

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SIGNS OF NEW LIFE



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**BACKPACK BLESSING IN BOTH SERVICES FOR ALL THAT
ARE HEADED BACK TO SCHOOL.**

**JOIN US AT 9:15 AM AS WE GATHER IN THE FELLOWSHIP
HALL TO MEET SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.**



Walk in Newness of Life

Pastor Clayton Faulkner

The most exciting thing happening in the month of August is the return of school! Just kidding, most students probably don't think that is exciting or even bearable. Regardless, school will be back, like it or not. There are exciting parts, like renewing friendships and new school clothes. But there are also stressful parts, like unfamiliar buildings and the fear of being bullied.

God doesn't promise that the fears we face can be avoided. God does promise to go with us and uphold us in love no matter what challenges we run into. Our job is to walk in faith, trusting God for the things we need, and seeking ways to love and serve our neighbors in whatever way we can.

It's important that we stop and pray for God's wisdom and protection at the beginning of a new year. That's what we do on Rally Day, which is Sunday, August 13. During the worship services that day we will include a backpack blessing. This is a time of prayer when we recognize everyone that is returning to school, from Pre-Kindergarten all the way through graduate students, and not forgetting the teachers, administrators, and other personnel that make schools function.

The return to school is also the return to Sunday School. Christian learning is part of the call to discipleship. As followers of Jesus, we are all on a life-long journey of learning. This includes learning about the Bible, learning about our Lutheran theology, and growing in wisdom through faith. Our church will have a variety of learning opportunities available for every student from the very young to the very experienced on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.

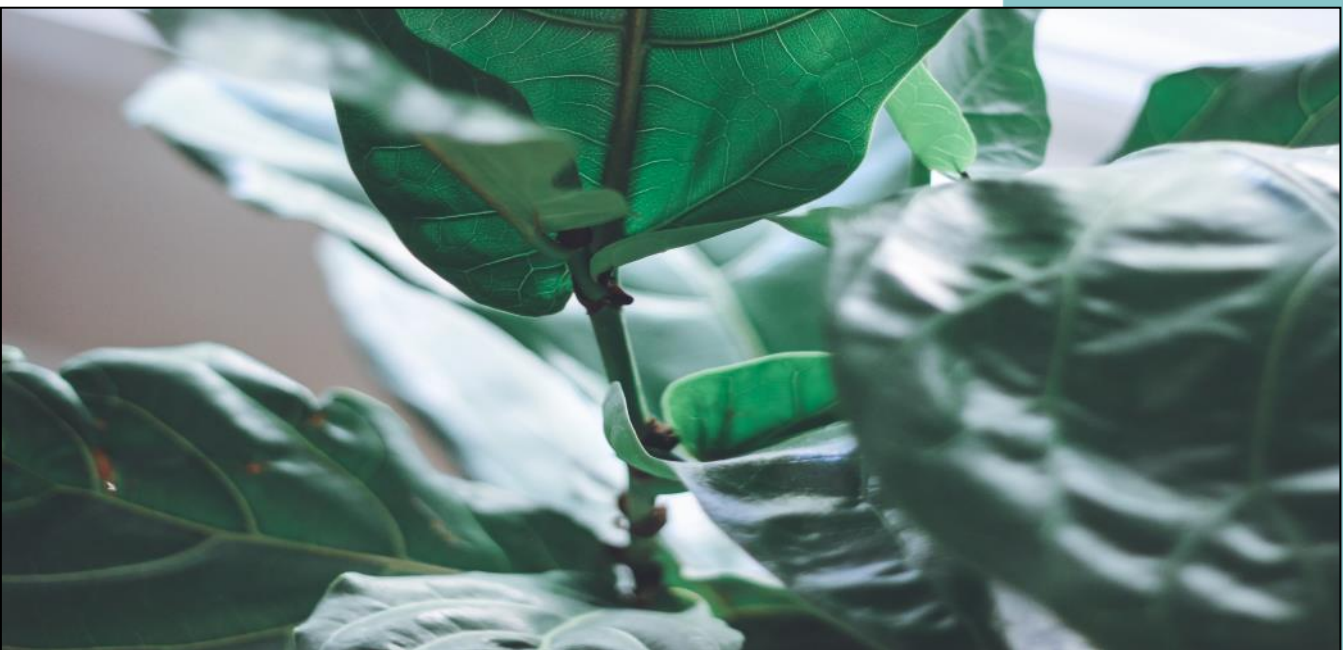
Another part of Rally Day is our gathering at 9:15 AM in the fellowship hall. We will use that time to kick off our new year of Sunday School. We will enjoy some food, sing a few songs, and meet our Sunday School leaders for the year. We will pray for them and their ministry among us. This is also a meet-the-teacher time where students can get acquainted with their leader and find their meeting space. The following Sunday, August 20, classes will begin. I'm looking forward to leading the confirmation students (7th and 8th graders) and their parents again.

