

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

E VOICE

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New Hope Lutheran Church, 4801 Sun Valley Drive, El Paso, Texas 79924; Jeff St Clair, Pastor
E-Mail: NEWHOPE4U@SBCGLOBAL.NET, Phone: 915 821-2079 Website: www.LutheransinElPaso.org

AMAZING GRACE

During the Lenten Season, *God's Amazing Grace* seems to be "on the front burner" for me to address. I try to search my soul for times during the past year when I can truthfully say, "This was *God's Amazing Grace* working in my life"! This past year has been no exception. My resiliency to my sister's breast cancer and how God has healed her; my trials with our niece, Jennifer, whom we raised since she was 12 and lastly, the death of our dear friend in April that has left a void in my heart.

Each situation required God's action in a different and loving way. My sister depends on her family for the strength she needed to sustain herself through the ordeal of surgery, radiation and regaining her life. Our Jennifer is in her last year of college and encountered unforeseen obstacles in managing her financial affairs, getting a job and addressing a minor infraction with the legal system. I looked to God to help us help her make good decisions in each case. Lastly, our dear friend's passing has required us to step up to the plate for his wife, who is a naturalized citizen with no family here; she doesn't

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Sunday Worship Services	9am and 11am
Sunday School	10:15am
NMSU Choirs	April 1 7:30pm
Rummage Sale	April 1, 4-7pm April 2, 8am- 4pm
Worship Meeting	April 5, 6:30pm
Finance Meeting	April 6, 6:30pm
Outreach Meeting	April 7, 7:00pm
Game Night	April 9, 6:30pm
Church Council Meeting	April 10, 12:15pm
Education Meeting	April 12, 7:00pm
Wedding Shower (Josh & Samantha)	April 17, 3pm
Future/Property Meeting	April 27, 7:00pm

Events surrounding Easter on Page 2

drive and lives in Reno, NV. Through *God's Amazing Grace*, I have been able to be strong and supportive during times of sadness and uncertainty. As many of you know, I wear my heart on my sleeve and my compassion at times is more than I can deal with; however, *God's Amazing Grace* has made it possible for me to be strong and therefore represent HIM during these times....THAT'S AMAZING GRACE!

Joyce Palmer, The Editor

NEW HOPE MEMBERS IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Because of his limited lung capacity, **Dwight Dillon** is having a difficult time with the spring pollens this year. He has been advised to stay inside as much as possible in order to preserve his lung function for body nourishment. Dwight and Doreen are expecting visits from out-of-town family members in upcoming months. He is looking forward to that. Keep him lifted in prayer for continued well-being. **Leila Budnovich** is happy to report that her oncologist has stopped her chemotherapy for a period of three months. She is regaining her strength slowly. Keep her in your prayers for continued positivity and quality of life! **Evelyn Finnerty** was in church for the first time in months in mid-March! She is doing better and hopes to continue her progress. Your prayers for continued well-being will be appreciated! **Ursula Holmes** fell in her home and broke her pelvis in two places. She was hospitalized at William Beaumont. Pelvic fractures can only be treated with physical therapy and bed rest. She needs our prayers to sustain and heal her during a long period of recuperation.

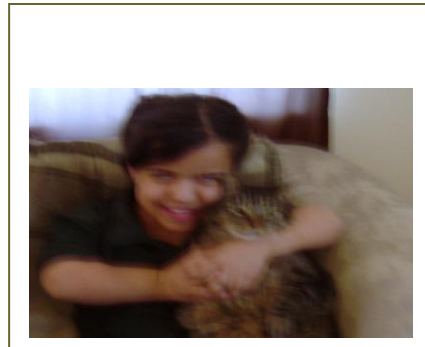
CHURCH FRIENDS & FAMILY

RAHJAY HERRERA

I met Rahjay and her family when they attended church at New Hope last August. They were invited by Judy Garcia. Rahjay has two brothers and lives with her family on Arrowhead Street in Northeast. She is 12 years old and attends H.E. Charles Middle School and is in the sixth grade and an A-B student. Rahjay’s favorite subject in school is math. She wants to be a teacher some day.

Rahjay is a very talented young lady. She makes crafts through the year and then she and her Mom join others at New Hopes’s Craft Show where she sells her creations.

While she and I were visiting in her living room, I was caught by the warm and affectionate way she and her kitty, Lucky,



interacted. You can see in the photo above the love they have for each other. She also has another kitty and four Boxer dogs.

Rahjay is also a very brave girl. She has undergone eight surgeries due to having achondroplasia (a little person) or dwarf. Despite those conditions, she is a happy, well adjusted young lady and will be welcome at New Hope any time she chooses to attend!

ITEMS OF INTEREST

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT NEW HOPE LUTHERAN.

The photo to the right shows the “donut contest” that attendees participated in recently. The person who grabbed the donut in mid-air and ate the most was the winner. This is only one of the many exciting events that the students experience with their teacher, Kendra Ask-Carlson. Kendra tells me that her class will be traveling to the Opportunity Center in the city to help the volunteer staff of the Center prepare, serve or clean up after a meal for the homeless.

Sunday School at New Hope welcomes any child/student who would like to participate in this event or regular classroom sessions. School convenes at 10:15 every Sunday (conveniently sandwiched between worship services at 9 or 11AM.) New Hope is already planning for its Vacation Bible School. The dates are yet to be announced.

SIDE BAR FOR ALL OF THE CONGREGATION:

New Hope youth will be visiting the Opportunity Center on April 23th. They are asking for donations of cupcakes to share with the homeless. Please be prepared to donate cupcakes for this event.



EASTER/LENTEN ACTIVITIES

- Soup & Service, every Wednesday Through April 13 6:30pm
- Palm Sunday Services 9 & 11am
- Maundy Thursday Svc 7pm
- Good Friday Svc 7pm
- Easter Celebration**
- Worship Services at 7, 9 & 11am**
- Easter Breakfast 8am**