

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

# *SIGNS OF NEW LIFE*



## **HOLY WEEK**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
MARCH 28 - 7:00 PM

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
MARCH 29  
FISH FRY - 4:30-6:30 PM  
WORSHIP - 7:00 PM

**CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY**  
MARCH 30 - 11:00 AM

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
MARCH 31 - 8:00/10:30 AM  
BRUNCH AT 9:15 AM

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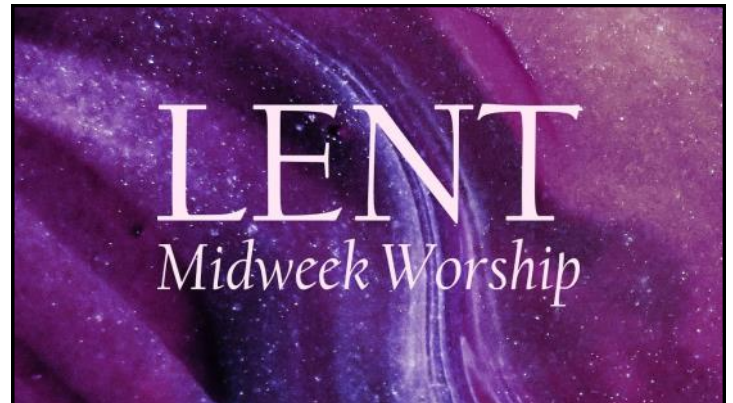
## Walk in Newness of Life Pastor Clayton Faulkner

This is my pitch for you to join us for Wednesday evening Lenten services.

It's an old tradition of the church to gather for worship, Bible study, and a meal during the middle of the week for the Lenten and Advent seasons. If you were to ask me why the church gathers on Wednesdays during these seasons, my answer would be: I don't know. I'm not sure where or when it started, but it is a habit that remains in many churches, although the participation in it is not what it once was.

I think the main idea behind midweek worship is that it is the middle of the week. We are halfway between Sundays and it's a good time to revisit our spiritual community and center ourselves in devotion to God. The evenings, for some, are a better option for worship time than Sunday mornings when other commitments or work are necessary. At New Life, we gather for a community meal at 5:45 PM. This is often treated as a "soup supper" which for some is a meager meal and reminds us of the disciplines of Lent. But for others who like soup, it's a hit!

We usually have around 10 or so people gather for our midweek community meal. Various members of the group will bring their offerings for soup, sides, salads, desserts, or other fares.



There is always plenty of food, and bringing food is certainly not a requirement. The atmosphere is relaxed. The conversation is casual and there is plenty of time to enjoy the company. It's a wonderful time to connect with your church family and visit with more time than we usually have on Sunday mornings.

These community meals are a reminder that all tables are extensions of the communion table. Our Sunday gatherings are centered around the sacrament of bread and wine, a meal of grace and love shared between God and the community. Our Wednesday evening meal is a modest feast, but the hospitality, mutual support, and communal sharing are overflows of our Eucharist table.

Jesus' ministry was repeatedly food-based. He ate with everyone: the disciples, the tax collectors, the sinners, and the dispossessed. The church continues the model Jesus established. We eat together because we are following Jesus' lead.

At 7:00 PM we shift over into the sanctuary for our worship service. There are usually around 25 or so people gathered for the service. During Advent, the season leading up to Christmas, we usually use the Holden Evening Prayer sung setting for worship.

During Lent we shake it up and try out different formats. This year I am teaching on our new core values, focusing on a different one each week:

- *Worship*: Participating in liturgy, rituals, Spirit-guided music, with attention to the seasons of the church year.
- *Family*: Providing compassion for the needs of children, youth, and adults of all ages through fostering meaningful relationships.
- *Hospitality*: Giving abundant welcome to all, especially to guests and strangers, with genuine care and concern for their needs.
- *Community*: Living together in mutual support and fellowship while remaining adaptable to changing circumstances.
- *Service*: Helping others through sharing God's love and caring for those in need.

We also have singing, scripture reading, and prayer. The prayers this Lent are being enhanced by some creative and interactive prayer stations that have been curated by Rebecca McDonald. If you've never prayed in this more tactile way, it is reason enough to come and try it out.