Engaging young people and encouraging their faith development is one of the priorities of our church. Earlier this year, Pastor Tracey Breashears Schultz posted a summary of a book regarding churches that want to grow younger by engaging families with children. The key finding of the book: you have to listen to young people. What a novel concept! Churches can try to lure families with lots of bells and whistles, but in the end, nothing replaces asking a question and listening to the response.

The book goes on to summarize six core commitments young people are looking for in their church communities:

- Empathy. Youth want to spend time with adults who will model for them how to navigate grief, how to be vulnerable, and how to cope with everything new the world presents. Rather than being “buttoned up,” as some generations have been, this is an invitation to be authentic, to refrain from judgment, and to let youth in.
- Warm relationships. Relationship is so much more important than any “cool factor.”
- Jesus-centered community. Youth are interested in the good news of Jesus (and less interested in Christianity), which means they look to the adults in their churches to learn about witnessing or “walking the talk.”
- Prioritize young people everywhere. If youth really matter, then don’t give lip service to their importance. Involve them in all facets of ministry and congregational life. Give them a voice and a budget. Allow them to serve.
- Be the best neighbors. Ask: who is my neighbor? Courageous neighbors embrace ethnic and socioeconomic diversity. They look for ways to neighbor well, whether that’s by serving or listening. How can our churches be more for the community?
- Keychain leadership. “Keys refer to the capabilities, power, and access of leaders who carry the potential to empower young people.” Which young people are ready for keys, not necessarily to the building (although it can mean that), but who is ready for training and leadership? Who needs to step down to let a new generation lead?

These ideas are both challenging and worth pursuing. Jesus welcomed the children and encouraged others to let them be in his presence. What can New Life do to encourage the same?



NOTES



Notes from Rebecca

Rebecca McDonald, Director of Worship and Music

Kids may not quite feel ready to go back to school, but we can all get excited about worship on Rally Day, August 13th. During both early and late services we will have a backpack blessing. If you are a student, teacher, administrator, or anyone heading back to school in any capacity, you are encouraged to bring your backpack or bag for a special blessing. At 9:15 students can meet their Sunday School teachers in the fellowship hall.



We'll also be rallying our Helping Hands that day – assisting ministers, communion assistants, ushers, acolytes, and tech crew. If you are currently performing one of those roles, please be sure to see Cathy Scott right after worship (both services) on August 13th. She has a copy of our new worship leader handbooks for each of you. Or if you are interested in joining one of the Helping Hands teams, this is a great time to get more information and sign up for a team! Please talk to me or to Cathy should you have any questions.

What's your favorite?

One of my duties here at New Life is to choose music for worship each week, with my primary goal being to select songs and hymns that reflect the readings and themes of the day. So far I've enjoyed teaching new music in both services, and also learning some new songs from you. As we gear up for the fall and all of the special Sundays and seasons to come, I want to continue blending both new and familiar music in worship.



So, this month I'm taking a poll. What's your favorite song or hymn to sing in church? Do you enjoy the old hymns like "Amazing Grace" or "Softly and Tenderly," or do you have a favorite contemporary song like "10,000 Reasons" or "Mighty to Save"? Do you have a suggestion for something you'd like to sing in worship in the future? Of course, I can't promise to implement every suggestion, but I would really love to learn about the songs and hymns, old or new, that you love to sing.

