

CALENDAR

Sept 4 - Worship - Pastor
Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Sept 6 - LEAD Planning
Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sept 10 - EMS Fundraiser
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Sept 11 - Worship - Pastor
Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Sept 13 - Deanery - 9:00 -
12:00 noon

Sept 18 - Worship - Pastor
Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Sept 18 - Council Meeting -
directly after worship

Sept 20 - LEAD Planning
Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sept 25 - Worship - Pastor
Jessica Cain 9:30 a.m.

Sept 25 - Free Community
Meal 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Oct 4 - LEAD Planning
Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Sunday
Sept 25th
12:00 noon to
1:30 p.m.

Menu:

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Desserts

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 VII—ISSUE IX

SEPTEMBER 2016

Pastor's Corner

by Pastor Jessica Cain

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2

These verses draw a picture of what life in Christ looks like in terms of our actions toward those within our community of faith and others, including people we have never met.

Here at New Hope, we are wonderful at the “mutual love” part of this text. Rarely is a group of people so intimately connected. You care for each other in ways that some people never get the pleasure of experiencing. You know what is going on in one another’s lives. You pray profusely for one another. You bring meals, offer rides, make phone calls, and visit, literally and figuratively stretching out your arms when someone is in need. I feel blessed to be able to be a part of such a community.

The writer of Hebrews makes clear that we—as people of Christ—are also commanded to care for our neighbor as we care for ourselves. Our neighbors in Blanco might be strangers to us now. And yet we are called to provide hospitality to them.

In the time that Hebrews was written, hospitality was extremely important. Those who traveled would have to sleep in dangerous places without the hospitality of strangers. They might have gone hungry if they were not taken into someone’s home for the night. Throughout the Bible, there are stories about people of faith who provide care to people who turn out to be messengers of God. And so the writer of Hebrews urges us to do the same.

At New Hope, we are working on hospitality to strangers. We provide a free meal once per month particularly aimed at serving those who are in need of food. We offer medical supplies to those who cannot afford them. We support the EMS and the Good Samaritan, where people who need assistance can find it. Yet there is more to our calling than even this.

One of the most important facets of hospitality is making a space welcoming to the stranger. A true host will suffer some discomfort him or herself if it puts a guest at ease. For New Hope, this might mean making some changes in our habits so that those who come feel at home. It may mean making allowances for those who come from different backgrounds. It could mean being uncomfortable so that the strangers in our midst are relaxed. Although change is scary, it is only by being open to new things that we can truly say that we are “New Hope, where all are welcome.”

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:

Sept 4 - Greathouse
Sept 11 - Granberg
Sept 18 - Johnson
Sept 25 - Tomlinson
Oct 2 - Knoll/Villarreal
Oct 9 - Foegelle
Oct 16 - Greathouse
Oct 23 - Granberg
Oct 30 - Johnson

Birthday's/Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Sept 5 - Suzanne Wertheim
Sept 13 - Laurie Kirksey
Sept 23 - Lucas Villarreal
Sept 30 - Henry Knox

ANNIVERSARY— none

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL - September 25th 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. 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. The meal was so well received the New Hope members committed to serving a meal a month October through February. At the Annual New Hope Lutheran Congregational meeting the members voted to continue the Free Community Meal each month to the end of the year 2016. The meals will be served the fourth Sunday of the month except November and December. Nov and Dec dates will be announced in October. **The Menu for September 25th will be: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dessert.**

MISSIONAL RIVER – LEAD

New Hope's biggest new endeavor started at the end of August. The Missional River is a joint effort between leadership in the Southwestern Texas Synod and LEAD—an organization working on “growing ministries and faith communities to serve the world, living every day as disciples.” The purpose of the initiative is to discover how to be mission and community-centered churches in the twenty-first century. Much has changed about our world, our nation, and ourselves in the last several decades but many churches continue to use the same strategies and programs that worked in the 1950s. No longer can we assume that if we build bigger, better programs and buildings, people will flock to our doors. So what will work? How can we share the Good News of Christ in this day and age? These are questions the Missional River will help us begin to answer.

Last month Pastor Jessica stated that in order to develop our mission in Blanco, both the members already devoted to New Hope but also the wider community must be involved. This is not a work that she can do by herself. The Missional River (LEAD) and those who participate in the leadership team will be a great aid to this task. But without the support of most of the congregation, this effort will be in vain. She invites each of you to prayerfully consider where God is calling you as an individual and New Hope as a group.

Nelson Jonas, Helen Knoll, Becky Greathouse and Pastor Jessica attended the first of three LEAD seminars at the end of August. Because each church is different, the congregations will conduct their own planning meetings before inviting the coaches from LEAD to assist. **Our first three planning meetings at New Hope will be Tuesday September 4th , Tuesday September 20th., and Tuesday October 4th. from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. each evening.** Nelson Jonas will facilitate the meeting. Helen Knoll will be sending out the agendas and notes for the meetings. The entire congregation is asked to participate in these planning sessions as everyone's voice needs to be heard as we plan New Hope Lutheran's path forward in the twenty-first century.

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**.