At the culmination of our Lenten journey, we will enter Holy Week. This time is solemn as we accompany Jesus through the final moments of his earthly journey.

Maundy Thursday is March 28 with worship at 7:00 PM. Good Friday is March 29 with the Fish Fry from 4:30-6:30 PM and worship at 7:00 PM. The children's Easter Party is Saturday, March 30 with food, fun, egg hunt, and games at 11:00 AM. Easter Sunday is March 31 with worship at 8:00 and 10:30 AM and a brunch fundraiser at 9:15 AM.





## NOTES



*from Rebecca*



## Notes from Rebecca

### Rebecca McDonald, Director of Worship and Music

#### Taizé Songs in Worship

During this season of Lent, worshippers at New Life will be hearing and singing a number of songs from the Taizé tradition, both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

These songs are very short and are often repeated many times. Taizé songs to listen for in our Lenten worship include: “O Lord Hear My Prayer,” “Bless the Lord My Soul,” “Nada Te Turbe,” “Stay With Me,” and “Jesus, Remember Me.” In the fall we also heard the New Life Choir sing a setting of a Taizé piece, “Ubi Caritas Et Amor” (Where True Charity and Love), and during Advent we sang “Wait for the Lord.”

There are eleven Taizé pieces found in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. So what exactly is Taizé, and why are we singing their songs?

Taizé (pronounced taa-**zay**) is a monastic community in the south of Burgundy, France. It was founded in 1940 by Roger Schutz as an experiment in Protestant monasticism. In the early years, the brothers in the community helped to hide Jews from the Nazis. Today they still place great emphasis on ecumenism, particularly Catholic-Protestant relations.

The community is made up of members from all over the world and from all the major Christian denominations. Important principles of Taizé include reconciliation, both in the church and in the world, and reflective prayer. Community members gather three times a day, 365 days a year, to pray and sing. Every year, thousands of visitors make a pilgrimage to experience the community and its prayer life. However, even more people experience Taizé through their music and principles that Christian churches worldwide have adopted.

The most prevalent Taizé characteristic is the use of repetitive sung prayer. As mentioned, a Taizé song is usually very short, and its simple, catchy melody makes it easy for the congregation to quickly learn.

As the song is repeated over and over, it gains a meditative character. The Taizé website explains: “As the words are sung over many times, this reality [of faith] gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God.” [https://www.taize.fr/en\\_article338.html](https://www.taize.fr/en_article338.html)

Interestingly, the very first iterations of Taizé songs were long, beautiful, and complicated. As groups of young pilgrims began visiting the community, the brothers realized that their music needed to be more accessible if they were to be welcoming to all.

Over time they developed a new repertoire of the simple, meditative songs we now know today. With the international character of the group, the songs are often sung in different languages. Ideally, the song is repeated as often as desired during worship, as opposed to determining the number of repetitions in advance.

Another principle of Taizé worship is the use of silence. Their typical service elements of prayer, singing, and scriptures are interspersed with long periods of silence. The Taizé site reminds us, “Peaceful communion with God can do without words.” [https://www.taize.fr/en\\_article12.html](https://www.taize.fr/en_article12.html)

In our busy and chaotic world, we often do not make time for complete silence. We tend to want to fill any lulls with words or music or social media or anything to keep us entertained. What if we spent more time being silent and still, whether in worship or in little moments throughout our day?

I hope you find meaning in the beautiful Taizé songs we sing in worship. I hope you find yourself humming some of the tunes as you go about your day. I hope these songs contribute to your worship and prayer life. I hope you also find moments to enjoy some silence. And I hope to see you in worship!



## Upcoming Events

**Meals on Wheels:** New Life will help deliver meals to our community the week of March 4-8. Contact Barbara Flowers to sign up.

**Senior Lunch:** All Seniors 55+ are welcome to join us for lunch on Wednesday, March 6 in the fellowship hall at 12:00 PM. Join us for food and fellowship as we Go Texan and celebrate the Houston Rodeo! A presentation will be made by Jerry Bradshaw, the Urban Forester for Pearland.

**Midweek Lenten Worship:** Join us for worship on Wednesdays during the season of Lent, on March 6, 13, and 20. We will gather for a potluck soup supper at 5:45 PM, followed by worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM.

