

SIGNS OF NEW LIFE



New Life children and youth, directed by Aimee Castillo and many other helpful adults, presented their Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 11. It was a joyful, comedic presentation of Jesus' birth! Don't forget: we will have only one combined service at 9:30 AM on New Year's Day.

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Walk in Newness of Life Pastor Clayton Faulkner

As we celebrate our first Christmas together, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your many displays of generosity. Thank you for the honor of being your pastor. It is a sacred responsibility to be the spiritual shepherd of the New Life church community. I am humbled to be called by God and by you in this season of hope and joy. The birth of Jesus reminds us of how God can do powerful things through small, surprising ways. God's peace and blessings be with each of you and your families in these holidays. Thank you for your trust.

Christmas and the holiday season can be a complicated time for people. Despite all the glitter, cheerful lights, and shiny wrapping paper, for some the holidays are not merry and bright. Perhaps this is your first holiday season without someone you love. Or there has been a growing distance between the people in your family. Or this season brings up feelings and revisits past trauma that are not easy to deal with.

There are lots of reasons why the holidays are a struggle for some. It's important that you hear the church say this: you are not alone. No matter the circumstances, you are always a beloved child of God and this is a place where you can be your true, authentic self and not hide from God who you really are.

Grief and loss are not things anyone is immune to. At some point in life, you will face them. If you're not experiencing grief and loss currently, it's because you already have recently, or because it's just ahead in the near future. Grief and loss are engrained to the experience of being human.

Often when you experience grief and loss it feels like living in a perpetual nighttime. The sun doesn't rise. We are left in the dark with our emotions and it's difficult to make sense of why things are happening. The church can help and offer you support when you're facing these circumstances.

At the end of January, we will begin a GriefShare support group. GriefShare is a weekly support group ministry designed for anyone struggling with loss. The 13 video seminars feature respected Christian counselors and leaders who share wise insights about grief-related topics. These dynamic videos also include personal testimonies from people who have lost a

loved one. The workbooks contain a note-taking outline for the video sessions, a daily Bible study that reinforces the information presented on the videos, a gospel presentation, helpful articles, and insights from the Christian experts.

This 13-week support group will take place on Mondays at 6:00 PM, beginning on January 30, 2023. It will be co-led by Aimee Castillo and myself. Aimee is someone who has experienced a profound loss in her life and has participated in a GriefShare group previously. According to Aimee, "It really helped me last year and I would like to do the same for others."

Every weekly session will include time to check in, viewing a video with teaching from grief recovery experts, and group discussion. Group members will share about what they've seen in the video, explain how their daily GriefShare workbook exercises are helping them see their situation from God's perspective, and share the challenges they're facing and victories they're experiencing.

The weekly topics include:

1. Is This Normal?
2. Challenges of Grief
3. The Journey of Grief – Part One
4. The Journey of Grief – Part Two
5. Grief and Your Relationships
6. Why?
7. Guilt and Anger
8. Complicating Factors
9. Stuck
10. Lessons of Grief – Part One
11. Lessons of Grief – Part Two
12. Heaven
13. What Do I Live for Now?



Does this sound like a group that would be helpful for you? Do you know someone in your circle of friends or family who could use a support group like this? Please share the news about this group with them. Even better, bring them with you to the group. You can sign up in the Narthex or let me know that you'll be attending.

New Life is a place of love and encouragement. We are here to lift one another up and bear one another's burdens. God's peace is with you as you begin a new year filled with new possibilities.



Community News

Check out the recent Houston Chronicle article about Ivy Lawrence-Walls, daughter of Lorraine Walls. “Urban farmers, Jeremy Peaches of Fresh Life Organics & Ivy Lawrence-Walls of Ivy Leaf Farms, who also are the founders of Black Farmer Box, soft open their first grocery store in Sunnyside on Tuesday November 23, 2022.” You can [read the article online here](#).

**Korie's Children's
Message from Dec. 18**

Twas the Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the church
There was hustle and bustle
as the house band rehearsed.

