

# SIGNS OF NEW LIFE



*Ash*

*Wednesday*

February 22, 2023  
Worship services  
at 11:00 AM and  
7:00 PM

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## Walk in Newness of Life Pastor Clayton Faulkner

*“Images from the Ash Wednesday liturgy are spoken over bodies not only in church buildings at the beginning of Lent but also outdoors in all seasons of the year: “We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust” (ELW, p. 284). In the funeral liturgy, such words are spoken after the body is laid in the grave and as earth is cast onto the coffin, or as ashes are placed in the earth or into a columbarium. Each year, the Ash Wednesday liturgy offers every member of the church words and a gesture that seem to have arrived, ahead of time, from our own funeral liturgy. Earth is placed on our bodies, scriptural words about the inevitable decomposition of our bodies are spoken over us: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Among the many things that Ash Wednesday accomplishes is a small-scale, ritualized, near-death experience.” (Excerpt from Worship Guidebook for Lent and Three Days, Augsburg Fortress, 2009, p. 18)*

In seminary I had a systematic theology professor who often welcomed us to class with these words: “Greetings, frail creatures of dust!” Now, that may seem like an odd way to welcome people, but it has a theological underscoring that is significant. In the end, after all is said and done, we go back to being what we were all along – dust.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in our liturgical calendar. It occurs 46 days before Easter. The precise date of Ash Wednesday is always moveable, falling on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter. Why 46 days? According to the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day liturgical period of prayer and fasting. Why are there an extra six days? Because there are six Sundays during the season of Lent, and every Sunday is the day of resurrection (a little Easter). On Sundays the fast of Lent is broken in celebration of the resurrection.

Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically created from the burnt palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday services.

Historically, Ash Wednesday and the following season of Lent was the time of final preparations for baptism. Catechumens, people desiring to join the church and receiving instruction about the Christian faith, experienced an intense time of prayer, fasting, exorcisms, and teaching. Finally, at dawn on Easter Sunday, after an all-night Vigil, the catechumens were baptized and welcomed into the body of Christ by participating in the Eucharist for the first time. Ash Wednesday was the beginning of a season of life, death, and renewal.

But why do we have to be so morbid about it? Because no matter how much wealth, no matter how many material possessions, no matter how much plastic surgery, no matter how much exercise and fitness, no matter how much success, no matter how much fame and notoriety, in the end, we go back to being what we were all along – dust.



This season of Lent will feature a sermon series entitled, “Belonging.” Together we will ponder what it means to belong to and participate in the body of Christ.

February 26 – “Born Identity”

March 5 – “Born Anew”

March 12 – “Beyond Belief”

March 19 – “Being Found”

March 26 – “Beyond Resurrection”

**Farewell and  
Godspeed  
to Johnny Salvesen  
January 22, 2023**

**A Note from Johnny** *(shared from Facebook)*

Today marked the last Sunday for me as the Worship and Music Director at New Life Lutheran Church after 6.5 years. It has been a true pleasure. New Life let me grow into the musician and man I am today and I will always keep them in heart as my family.

