

# New Hope Lutheran

## CALENDAR

- Feb 7 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.
- Feb 7 - Brunch followed by Vision/Goal Setting meeting 10:30 a.m.
- Feb 9 - Deanery - St. John Castell 9:00 a.m.
- Feb 10 - Ash Wednesday Worship Service 6:00 p.m.
- Feb 14 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.
- Feb 21 - Worship - Pastor Jessica Cain (:30 a.m.
- Feb 21- Council Meeting - after worship service
- Feb 26 thru 28 Mission Developer Training
- Feb 28 - Pete Foegelle will conduct worship service.
- Feb 28 - Free Community Meal at NHL - 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

**Sunday Feb 7  
Pot Luck Brunch  
followed by Vision/  
Goal Setting Meeting  
beginning 10:45 a.m.**  
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**Wednesday Feb 10  
Ash Wednesday  
Worship Service  
6:00 p.m.**  
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**Community Free  
Meal  
Sunday Feb 28th  
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.  
Menu:  
Soup  
Salad  
Dinner rolls  
Dessert**

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830-330-0017

**Rev. Jessica Cain**  
pastor@newhopeblanco.org

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

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## Pastor's Corner

by: Rev. Jessica Cain

“Now our neighbor is any human being, especially one who needs our help...even one who has done me some sort of injury or harm has not shed his humanity on that account or stopped being flesh and blood, a creature of God very much like me; in other words, he does not stop being my neighbor.”—Martin Luther

During the last week of January, I had the opportunity to attend the Tri-Synodical Theological Conference in Arlington. Once per year, the pastors of the North Texas-North Louisiana, Gulf Coast, and Southwestern Texas synods gather together for a few days of collective continuing education. This year's theme was preparation for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Reformation (October 31, 2017).

The conference was a great time of fellowship, worship, and learning amongst the pastors of our Texas and Louisiana synods. I had the pleasure of seeing my Lutheran Confessions professor, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert. We also heard from the Rev. Kit Kleinhans. They are both scholars focused on Reformation history and Martin Luther. We discussed various aspects of our Lutheran heritage, both good and bad.

As we turn toward the celebration of the Reformation, there is much to consider. Most importantly, we must keep in mind the legacy of the Reformation. While Luther and his colleagues were not perfect, their hopes and dreams for the Church were quite powerful. Luther especially stressed the idea that he was not working to separate from the Roman Catholic Church but to reform it where changes were necessary. If we think that we are done with the reformation—if we believe it is something to look back upon, rather than something to participate in today—then we are missing the point.

The Church, its leaders, and the people have not accomplished God's mission for the world. We, like the Church of the sixteenth century, make mistakes; we focus on human issues and forget the things of God. We get caught up in squabbles instead of the things that truly matter. We worry about those matters that are *adiaphora* (not of ultimate consequence) and neglect ultimate concerns. Like Luther, Christ is calling us to examine our institutions, leadership, and practices. Are we following God's calling? Are we a part of God's Kingdom work? Are we spreading the good news of the Gospel? Do we and all those we meet know that Christ died *for you*? Reformation was not complete in Luther's day and it is not complete today. Christ is calling us. How will we respond?

## 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 the food and fellowship.

### Schedule

- Feb 7 - Pot Luck Brunch
- Feb 14 - Granberg
- Feb 21 - Johnson
- Feb 28 - Tomlinson
- Mar 6 - Knoll/Villarreal
- Mar 13 - Foegelle
- Mar 20- Greathouse
- Mar 27 - Granberg

## Birthday's/Anniversaries

- Feb 10 - Becky Greathouse
- Feb 21 - Tanja Tomlinson
- Feb 20 – Nelson and Carolyn Jonas - Anniversary
- Feb 21 - Tanja and Duan Tomlinson Anniversary

## FREE COMMUNITY MEAL - Sunday February 28th - 12 noon to 1:30 P.M.

Our next free community meal will be Sunday February 28th - 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

This all began on September 13, when New Hope hosted a free community meal as part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. This is an initiative by the ELCA to encourage congregations to reach out into their communities on the same day other congregations across the nation are doing the same.

Our last meal January 24th, Chili, Hot Dogs, Fritos, Salad and dessert was well received and everyone enjoyed the meal. We have extended the meals to this month. The fourth Sunday in March is Easter and there will not be a community meal in March. The Free Community meal will be re-evaluated in March.

One of the best ways for us to become better known in Blanco is to reach out to those in need in our community and the congregation will evaluate the free meal program to determine how we move forward in the future. Please continue to pray about this endeavor as we attempt to serve God through serving our neighbors.

**We are asking the members to provide the desserts for the Community meal on Sunday February 28th.**

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday Service  
Wednesday February 10th - 6:00 p.m.

## Class on Martin Luther

**Pete Foegelle as part of his studies to become a Synodically Authorized Minister conducted a class on Martin Luther for four Sunday's in January. The class was well received and the class thanked Pete for presenting the material.**

## 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**.