

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SIGNS OF NEW LIFE



MEET YOUR 2025-2026 CHURCH COUNCIL — p. 9

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Pastor Katherine Tuttle
MDiv, ELCA Supply Pastor
TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod

Mark 9: 33-35

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when Jesus was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

“The Almighty Popsicle”

*In her Sept. 22 sermon, **Pastor Katherine Tuttle** began by describing a recent morning walk to school with her two daughters, ages 5 and 7. An argument ensued between the two girls about **popsicles** — who is most deserving ... not only of an after-school popsicle, but also which should get a bigger lunch at school. The girls’ debate was reminiscent of Mark 9: 33-37, where Jesus’ apostles argued with one another about which of them was the greatest. In “**The Almighty Popsicle**,” Pastor Tuttle reminds us of Jesus’ answer to his apostles and to us. Following is an excerpt from that sermon.*

The other day I was talking with a pastor approaching retirement about what he's learned in his long years of ministry about healthy and unhealthy congregations.

He had observed that congregations that are happy and doing well are the ones that are looking outside their door and asking “How can we help?” instead of focusing inside the church (e.g., looking down at the floor, at the carpet and fighting over the color).

He says it's the congregations that are looking outward ... they're not always the biggest — they don't always have the most beautiful sanctuaries – and their ledgers may have more red ink in them than black (and they often do). “But my God,” he said, “they do deeply understand something about the Word and the meal that we share here every Sunday.”

The healthy Church lives not for itself but for the world that God loves. That is a beautiful way to live into our Christian vocation but also a challenging one, as it actively works against the drive to be bigger and greater and better than our neighbor, and instead asks us how can I serve that neighbor.

In one of his final speeches, Martin Luther King (talked about)

Presiding Pastors Schedule — October 2024:

Sunday October 6	PASTOR KATHERINE TUTTLE	8:00am and 10:30am
Sunday October 13	PASTOR SHARON KAPSCH	9:30am
Sunday October 20	PASTOR ELE CLAY	8:00am and 10:30am
Sunday October 27	PASTOR BONNIE PARKER	8:00am and 10:30am

greatness. He said, “If you want to be important, wonderful. If you want to be recognized, wonderful. If you want to be great, wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

That is a new definition of greatness. By giving that definition of greatness it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.”

“The healthy Church lives not for itself, but for the world that God loves.”

When we are baptized we become members of the Christian Community. We are welcomed into the body of Christ and the Christian Mission we share, to be a servant to others. Jesus came to be a servant to us – to forgive us our sins, to give new life and wholeness. And through our baptism, we are called to enter into his healing and life-giving work.

So instead of using our one precious life to fight over whatever stands in as your **“Almighty Popsicle,”** we are called to something bigger and better and greater by bending our wills to the will of God – which is “always pure and peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, and without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.” (James 3:17)

Amen.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

**YOU CAN LISTEN TO
MANY PREVIOUS NEW
LIFE SERMONS ON
OUR WEBSITE!
HERE'S HOW:**

Go to: newlifelutheran.com

Select top menu “Worship”

Select “Sermon Archive”

Find your favorite sermon title
and click “Play” arrow.

Note: Pastor Tuttle has a show on Apple Podcasts called **“The Weekly Word with Pastor Katherine,”** where you can listen to many of her past sermons. Go to: podcasts.apple.com

We welcome the Tuttle family to Houston and to Pearland! We are delighted that Pastor Katherine has been able to serve us here at New Life during our time of transition. Shown here are at least two Tuttles who we now know absolutely LOVE popsicles!



Notes from Rebecca

by Rebecca McDonald,
Director of Worship
and Music

The Lutheran Fight Song

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A Bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

As Lutherans, we celebrate the Protestant Reformation on the last Sunday of October. The festival commemorates Martin Luther posting his 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany, on October 31st, 1517.

This year Reformation Sunday will fall on October 27th, and at both services we will sing “**A Mighty Fortress is Our God.**” Sometimes called *The Battle Hymn of the Reformation* or more colloquially, the *Lutheran Fight Song*, the hymn actually did not become closely associated with the festival of Reformation until over 100 years after it was written by Martin Luther.