Johnny gathered music for the choir to sing
Pastor got the sermon ready to read
The ladies were chattering
And the men were gathering

The children were in the nursery
As the people gathered to celebrate another Christmas anniversary
The pews were filled
During this time of year

Sleigh bells were all Korie and Tiffany could hear
But it was just because Linda Sue's laugh
They knew she was near

And up on the rooftop there arose such a clatter
But no worries it was just Rudy on a ladder
And what to my wondering eye should appear
There was Bryan, so there was no fear

Cookies were all that the seniors baked
Because they knew that's what Santa ate
The quilters were quick to sew
Just in the event it would snow

Everyone was there to celebrate Jesus' birth
The greatest gift on earth
And as the service ended The assisting minister exclaimed,
"Go in peace and serve the lord"

So, from me to you who are in my sight
I wish you all a merry Christmas
And to each of you a very merry night.



Quilters

New Life Quilters are still hard at work creating quilts to sell and to send to Lutheran World



Relief. They meet every Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall and all are welcome to help make quilts and have fellowship with the ladies.

Quilting is a year-round activity and once the quilts are sent to LWR, the work of creating more for next year begins.



Meals on Wheels Ministry at New Life

In the month of December we had 16 different volunteers who served 160 meals to 32 clients over 5 days!

The following people helped make sure that all of the clients received their meals: Cheryl Robinson, Donna Patschke, Lynn Cope, Helen Beckman, Mary Anna Vance, Becky Homerstad, Carole Wright, Walt Wright, Nancy Bryars, Roland Bryars, Lynn Barron, Doug Barron, Laura Cole, Carol Jackman, Samaira Sirajee, and Barbara Flowers.

We are always in need of a few more people. There are times when one or more of the above mentioned people are unable to help for the week. When this happens, it is nice to have some substitute volunteers who can help. Remember – this is ONE day every EIGHT weeks. If you would like some more information or think you might be interested in helping, please call (or text) Barbara Flowers @ 713-817-1012.

NEXT DELIVERY DATE IS: February 6-10, 2023

If you know someone who might benefit from this program, you can call Pearland Meals on Wheels @ 281-485-5081 for information.

BEAR provides children in Harris County in Child Protective Services with basic needs, support, and dignity.

Thank you for your BEAR Toy Drive donations!

Nancy Bryars and Aimee Castillo delivered all the toys we collected on December 17, 2022. The BEAR facility was filled with toys for kids of all ages. There will be thousands of children in Harris County who receive the blessing of a gift this Christmas because of your generosity. Thank you for offering love and support to the most vulnerable this year.



Thank You! From Church Council and Staff

- To Aimee for organizing the BEAR Toy Drive. The toys were distributed to children in Harris County Child Protective Services.
- To the New Life congregation for their generosity of the toy donations for BEAR.
- To Aimee, Mary Ann, Beth, Becca, Holly, Sophia and others for organizing the Children's Christmas Pageant held Dec. 11.
- To Johnny for the pageant music.
- To Jenaro and Edward for the pageant back drop.
- To all the Children who participated in the Christmas pageant.
- To all the volunteers who helped with the Sanctuary Greening: Cheryl, Linda, Korie, Tiffany, Logan, Lynn, Rylynn, Diane, Julie, Pastor Clayton, Kate, Cathy, Elna, and others.
- To Doug and Charlie for setting up the tree.
- To all the volunteers who brought food, set-up and cleaned for the Advent Midweek Suppers.
- To Pastor Clayton and Johnny for Advent Midweek Services.
- To the Stavinoha's and WOW for organizing the Christmas Community Party held Dec. 10.
- To Santa Claus and the Elf for their appearance at the Christmas Community Party.
- To all our wonderful office volunteers: Elna, Terri, Julie, Linda, Korie, Lynn, and others.
- To Aimee for her two years on Council, 2021-2022.

We appreciate you ALL so much!



Santa made a special appearance at the Christmas Community Party on December 10!

Signs of New Life

Dean Roszak baptized on December 18

Dean Robert Roszak was baptized on December 18, the fourth Sunday of Advent. Parents are Joshua and Abby Roszak. Sponsors are Alan Gaska, Kasey Gaska, and Jordan Williams. Welcome to the body of Christ, Dean!



Lutherhill Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Lutherhill Summer 2023

BEST . WEEK . EVER .



