face of injustice. Lent has historically been a time for preparation. As a community, we prepare for Christ’s death, recognizing our own complicity in that death. We look forward with joy to the resurrection and its meaning for our lives now and forever. Throughout the life of the Christian church, Lent has been a time of preparation for baptism. Adults choosing to be baptized spend the forty days leading up to Easter learning about the faith, a process called catechesis. This is a distinct time set aside for living amongst God’s faithful people, hearing God’s Word, and learning about discipleship. There is so much contained within the season of Lent that it can sometimes seem overwhelming. To put it simply, Lent is a time to examine your relationship with God—to pray and fast, to confess and receive forgiveness. Of course, this is important throughout the rest of the year, as well. Lent has a special call to focus on our faith life, however.

I invite you to choose a spiritual practice to do throughout the season of Lent. Whether this is adding a time of prayer to your day, reading from the Bible (you could follow the Listening Team in reading Acts!), doing acts of service, or fasting, it is good to take this time to strengthen your relationship with God. Our Creator is always here, calling to us. Yet sometimes, we drift away, neglecting our connection with the Source of Life. Lent is a time to turn back. As we sing in our Lenten Gospel acclamation: “Return to the Lord your God for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

Pastor Jessica

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL - March 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 February meal was Chicken Parmesan, pasta, salad, garlic bread and dessert. March meal will be Beef Enchilada casserole, Spanish rice, beans and dessert.

Lent

Lenten Lunches:

March 9th - St. Ferdinand's Catholic Church

March 16th - Trinity Lutheran Church

March 23rd - St. Michael, New Hope, Mr. Horeb, Kendalia

March 30 - First Baptist Church

April 6 - Methodist Church

April 9th - Palm Sunday - New Hope Lutheran 9:30 a.m.

April 13th - Maundy Thursday - New Hope Lutheran 6:00 p.m.

April 14th - Good Friday - New Hope Lutheran 6:00 p.m.

April 16th - Easter Sunrise Service - Yett Park 7:00 a.m.

April 16th - Easter Worship Service - New Hope Lutheran 9:30 am

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:

Mar 5 - Johnson/Marshall

Mar 12 - Tomlinson

Mar 19 - Knoll/Villarreal

Mar 26 - Foegelle

April 2 - Greathouse

April 9 - Granberg

April 16 - Johnson/Marshall

April 23 - Tomlinson

April 30 - Knoll/Villarreal

Birthday's/Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 5 - Melanie Honeysett

Mar 11 - Pete Foegelle

Mar 13 - Susan Villarreal

Mar 22 - Ashleigh Abadie

ANNIVERSARY - none

Bishop Ray Tiemann visited New Hope Sunday March 19th. A brunch followed the service to honor Bishop Tiemann, to welcome 4 new members - Sharon Parker, Paul Dieringer, Alex and Angela Bruenger and to say good bye to Lynn Evich. She is moving back to her home town in Bellingham Washington.



ALL FAITHS MEDICAL MINISTRY



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**.