Luther was a skilled musician who played the lute and the flute, and once said of music, “...music is a gift and grace of

German, and scholars aren’t sure if Martin Luther composed the entire tune himself, or if he adapted it from an existing melody. It was most likely not a tavern tune, as popular belief holds, but it did reflect some of the things that were important to Luther: congregational song instead of choral, popular musical styles instead of chants, and singing in the common language (German in Luther’s case) rather than in Latin. We do know that Luther wrote the text (words) of the hymn, basing it on Psalm 46.

Luther is believed to have written “A Mighty Fortress” about 10 years after posting his 95 theses, and it was likely written in response to several things happening in Luther’s life at the time. An early publication of the hymn contains the subtitle “A Hymn of Comfort,” counter to the

“Music ... drives out the devil and makes people cheerful.” - Martin Luther

God, not an invention of men. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful.” He wrote many hymns to express his faith and encourage congregational singing, and was influential in the later development of Protestant hymnody and liturgical music.

The tune of “A Mighty Fortress” is called “*Eine Feste Burg*” in

modern perception of it as a battle hymn. Luther was facing numerous anxieties, doubts, and fears, stemming in part from the early struggles of the Reformation movement. Different groups were arguing over specifics of theology and worship, especially the understanding of the sacraments as the actual body and blood of Jesus. In 1527, a man who followed Luther’s

“The Lutheran Fight Song” cont.

teachings was martyred. In the same year, the bubonic plague broke out in Wittenburg. Luther experienced tragedy in his personal life when his daughter was born in December of 1527 but died 6 months later. In 1528, Luther wrote about what a dark period he was experiencing, mentally and spiritually. It was during this period of personal and professional struggle that Luther turned to the Psalms for comfort and wrote the mighty hymn that we still sing today, as a source of hope in the midst of trial.

For more on Martin Luther and the Reformation, see page 10.

Using Your Time and Talent in God’s Service - Message from the Stewardship Team

- **Serve Through Worship:** Worship often, develop your prayer life, help with services.
- **Serve Through Church Programs:** Be active in church affairs by serving on Council or a committee, help to publicize programs, work to develop fellowship, participate in fund raising.
- **Serve Through Teaching:** develop religious education programs, teach, sponsor or lead discussion groups.

Through service you will also LEARN:

You will come to know more about GOD, yourself, and your fellow Christians through sincere and active service.

Next Month: Stewardship Beyond the Church
From booklet by Channing L. Bete, Inc.

Financial Snapshot

Total September Giving (9/25):	\$ 18,692
Total Giving for the Year:	\$183,885



REFORMATION SUNDAY is Sunday, October 27.

Why do many Lutherans wear RED to church on Reformation Sunday?

RED is the liturgical color of Reformation Sunday because it represents the FIRE of the Holy Spirit. It also reminds us of those who have been martyred for their faith in Jesus.



Upcoming Events

Worship/Sunday School Schedule for October:

We will have one combined worship service at **9:30 am on Sunday Oct. 13**, followed by Service Day activities (no Sunday School). For all other Sundays in October, we will have both services, 8:00 am and 10:30 am, and Sunday School at 9:15 am. Many thanks to all the presiding supply pastors during this month; see listing on page 2.

Oct. 2 Senior Potluck: All Seniors 55+ are encouraged to attend the monthly potluck luncheon in the fellowship hall at 12:00 noon. Please bring an entree, side dish, or dessert to share. After lunch, we will be packing school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Oct. 13 "God's Work. Our Hands"

Annual Day of Service:

Immediately after worship, we'll work together on service projects both inside the church and out in our community. Church projects may include: weed removal, bush and tree trimming, floor cleaning, disinfecting play areas, outdoor touch up painting. Community projects may include Orange Street litter pick-up and singing at a local nursing home. Wear your **GWOH** yellow T-shirt from last year if you have it! Also, for outdoor work, please bring your own tools/yard equipment. Drinks and snacks will be provided.