FAITH • AFFIRMATION • COMMUNITY • ADVENTURE

FIND YOUR **Camp!**



Week 1 | June 11-16

Alpha | Youngn | Yearling | Jr. High Adventure | LYLE 1

Week 2 | June 18-23

Youngn | Yearling | Jr. High | Sr. High Adventure | LYLE 1
Onsite Day Camp

Week 3 | June 25-30

Camp at Your Church! Connect with Lutherhill to bring a Day Camp to your community!

Week 4 | July 2-7

Family Camp | LYLE 2

Week 5 | July 9-14

Yearling - Art Camp | Jr. High - Art Camp | LYLE 2 | Onsite Day Camp

Week 6 | July 16-21

Alpha | Youngn | Yearling | Jr. High - Amazing Race | LYLE 1

Week 7 | July 23-28

Alpha | Youngn | Yearling | Jr. High Adventure | LYLE 1

Week 8 | July 30-August 4

Youngn | Yearling | Jr. High | Onsite Day Camp

ALPHA | Completed 1st Grade (3 Night Stay)
YOUNGN | Completed 2nd or 3rd Grade
YEARLING | Completed 4th, 5th or 6th Grade
JR. HIGH | Completed 6th, 7th or 8th Grade
SR. HIGH | Completed 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th Grade
LYLE 1 | Completed 9th or 10th Grade
LYLE 2 | Completed LYLE 1, 10th or 11th Grade

Ready to Register?

Visit us at: lutherhill.org





Sunday School Classes will Resume on January 15

Most of our Sunday School classes are pausing to take a break for Advent and Christmas. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 15. It's a great time to bring the kids back to church and join a group.

Welcome Theo Bradford

Theo Lane Bradford was born on Friday, December 2, 2022. Congratulations to the parents, Bryan and Anne-Marie Bradford. And big brother Lucas!



Environews Helen Beckman

Merry Christmas everyone. At Least Lutherans know that the first of the 12 days of Christmas is Christmas Day and goes on to Epiphany and not a countdown before Christmas. So, I'm assuming your tree will be up a while after Christmas Day. If it's a live tree, there is still a worthwhile purpose for it after you undecorate it. It can go to the Dunes Project to help rebuild sand dunes for coastal protection against storm surge and high water during tropical storms. Artificial trees and flocked trees are not accepted. If you have a live unflocked tree, be sure to remove all ornaments and tinsel and then take it to the Stella Roberts Recycling Center (SRRC) to drop it off at the entrance gate. **Trees will be accepted from December 25 until January 14.** The Center will be closed from December 24 until January 3, but you can toss your tree over the fence at the entrance.

Another option is the Brazoria County Precinct 2 Work Yard, 7315 Corporate Dr. Manvel, TX, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

If you put it out for curbside pickup, it will go to the landfill. If you have an artificial tree you wish to dispose of, you may bring it to the Recycling Center for recycling.

Dunes Day will be January 21 from 9 A.M. to noon. Volunteers will meet at Stahlman Park in Surfside Beach to build, restore, and strengthen our dune line against storm surges. For more information, contact Mike at 979-864-1541 (Surfside). If you wish to participate and car pool, let me know and we can meet at the church,

Many thanks to Helen Beckman, Maria Jimenez, Terri Kiser, Cheryl Robinson, and Diane Tanksley for collecting litter along E. Orange St. from N. Main to Schleider Dr. In two days, about 3 hours, they collected 2 full bags of trash, one bag of recycling, and 217 cigarette butts.

There is no Garden lecture in January. The lectures will resume in February.

Arbor Day is Saturday, January 28. The list of trees to be given away will be announced at a later date.



Upcoming Events

New Year's Day Worship: Begin your 2023 with a combined worship service on Sunday, January 1 at 9:30 AM.

Senior Adult Luncheon: Wednesday, January 4 at Noon.

Leader Huddle: All congregational leaders are invited to this meeting on Saturday, January 14 at 9:00 AM.

Special Guest in Worship: On Sunday, January 15, Mary Lynn Mennicke from Lutheran Summer Music will be our guest and provide special music.

