

# NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# E VOICE

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## AGE OF MANY CHOICES

JOYCE PALMER/EDITOR

By the time this edition arrives in your inbox, those of you with children and grandchildren have experienced another year of getting them “settled” into their new classrooms and getting acquainted with their teachers and vice versa.

This is a critical time in their lives to recognize the responsibilities they have to their parents and teachers – not to say the responsibility to themselves! In this age of many choices, it is, indeed, a challenge for parents to recognize when it is time to let them become more independent by allowing them the latitude of making their own choice and yet keeping them safe. Letting go requires faith, patience, and wisdom. It also requires risk!

What happens when the wrong choice was made and the child is rejected or fails? My prayer to our church families is that God will give you courage in times of distress; praise in times of accomplishments and wisdom to know when it is time to “let go”.

*As Jesus did for his disciples, I pray that the children will be kept from the evil one in all areas of their lives*  
– **John 17:15**

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. (Traditional) and 11 a.m. (Joy and Grace) with Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. Bible Study every Wednesday 9:30 a.m.

Finance Meeting	Sept. 1 6:30 p.m.
Worship Meeting	Sept. 7 6:30 p.m.
Book Study, <i>New Kind of Christianity</i>	Sept. 9 7 p.m. & Sept. 11 10 a.m.
Dove Circle	Sept. 14 1 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals	Sept. 19 3-5 p.m.
Future/Property Meeting	Sept. 22 7 p.m.
Ingrid Thomas Memorial	Sept. 28 6 p.m.

## NEW HOPE MEMBERS FINAL FAREWELL

The past two weeks at New Hope have been saddened by the passing of two of our most highly respected and loved members – Paul Parsons, Sr. went to the Lord on August 9; followed by Pastor Raymond Olson on August 13. Our love and prayers go out to their families for comfort and assurance of God’s continued and everlasting Grace!

### PAUL PARSONS, SR.

After many months of intensive treatment by a medical team at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Paul’s heart could no longer sustain him. He continued to come to church with his wife, Renate, until the last few weeks prior to his passing. I remember fondly the celebration of his birthday in July. The church pew was filled with family who shared special time with him during that celebration. Paul will be remembered as one of God’s most faithful servants. He will be missed!

### PASTOR RAY OLSON

In September 2009, Pastor Olson was diagnosed with cancer in his jaw and cheek. After radiation and chemo therapy in El Paso, the cancer returned. He and Sue went to M.D. Anderson in Houston where he was treated in six different hospitals, but the disease and complications were insurmountable. He returned to El Paso and continued to keep his faith and love for his family until the end. Pastor Olson had an illustrious career serving the Lord as a Lutheran pastor! Surely goodness and mercy will surround him in the House of the Lord Forever!

## Your Church Family Focus

### MARK & MARY SWENDIMAN

We, at New Hope, feel “connected” to Mark and Mary as husband and wife since their acquaintance began as members of New Hope.

Both lost their spouses (Mary’s husband in 1999 and Mark’s wife in 2001.) Mark and Mary were married at New Hope in 2007.

Mary was born into a strong military family. They lived in Hawaii and Germany and many places in between until her parents settled in El Paso where Mary graduated from Irvin High School and Texas Western College with a Master’s in Computers. She is a senior educator – having taught for 41 years. Their son, Brian Kelly, was adored by his Mother and Dad. However he left his Mom and family to be with the Lord in 2009. Mary is blessed, however, with two beautiful granddaughters, Alexis and Megan.



Mark is the middle child of five and was born in Minneapolis, MN. Mark’s father was an airline pilot so they lived in several places to include Georgia and Saudi Arabia. Mark graduated from high school in St. Paul, MN and entered the US Army. His brilliant career began as an electronics technician, later as a test conductor. He supported HAWK, Delta Clipper, the X-34, HERA and ORION Shuttle Missions.

Now he and Mary enjoy their lives together along with their three “puppies”, Jazzy, Annie and Holly Berry.

## ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST AT NEW HOPE

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

was held at New Hope from Aug. 2 to Aug. 5. Twenty children attended the week-long celebration: “High Seas Expedition – Exploring the Love of God”. Many of the children were visitors to New Hope that lived in the neighborhood. Our gratitude goes out to the Directors, Steve and Karla Marshall, and their staff, Laura Thompson, Mark and Mary Swendiman, Virginia Walker and Kathy Hamblin for their



leaderships and skills. This year, we were blessed to have three junior leaders – Alexis Phillips, Alec Thompson and Lindsay Thompson who were a great help to the staff! We pray that the children will remember their experience and the fun they had together!

### THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS:

is offering two free workshops in September at their El Paso Office at 2615 Montana: On Saturday, September 11 from 1-2:15 p.m. - Focus on Financial Management, topics to include college planning, retirement distribution and estate planning.

### CHARITABLE GIVING: HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Wednesday, September 15 from 3-4 p.m. This is especially for retirees to help people learn how being good stewards of their time, talents and treasures can provide a gift to their congregation and other organizations. Reserve a space by calling 565-1010 or register online at [thrivent.com/finda-workshop](http://thrivent.com/finda-workshop).