Oct. 13 Blood Mobile at New Life: Appointments encouraged, walk-ins welcome. From 9:00 am to 1:30 pm in our parking lot. Successful donors will receive a free t-shirt and a voucher for a free pint at Saint Arnold Brewing Company. Sign ups: www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/393010 or see Aimee Castillo.



Wear Your Costume!

Light Lunch & CANDY Galore!

FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sat. Oct. 26 • 11am - 2pm

CANDY DONATIONS MUCH APPRECIATED!

This event is FREE!
Questions? Call: 281-485-1818
Please bring a canned good donation
for Christian Helping Hands.

Kids BINGO-Win Prizes!

Kids Crafts & Games

Oct. 14-18 Meals on Wheels

Delivery: Contact Barbara Flowers at (713) 817-1012 if you are interested in helping.

Oct. 16 Mary & Martha

Women's Bible Study: Please join us the third Wed. of each month in the fellowship hall from 9:30 - 10:30 am. Sponsored by New Life's Women of the ELCA.

Oct. 20 WELCA

"Thankoffering" Sunday

Worship — both services — with Guest Pastor Ele Clay (see right).

Oct. 26 Family Halloween

Party: Church members and their guests are invited to this FREE event for goblins and gremlins of all ages! 11:00 am-2:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Party volunteers and candy donations are much appreciated!

DID YOU KNOW?

There's an easy way to help support our church that you may not have heard about. It's called **Kroger Community Rewards**, and if you already shop at Kroger with a Kroger card, you're almost there! Just go online to Kroger.com under your account, and link your card to New Life Lutheran Church (TX769). The more everyone shops and spends, the more money our church receives. So take advantage of this rewards program soon!

Women of the ELCA



On Sunday, October 20, we'll join together for a special **"Thankoffering"** Worship Service. Our Guest Pastor will be Ele Clay of Augustana Lutheran Church in Houston, who will lead worship at both the 8:00 am and 10:30 am services. Pastor Clay is a leading voice for our synod's **Women of the ELCA (WELCA)**, who brings us this special service.

What is a "Thankoffering" ?

Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small **Thankoffering** boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visual reminder of God's blessings in their lives. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From this practice came the idea of an annual church service for the women to present their boxes.

The idea of collecting donations in small offering boxes started earlier in the 1800's when women formed

"mite" or "cent" societies to raise money. Mite boxes were given out as a fundraising tool to collect pennies for the support of church projects and foreign missionaries.

Thankoffering services are a way for the entire congregation to celebrate and support **WELCA** women and their many good works in Christ's church. Thankoffering envelopes will be available in the narthex during each service.

The Widow's Mite, Mark 12:41-44

"He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she

out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'"



Shining Our Light

*¹⁶ In the same way,
let your light shine
before others, so that
they may see your
good works and give
glory to your Father
in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16

Christian Helping Hands Update by Judy Foucheaux

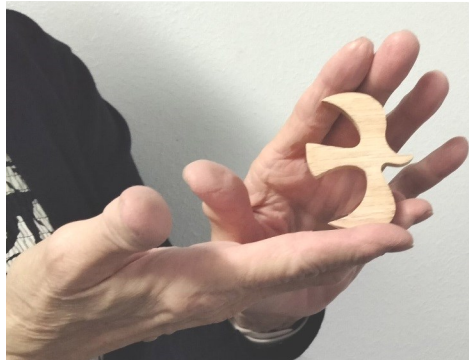
The spacious new Christian Helping Hands building is now open and fully operational! Address: 4305 Magnolia Parkway, Pearland.

As of Sept. 26, our church has brought 253 pounds of food to the pantry for the month. Thank you for all your donations.

CHH is serving 40-45 clients a day, 5 days a week, so food goes out VERY fast. Currently, the pantry is in need of canned green beans and corn, pasta, dried beans, and toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, bath soap, tampons or pads, etc.).

CHH is also in need of more volunteers. This job requires walking and lifting. The usual hours are 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. See Suzi Burns, Director of Operations at CHH, for an application.