MLK Day Parade: Everyone is invited to walk with Bishop Mike Rinehart and lots of other synod Lutherans-- of all ages -- to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in downtown Houston on Monday, Jan. 16! We'll gather at Allen Parkway and Crosby St. around 9 AM. The parade begins at 10, and we will walk behind our synod's banner, "#Lutherans are Here!" Let's make sure we're noticed-- and top our 12 congregations represented and 60+ participants of last year! (Parking is easy in the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston parking lot on Crosby, and coffee and cookies will be provided).

Annual Congregational Meeting: The 2023 meeting will take place on Sunday, January 22 at 11:30 AM.

New Member Class: Sunday, January 29. This class will take place at 11:30 AM and include lunch. If you're ready to take the next step in your commitment to New Life as your church home, please sign up and attend. This class explains the membership process, baptism, and how to transfer your membership from another church.

GriefShare Support Group Begins January 30: This 13-week support group will take place on Mondays at 6:00 PM, beginning on January 30, 2023. It will be co-led by Aimee Castillo and Pastor Clayton.



New Life Senior Luncheon Packs Seafarer Boxes



New Life packed over 100+ Christmas shoeboxes for the Seafarers out of the Port of Houston at the December Senior Luncheon.

Collections are made all year around and the New Life Seniors pack these boxes at their Luncheon in December. The wrapped shoeboxes, books, magazines, puzzles and many more bulk items are taken to the Port of Houston, International Seafarers Center during the month of December for distribution to the ships that come in to port.

Items above will be collected in the Fellowship Hall until the December packing.

Financial Snapshot

Giving in December 2022 (through Dec 20)	= \$15,527.53 (58.6%)
Giving needed per month	= \$26,519.00
Giving January—December 2022	= \$271,126.00 (85.2%)
Giving needed January—December 2022	= \$318,228.00



New Life Lutheran Church

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Phone: (281) 485-1818

Website: NewLifeLutheran.com

Facebook: [Facebook.com/NewLifePearland](https://www.facebook.com/NewLifePearland)

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clayton Faulkner

(pastor@newlifelutheran.com)

Director of Music: Johnny Salvesen

(music@newlifelutheran.com)

Church Council

President: Rudy Moreno

Vice-President: Tiffany Pineda

Secretary: Mary Ann Marcha

Treasurer: Julie Watkins

Financial Secretary: Nancy Bryars

At Large: Lisa Weber, Vanessa Rincones, Tamsey Mims, Elna Ritter, Bryan Bradford, Korie Williams

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day 9:30a Combined Worship 12p Word Fellowship Ch	2 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	3 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	4 12p Senior Lunch 6:15p Choir Practice	5 6p Property Team Meeti	6 Epiphany of Our Lord Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	7 10:30a Phoenix Group (I) 4p Word Fellowship Chri
8 8a Traditional Worship 10:30a Contemporary S 12p Word Fellowship Ch	9 6p Church Council Meeti 7p CHH Board Meeting 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	10 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	11 6:15p Choir Practice	12 9:30a Pearland Retired	13 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	14 9a Leader Huddle 10:30a Phoenix Group (I) 4p Word Fellowship Chri
15 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary S 12p Word Fellowship Ch	16 MLK Jr Day - Office Clos 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	17 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	18 9:30a Mary Martha Bible 6:15p Choir Practice	19	20 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	21 10:30a Phoenix Group (I) 4p Word Fellowship Chri
22 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary S 11:30a Congregational A 12p Word Fellowship Ch	23 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	24 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	25 6:15p Choir Practice	26	27 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	28 10:30a Phoenix Group (I) 4p Word Fellowship Chri
29 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary S 11:30a New Member Cla 12p Word Fellowship Ch	30 6p GriefShare Support G 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	31 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	1 12p Senior Lunch 6:15p Choir Practice	2 6p Property Team Meeti	3 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	4 9a Girl Scout Event 10:30a Phoenix Group (I) 4p Word Fellowship Chri
5 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary S 12p Word Fellowship Ch	6 6p GriefShare Support G 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	7 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	8 6:15p Choir Practice	9 9:30a Pearland Retired	10 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	11 10:30a Phoenix Group (I) 4p Word Fellowship Chri