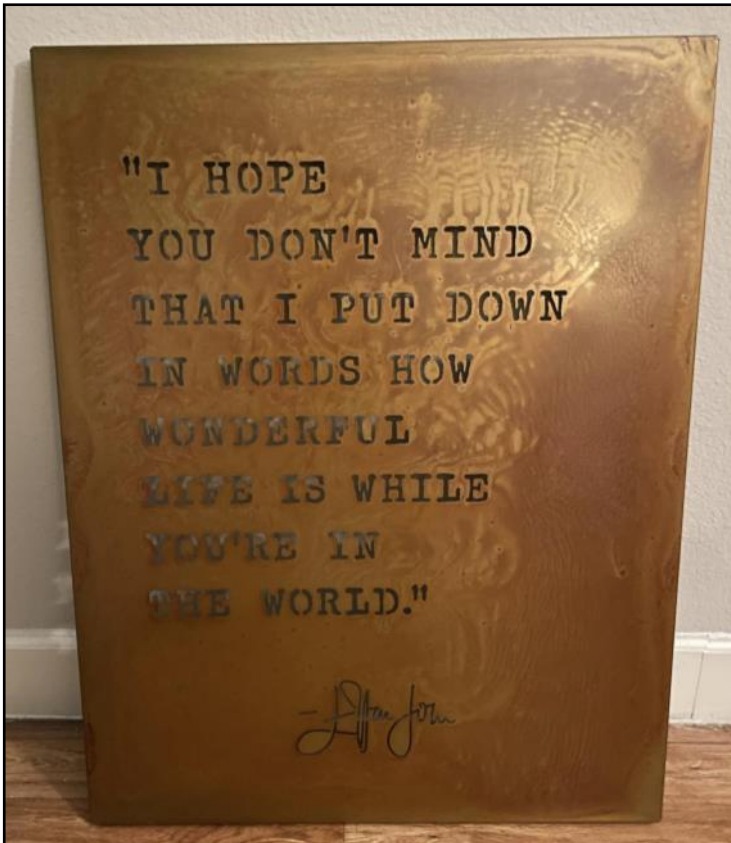
Thank you to Pastor Clayton Faulkner for your guidance and easy collaboration during our short time together. You progressed my musical and directorial thinking all the while treating me as a human first and foremost.

Thank you to Pastor Brian Gige for taking a chance on me as your music director with little to no experience. I wouldn't be where I am today without you and your commitment to my growth and allowing me to join such a wonderful and accepting family.

And thank you to the congregation of New Life Lutheran. Every member showed me what true Christians act like. Love of another always came first and because of this, I was able to grow into the person I am today. You truly set the example of Christianity that I will take into the world for the rest of my life.

It has been an incredible journey of growth and love, but it does not end here. I love you New Life for all you have done for me and allowing me to serve you for many seasons.





Join us for a  
pancake supper!



## SHROVE TUESDAY

February 21, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. It's a day when many Christians participate in confession and forgiveness and make their final preparations for a Lenten fast. It often includes eating pancakes and other sweets before Lent begins. The word "shrove" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning "absolve."



## 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.

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## Meals on Wheels Ministry at New Life

We will be delivering meals February 6-10, 2023. If you would like to help with this great ministry, please call Barbara Flowers @ 713-817-1012.

Also, we are always in need of a few more people. There are times when one or more 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.

Future Dates:

April 3-7\*

May 29\*-June 2

July 24-28

September 18-22

November 13-17

(\*No Delivery )



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

## Thank You! From Church Council and Staff

- Thank you to the 2022 Council, V. Rincones, A. Castillo, J. Garrett, L. Cope, L. H-Weber, M. Marcha.
- Thank you to M. Marcha as Council Secretary, Bank Rep, and Check Signer.
- Thank you to N. Bryars for being the Financial Secretary for the past 5-6 years.
- Thank you to K. Williams for the Christmas Eve Cocoa/Wassail Bar, Youth Fundraiser; approximately \$430 was raised.
- Thank you to the volunteers for the Christmas Eve Services.
- Thank you to D. Barron and team for putting up the Nativity yard display and putting back in storage.
- Thank you to Johnny Salvesen for Christmas Eve service music.
- Thank you to Lynn Barron for the Christmas Offering Letters stuffed in envelopes.
- Thank from L. Stavinoha:
  - “So grateful for the kindness of others” for the Kids Community Christmas party
  - Gestl’s beanie babies, J. Flick MaryKay lotions, C. Thurman/G. Cobb various items donated, B. Leach generous cash donation,
  - All the ladies that helped set up and clean up,
  - K. Williams for her role as Elf, and Special guest, Santa Claus.
  - C. Thurman, B. Homerstadt, Hansen’s for the seasonal cards. E. White for crafts, books and gifts for Easter Bingo,
  - L. Howell for donating to the upcoming Senior Luncheon Bingo.