**Daylight Savings:** Set your clocks forward on Sunday, March 10.

**WELCA Lunch Out:** All women of the church are welcome to join us for lunch on Wednesday, March 13.

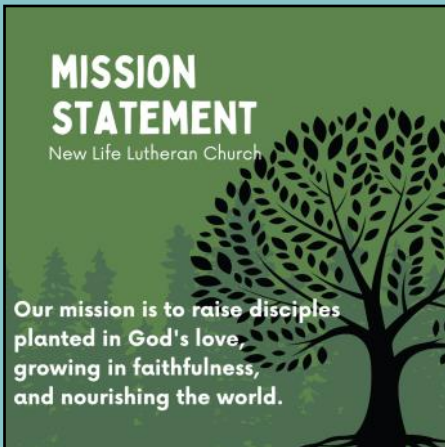
**First Communion Class:** Sunday, March 17 at 11:30 AM. For parents and children who are ready to begin receiving Holy Communion. Contact Pastor Clayton to sign up.

**Mary and Martha Bible Study:** All women of the church are welcome to join us for a Bible study in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, March 20 at 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM.

**Seder Meal:** Tuesday, March 26 at 6:00 PM. For Confirmation and First Communion families and students.

### Holy Week Schedule:

- Palm Sunday, March 24 – Worship at 8:00 and 10:30 AM
- Maundy Thursday, March 28 – Worship at 7:00 PM
- Good Friday, March 29 – Fish Fry at 4:30-6:30 PM; Worship at 7:00 PM
- Easter Party, Saturday, March 30 – Food, fun, egg hunt, and games at 11:00 AM
- Easter Sunday, March 31 – Worship at 8:00 and 10:30 AM; Brunch fundraiser at 9:15 AM





## Quilters

New Life Quilters sold over 20 quilts on Reformation Sunday! The rest were sent to Lutheran World Relief. They meet every Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall and all women are welcome to help make quilts and have fellowship with the ladies.

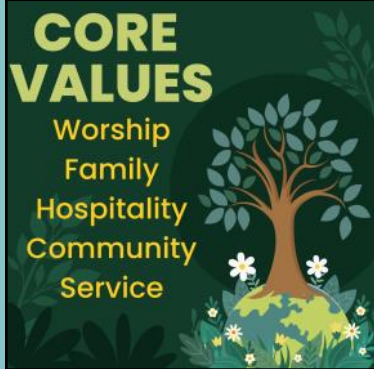
Quilting is a year-round activity and once the quilts are sent to LWR, the work of creating more for next year begins.



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

On Tuesday, February 13 the church gathered for a meal and fellowship before starting our Lenten journey. Thanks to the church council members who provided and prepared the food. Thanks also for supporting our youth in their flower arrangement fundraiser.





## Thank You! From Church Council and Staff

- Lynn B., Karen D., and Judy F. for sewing quilts at home so the quilters can tie each Tuesday.
- Bob L. for his generous donation to Christian Helping Hands during the Souper Bowl of Caring in memory of his wife Dianne.
- Vince and Robin G. for cleaning wax from the pews and organizing them.
- Walt W. for replacing a doorknob.
- Walt W. and Bryan B. for addressing the plumbing.
- Charlotte T. for providing help with our records in the office.
- Bryan B. for offering to substitute as assisting minister.
- Austin T. for his beautiful musical offering in worship.
- New Life Choir for their faithful musical offerings in worship.
- All who donated food and money for the Souper Bowl of Caring.
- The Vision Team for their work in creating our new guiding statement: Bubba F., Abby R., Rebecca R., Lisa H.W., Laura S., Cathy S., and Evelyn B.
- Laura S. for quickly volunteering to serve as a communion assistant in worship!

*We appreciate you ALL so much!*

## Financial Snapshot

Giving in Feb 2024 (through Feb 27)	= \$21,357 (86.8%)
Giving needed per month	= \$24,617.00
Giving January—February 2024	= \$37,895.00 (77%)
Giving needed January—February 2024	= \$49,234.00

## Apostles' Creed Projects in Confirmation

Max Castillo shares his confirmation project. The students are tasked with representing the Apostles' Creed in a creative way. Max chose to draw a picture of Jesus' baptism. Reggie Minja drew a Luther rose emblem. Lucas Cummings composed a piece of music for trumpet!