Please email me at music@newlifelutheran.com, text me at 281-705-1173, or slip me a note before or after worship. I can't wait to hear about your favorite worship music!

School Kit Donations

We are collecting items to pack school kits for Lutheran World Relief. The following items can be purchased in bulk and will be combined to create one kit.

Items can be donated in the basket in the narthex:

SCHOOL KIT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Include the following items in each School Kit:



x1

One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17", with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



x4

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½"; no loose-leaf paper



x1

One box of 16 or 24 crayons



x1

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other



x1

One pencil sharpener



x1

One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)



x5

Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band



x5

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band



x1

One 2½" eraser



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Upcoming Events

Senior Lunch: All Seniors 55+ are welcome to join us for lunch August 2 in the fellowship hall 12:00PM—1:00PM.

WELCA Lunch Out: All women of the church are welcome to join us for lunch at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store (11019 Shadow Creek Pkwy) August 9 at 11:30 AM.

Rally Day is Sunday, August 13: Both services that day will include a backpack blessing for all that are headed back to school. At 9:15 AM that day we will gather in the fellowship hall to meet Sunday School teachers. Sunday School classes will begin the following week on August 20.

High School Pool Party: Students in 9th-12th grade will gather for a pool party on Sunday, August 13 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Tatuaca's house.

Mary and Martha Bible Study: All Women of the church are welcome to join us for a Bible study in the fellowship hall Wednesday, August 16 at 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM .

National Youth Gathering Info Meeting: The NYG is scheduled for July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans (<https://www.elca.church/gathering>). We will be taking a group from New Life! All students entering 8th-12th grade this fall are eligible to participate. An event this big takes lots of planning and fundraising. An information meeting for parents and students will take place on Sunday, August 27 at 11:30 AM in the fellowship hall (lunch included). We will learn more about the Gathering, you can ask questions, and we will discuss all the trip options.

God's Work, Our Hands Projects: On Sunday, September 10 we will observe "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. We are looking for service projects in the community. If you have a need or would like to nominate someone who has a need, send an email to office@newlifelutheran.com.



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

Thank you to everyone who helped with this fantastic ministry!

Doug Barron, Lynn Barron, Helen Beckman, Carol Jackman, Tamsey Mims, Donna Patschke, Amanda Patschke, Cheryl Robinson, Bubba Flowers, Michael Scott, Matt Scott, Samaira Sirajee, Mary Anna Vance, Carole Wright, and Walt Wright.

*A special Thank You to Cheryl Robinson for delivering 3 different days!



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) me:

Barbara Flowers @ 713-817-1012
(I am always willing to do On the Job Training).

Our next delivery will be September 18-22.

Check your calendar to see if you might be available to help (so Cheryl doesn't have to do multiple days)

Also, I am working on how long our church has been doing Meals on Wheels (starting with St. Stephen). If you have any information, please share with me.

**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

- Doug B. for maintenance upkeep, despite getting injured on the job (he fell from a ladder and had to have lots of stitches).
- Rebecca M. for her commitment, enthusiasm, and for her fresh ideas for Music and Worship.
- Korie W. for everything she has contributed to in the past years. She has stepped up to new challenges.
- A/V techs: Korie W., Stephen C., Charlie G., John G., Eliza W.
- A/V assessments: Robert C., Bubba F., Rebecca M., Korie W.
- Nancy B. for attending the Synod Assembly.
- Bryan B., Elna R. and Lynn C. for June and July offering counting.
- Elna R., and Tamsey M. for June Opening and Closing.
- Vacation Bible School volunteers: Cheryl R., Helen B., Linda H., Karen D., and Diane T.

We appreciate you ALL so much!