**We appreciate you ALL so much!**



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](http://lutherhill.org)



## President's Report February 2023

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I hope that all of you are well and have been able to dodge this bad weather. Some people in our community have not been very fortunate. **If you have been impacted please let us know how we can help.** Please keep all the people who have been affected in your prayers.

New Life has been moving along at a fast pace. It's hard to believe the month is gone. We passed our budget and have some clear direction. Thank all of you for your support, financially and personally. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement and positive feedback.

Your church council always welcomes your feedback. Please let us know where this church has room to grow. We will do what we can to make this a better place for worship.

It is our intent to put some long overdue policies in place. Also we hope to hire a new Administrative Assistant soon. When we have our criteria for employment, we will share it with the congregation. Maybe someone can refer a qualified candidate.

We will also start our search for a Music Director. Please bear with us as we have a process to undergo. This person will have large shoes to fill. We will take the time necessary to find the proper candidate.

This church is strong and resilient. That is the reason we will endure and prosper.

Remember, WE are the church.

In Christ,

Rudy Moreno

## Environews Helen Beckman

It's tree planting time in Gulf Coast, Texas. I hope some of you were able to get a tree or two at Saturday's tree giveaway. On the other hand, you may have heard on the news about a tree eradication program. Most gardeners know about invasive species and the Chinese tallow is definitely invasive.

According to the Texas Invasive Species Institute, the Chinese tallow was introduced into the U.S. in the 1700's for ornamental purposes. Its waxy berries have been used for making soap, seed oil, and candles. It has adapted so well that it displaces our native species. It can grow in full sun or complete shade. It will grow in most soils and near saline or swampy water. It is drought tolerant because of a deep taproot. Native plant species are out-competed for resources once the Chinese tallow becomes established. Its leaves and fruit are toxic to humans and cattle. Birds feed on the berries and distribute the seeds. Volunteers such as the Sierra Club members are often used by national parks and nature preserves to rid the forests of tallow trees. You can do your part by weeding the seedlings from your flower beds and gardens. Do not transplant them and replace any tallow trees you have with a similar native tree, such as the red mulberry that was given away Saturday or the Eastern redbud.

### **Saturday, February 4 is Winter Community and Adopt-a-spot Cleanup Day.**

Meet at the church from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Snacks and supplies are provided. Students can get volunteer credit for participation. Your help is needed.

### **Thursday, February 9 is Garden Lecture at 7:00 PM on Facebook Live,**

[www.pearlandrecycles.com](http://www.pearlandrecycles.com) The topic is "Vegetable Container Gardening."

### **Saturday, February 18 Is Cigarette Litter Awareness Day.**

Volunteers will meet at the Stella Roberts Recycling Center for lunch and a safety briefing. Groups are then sent to specific intersections to pick up and count cigarette litter. Last year 48 volunteers picked up 11,460 cigarette butts.



## Upcoming Events

**Senior Adult Luncheon:** Wednesday, February 1 at Noon.

**Orange Street Clean Up:** Saturday, February 4, meet at the church from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Snacks and supplies are provided. Students can get volunteer credit for participation. Your help is needed.

**GriefShare Support Group:** Meets on Monday nights at 6:00 PM. You can still join and encourage others to try it.



**WELCA Lunch Out:** All women of the church are welcome to join us for lunch on Wednesday, February 8 at 11:30 AM at Baytown Seafood.

**Souper Bowl of Caring:** Bring your canned food or pantry item donation on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12 as we tackle hunger and support Christian Helping Hands food pantry. In January, New Life donated 416 pounds of food to CHH!