P.S. No more egg cartons please.



Check out these beautiful figurines and play pieces, hand-crafted by talented wood craftsman **BUBBA FLOWERS** for our Godly Play program. These pieces are key in teaching sacred Bible stories to our children during the Sunday School hour. Thank you Bubba and many others for building the **GODLY PLAY** program!



See You At the Pole — Prayer by Aimee Castillo



On Wednesday, September 25th, Aimee Castillo, her son Max, and others met at the flagpole at her school for **See You at the Pole**.

It's a time that students and teachers gather at their school's flagpole before school to pray for their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation. It is held every year on the 4th Wednesday of September. Aimee prayed this prayer:

"Father, we are coming together this morning first to give you thanks. Thank you for the breath in our lungs and a heart that is beating in our chest. Today Lord, we come to you to pray over not only our school, our students, and our educators, but also all the schools in our nation.

We pray that you let schools be a safe place for students to learn and teachers to teach. We pray that you keep the place of learning protected.

Father, we ask for this protection that can only be extended by your Almighty Hand.

Lord, we know that you are a loving God and a faithful God, so we come to you today to thank you for your love and faithfulness, and ask that you continue to uphold your children all the days of their lives.

Father, with this and everything we do, we give you eternal thanks and praise. Amen."

Two New Members Elected to Church Council

During the Sept. 29, 2024 Congregational Meeting, **Ryan Strickland** and **Nancy Bryars** were nominated and elected to serve on Church Council for the 2025-2026 term. Thank you, Ryan and Nancy, for pledging your time and talents to do God's work in this important church body.

And many thanks also to returning council members Elna Ritter, Evelyn Baldauf, Tamsey Mims, Laura Strickland, Cheryl Robinson, and Brenda Pritchett for the essential work they will continue to do for our church.



Below: Charlotte Thurman and Terri Kiser - aka "Church Historian and Her Technical Advisor" - are working tirelessly to preserve church membership information spanning several decades. Old paper records in "those big red books" is being transferred to a secure digital database, thanks to this dynamic data duo!

We're blessed with great talent on our worship teams!

Right: New Life Choir
Below: Jill Olson, Bass Guitar and Ryan Strickland, Sound board



The Reformation and Butter

Reprinted with permission from *Living Lutheran Magazine*, livinglutheran.org, © ELCA. Author: Jim Mica

Some Lutherans say that coffee and potluck are vital aspects of our faith tradition. The references are made with humor—but history suggests we should look to butter as a fundamental part of our theological heritage.

In *Butter: A Rich History*

(Algonquin Books, 2016) — published to coincide with the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation — food historian Elaine Khosrova reports that butter was very much on Martin Luther's mind. The issue he was concerned with was how butter figured in the church's rules on fasting.

Fasting was an important form of religious discipline in Luther's time. The practice—initially expected only of nuns, monks and others in religious orders—eventually spread to include everyone in the church. The foods prohibited when fasting included meat, poultry and all dairy products. Khosrova writes that the faithful fasted on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, before certain feast days, during part of Advent and each day in Lent. This amounted to nearly half the year.

While we use butter mainly for flavoring, medieval Germans—and others in the northern

European dairy lands—relied on butter for its calories. This was especially the case during the long winter months. Many would have liked to butter their bread while fasting, but this was prohibited during Advent and Lent.



However, there was a way around this prohibition: **by reciting special prayers and making monetary contributions to the church, people could make up for the “sin” of eating butter during fasting times.** This worked in much the same way as the indulgences Luther had vehemently opposed. Adding

insult to injury, butter was prohibited during fasting but olive oil was allowed. While olive oil was plentiful near the Mediterranean, it wasn't available to those further north.

Butter doesn't get talked about much when we review Reformation history today, but Luther did bring it up in his 1520 address “To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation.” The bulk of the essay deals with the church and politics, the interpretation of Scripture and the “priesthood of all believers”—but Luther brought up butter at least a half dozen times.