Financial Snapshot

Giving in July 2023 (through July 26)	= \$14,841.39 (58.5%)
Giving needed per month	= \$25,328.00
Giving January—July 2023	= \$148,233.00 (83.6%)
Giving needed January—June 2023	= \$177,296.00

Christian Helping Hands Judy Foucheaux

There was a CHH board meeting on Monday (7-24). The latest on the new building is that it will possibly be completed in Nov. or Dec.

The food poundage from New Life was 166 lbs. for the month of July.

Thank you for your donations.



Vacation Bible School Began on July 30!



Korie Williams' Sending to College on July 30





New Life Lutheran Church

3521 E Orange St.

Pearland, TX 77581

Phone: (281) 485-1818

Website: NewLifeLutheran.com

Facebook: Facebook.com/NewLifePearland

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clayton Faulkner
(pastor@newlifelutheran.com)

Director of Worship and Music: Rebecca McDonald
(music@newlifelutheran.com)

Administrative Assistant: Marissa Zuniga
(office@newlifelutheran.com)

Church Council

President: Bryan Bradford

Vice President: Doug Barron

Secretary: Mary Ann Marcha

Treasurer: Julie Watkins

At Large: Lynn Cope, Vanessa Rincones, Tamsey Mims, Elna Ritter

Helping Hands In Worship
August 2023

	6-Aug	13-Aug	20-Aug	27-Aug
Assisting 8:00 Minister	Helen Beckman	Nancy Bryars		
Communion 8:00 Assistant		Robin Gottlieb		Robin Gottlieb
Communion 8:00 Assistant		Vince Gottlieb		Vince Gottlieb
Ushers 8:00				
Acolyte 8:00				
Assisting 10:30 Minister	Evelyn Baldauf	Lisa H. Weber		
Communion 10:30 Assistant	Linda Hudgens	Merideth Oliver	Nancy Bryars	Linda Hudgens
Communion 10:30 Assistant		Barbara Flowers		
Ushers 10:30	Cathy Scott		Cathy Scott	
Acolyte 10:30				

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>6pm - VBS</div> <div>8am - Traditional Worship @</div> <div>9:15am - Bible Study</div> <div>10:30am - Contemporary Worship</div> <div>12pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>	<div>6:30pm - Girls Scouts Troop</div> <div>8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) @</div> <div>8pm - AI-Anon @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>9am - Quilters Workshop @</div> <div>7pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>	<div>12pm - Senior Lunch @ Fellowship</div>		<div>6pm - WOW - Women of Worth @</div>	<div>10:30am - Phoenix Group</div> <div>4pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>
<div>8am - Traditional Worship @</div> <div>9:15am - Bible Study</div> <div>10:30am - Contemporary Worship</div> <div>12pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>	<div>6:30pm - Girls Scouts Troop</div> <div>8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) @</div> <div>8pm - AI-Anon @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>9am - Quilters Workshop @</div> <div>7pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>	<div>11:30am - WELCA Lunch Out @</div>	<div>10am - Pearlman Area Education</div>	<div>6pm - WOW - Women of Worth @</div>	<div>10:30am - Phoenix Group</div> <div>4pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>
<div>8am - Traditional Worship @</div> <div>9:15am - Bible Study</div> <div>10:30am - Contemporary Worship</div> <div>12pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div> <div>6pm - High School Pool Party</div>	<div>6pm - Church Council Meeting @</div> <div>6:30pm - Girls Scouts Troop</div> <div>8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) @</div> <div>8pm - AI-Anon @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>9am - Quilters Workshop @</div> <div>7pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>	<div>9:30am - Mary Martha Bible Study</div>		<div>6pm - WOW - Women of Worth @</div>	<div>10:30am - Phoenix Group</div> <div>4pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>
<div>8am - Traditional Worship @</div> <div>9:15am - Bible Study</div> <div>10:30am - Contemporary Worship</div> <div>12pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>	<div>6:30pm - Girls Scouts Troop</div> <div>8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) @</div> <div>8pm - AI-Anon @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>9am - Quilters Workshop @</div> <div>7pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>			<div>6pm - WOW - Women of Worth @</div>	<div>10:30am - Phoenix Group</div> <div>4pm - Word Fellowship Christian</div>
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