**Shrove Tuesday:** Pancake supper at 6:00 PM on February 21.

**Ash Wednesday:** Worship at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM on February 22.

**First Sunday in Lent:** February 26.

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New Orleans is Building Affordable Housing for the Community

Last year, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, a 135-year-old historically Black Lutheran Congregation, took on one of the most ambitious projects in our history - the construction of an ADA-accessible affordable housing project to benefit our neighbors and our neighborhood in partnership with the Tulane School of Architecture's URBANbuild program. We started this project with no money in the bank to make it happen, only a belief that the work was so compelling and the need so great that our community would find a way to make it possible. Now, the first home is complete and occupied, and we are beginning construction of the second house! This Spring, with your help, we will build the second of four new affordable housing units across from the church. Alongside our affordable housing program, we currently provide over 600 free meals a week through our Community Table Free Meal Program and Community Fridge. We believe that following Jesus leads us to make our block, neighborhood, and world better, and we hope you will join us to make that vision a reality.

To learn more and support their ministry, visit <https://gofund.me/2f6d7b8d>





## **New Life Lutheran Church**

3521 E Orange St.

Pearland, TX 77581

Phone: (281) 485-1818

Website: [NewLifeLutheran.com](http://NewLifeLutheran.com)

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

## **Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clayton Faulkner

([pastor@newlifelutheran.com](mailto:pastor@newlifelutheran.com))

## **Church Council**

President: Rudy Moreno (281-734-5019)

Vice-President: Tiffany Pineda

Secretary: Mary Ann Marcha

Treasurer: Julie Watkins

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

## Helping Hands in Worship

	5-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb	26-Feb
Assisting Minister 8:00 AM	Helen Beckman	Elna Ritter	Nancy Bryars	Cheryl Robinson
Assisting Minister 10:30 AM	Bryan Bradford	Cheryl Robinson	Bryan Bradford	Lisa Hitchcock-Weber
Communion Assistant 8:00	Robin Gottlieb	Doug Barron	Robin Gottlieb	Doug Barron
Communion Assistant 8:00	Vince Gottlieb	Lynn Barron	Vince Gottlieb	Lynn Barron
Communion Assistant 10:30	Barbara Flowers	Merideth Oliver	Barbara Flowers	Merideth Oliver
Communion Assistant 10:30	Nancy Bryars	Linda Hudgens	Linda Hudgens	Nancy Bryars
Ushers 8:00	Doug Barron	Charlie Gaevert	Doug Barron	Charlie Gaevert
Ushers 10:30	Cathy Scott		Cathy Scott	Max and Jenaro Castillo
Altar Flowers	Helen Beckman	Cheryl Robinson		Nancy Bryars

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Se 11:30a New Member Cla 12p Word Fellowship Chri	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	2 6p Property Team Meetin	3 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo 10:30a Phoenix Group (V 4p Word Fellowship Chri	4 8:30a Orange Street Cle 9a Girl Scout Event 10:30a Phoenix Group (V 4p Word Fellowship Chri
5 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Se 12p Word Fellowship Chri	6 6p GriefShare Support G 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	7 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	8 11:30a WELCA Lunch	9 9:30a Pearland Retired T	10 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	11 10:30a Phoenix Group (V 4p Word Fellowship Chri
12 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary W 12p Word Fellowship Chri	13 6p Church Council Meeti 6p GriefShare Support G 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	14 Valentine's Day 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	15 9:30a Mary Martha Bible	16 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	17 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	18 9a Baby Shower 10:30a Phoenix Group (V 4p Word Fellowship Chri
19 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Se 12p Word Fellowship Chri 1p Birthday Party	20 President's Day 6p GriefShare Support G 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	21 9a Quilters Workshop 6p Shrove Tuesday 7p Word Fellowship Chri	22 11a Ash Wednesday Wor 7p Ash Wednesday Worst	23 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	24 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	25 10:30a Phoenix Group (V 4p Word Fellowship Chri
26 8a Traditional Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Contemporary Se 12p Word Fellowship Chri	27 6p GriefShare Support G 8p AA Meeting (Co-Ed) 8p Ala-non	28 9a Quilters Workshop 7p Word Fellowship Chri	1 12p Senior Lunch	2 6p Property Team Meetin	3 Office Closed 6p WOW - Women of Wo	4 10:30a Phoenix Group (V 4p Word Fellowship Chri
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