When Luther—as translated by C.M. Jacobs—expounded on unjust church taxes, he went into full rhetorical mode: “For at Rome they themselves laugh at the fasts, making us foreigners eat the oil with which they would not grease their shoes, and afterwards selling us liberty to eat butter and all sorts of other things ... thinking it is a greater sin to eat butter is a greater sin than to lie, to swear, or even to live unchastely.”

Fun Fact: “Butter was very much on Martin Luther's mind. The issue he was concerned with was how butter figured in the church's rules on fasting.”



THANK YOU

Thank You! From Church Council and Staff

- To Ryan Strickland for working and troubleshooting sound board and video slides
- To Becky Homerstad for contributing a pencil sharpener for Sunday School Godly Play
- To Kate Bates for contributing a Thrivent card for Lutheran World Relief school and health kits
- To Terri Kiser and Charlotte Thurman for all the office work
- To Supply Pastors Grant Housewright, Katherine Tuttle, Sharon Kapsch, and Bonnie Parker, plus guest pastor Ele Clay for leading our worship throughout September and October
- To Helen Cunningham for donating materials for our quilting ministries
- To Lupe Almendez for her continuous donations to the quilters and our kids' parties
- To Helen Beckman for leading the Senior Luncheon in Sept. and providing the always-enjoyable BINGO games!
- To Tamsey Mims and Barbara Flowers for providing beautiful cards for our Care Committee
- To Sunday School teachers: Evelyn Baldauf for Elementary Godly Play; Aimee Castillo for the Confirmation class; Helen Beckman and Charlie Gaevert for the High School class; and Merideth Oliver, Donna and Nolan Patsche for the Adult class

Church Council Executive Team:

President
Elna Ritter

Vice President
Evelyn Baldauf

Secretary
Tamsey Mims

Treasurer
Julie Watkins

Council at Large:

Gordon Meyers
Brenda Pritchett
Cheryl Robinson
Laura Strickland

Church Staff:

Rebecca McDonald
Director of Worship
and Music



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Livestream Worship on Facebook: [newlifepearland](https://www.facebook.com/newlifepearland)

Email Council: office@newlifelutheran.com

Email Rebecca McDonald: music@newlifelutheran.com

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9am - Quilters Workshop 7pm - Word Fellowship	2 12pm - Senior Potluck - Fellowship Hall	3 6pm - Property Team 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	4 6pm - Women of Worth (WOW) - Fellowship Hall	5 10:30am - Phoenix Group (Women's AA) 4pm - Word Fellowship
6 8am - Traditional Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary Worship 12pm - Word Fellowship	7 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) - Fellowship Hall 8pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Sanctuary	8 9am - Quilters Workshop 7pm - Word Fellowship	9	10 10am - Pearland Education Area Retirees - Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	11 6pm - Women of Worth (WOW) - Fellowship Hall	12 10:30am - Phoenix Group (Women's AA) 4pm - Word Fellowship
13 9am-1:30pm - Bloodmobile church parking lot 9:30am - One Service 10:30am - God's Work Our Hands Service Day	14	15	16	17	18	19 10:30am - Phoenix Group) Women's AA) 4pm - Word Fellowship
Meals on Wheels Delivery Week						
	6pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8pm - Al-Anon Meeting	9am - Quilters Workshop 7pm - Word Fellowship	9:30am - Mary & Martha Bible Study WELCA	6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6pm - Women of Worth (WOW) - Fellowship Hall	
20 8am - Thankoffering Service (WELCA) 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Thankoffering Service (WELCA) 12pm - Word Fellowship	21 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) - Fellowship Hall 8pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Sanctuary	22 9am - Quilters Workshop 7pm - Word Fellowship	23	24 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	25 6pm - Women of Worth (WOW) - Fellowship Hall	26 10:30am - Phoenix Group (Women's AA) 11am - Halloween Party 4pm - Word Fellowship
27 8am - Traditional Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary Worship 12pm - Word Fellowship	28 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) - Fellowship Hall 8pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Sanctuary	29 9am - Quilters Workshop 7pm - Word Fellowship	30	31 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		