## Environews

### Helen Beckman

**Thursday, March 14 is Garden Lecture Facebook & YouTube Live** at 7 P.M. The topic is “**Composting with Children**”. To view recordings of past episodes, go to KPB Monthly Garden Lectures.

**Saturday, March 16 is the monthly Paper Shredding Event** at the Stella Roberts Recycling Center (SRRC) from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

**Saturday, March 23 is Pearland Waterways Litter Cleanup at Centennial Park** from 7:30 – 10 A.M.

**Saturday, April 6 at 8:30 A.M. is Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off**, our next Adopt-a-Spot cleanup.

Last month our Orange Street litter cleanup was split between two days, Saturdays February 10 and 24, due to threatened rain on the tenth. Thanks to Helen Beckman, Cheryl Robinson, and Walt Wright over the two days 3 hours were spent collecting 2 full bags of trash, about 1/3 bag of recycling and 231 cigarette butts. Our next cleanup will be April 6 and then no more until fall on September 21.

Pastor Clayton and I recently had a nice visit with Pearland's urban forester, Jerry Bradshaw, about trees for our property. We learned that because of the city's tree fund, the city can be very helpful to us with providing trees for our property. Mr. Bradshaw will be speaker at our next Seniors meeting, March 6. Be sure to bring any questions you have about trees.

A number of years ago Pearland became a Tree City as designated by Arbor Day. Some of the requirements are to have an urban forester on staff, inventory all trees on public property, and of course maintain and plant trees that are native or adaptive to our area. Each year the Tree City title needs to be renewed by continuing the above requirements and adding to the Pearland tree canopy. Due to last year's drought, many trees were lost and are now in the process of being replaced.

Correction: Last month I wrote that studies show that hand writing boosts brain connectivity. That is true, but that's both cursive and printing by hand as opposed to typing or keyboarding.

Praise God for trees that sustain us with clean air, shade us from scorching sun, protect our property with roots to hold back soil from erosion, provide food with fruit and nuts, and natural entertainment with birds and animals that dwell in them.



## Austin Tatuaca Musical Offering

Austin provided a musical offering on Sunday, February 11 at the 8:00 AM service. Austin is one of our students who attended Lutheran Summer Music last summer and plans to go again this year. He also was selected for the high school all region band recently. Thanks for sharing your gifts, Austin!



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## Zachary Minja First Communion

Zachary received his first communion on February 4. Zachary is in the fifth grade and attended the first communion class where he learned about the sacrament. Welcome to the feast at God's table!





# LUTHERHILL SUMMER

# 2024

## THE BEST. WEEK. EVER. AWAITS!

2 WEEK SESSIONS!

**JUNE 9-21**

**JR. HIGH CONNECT** *Bridges 2 Weeks of Jr. High Camps*

**LYLE 1** *Weekend Stay at Lutherhill La Grange*

**LYLE 2** *Weekend Stay at Lutherhill Galveston*

**NEW**

**JUNE 9-14**

WEEK 1

ALPHA  
YOUNGN  
YEARLING  
JR. HIGH

**JUNE 16-21**

WEEK 2

ALPHA  
YOUNGN  
YEARLING  
JR. HIGH ADVENTURE  
ONSITE DAY CAMP

**JUNE 23-28**

WEEK 3

BEACH CAMP AT  
LUTHERHILL  
GALVESTON FOR  
JR. & SR. HIGH

**JUNE 30 -  
JULY 5**

WEEK 4

FAMILY CAMP  
ONSITE DAY CAMP

**JULY 7-12**

WEEK 5

ALPHA  
YOUNGN  
YEARLING  
JR. HIGH AMAZING RACE  
SR. HIGH ADVENTURE

**JULY 21-26**

WEEK 7

ALPHA  
YOUNGN  
YEARLING  
JR. HIGH ADVENTURE  
ONSITE DAY CAMP

**JULY 28 -  
AUGUST 2**

WEEK 8

YOUNGN  
YEARLING  
JR. HIGH  
ONSITE DAY CAMP



**Register Today!**

[WWW.LUTHERHILL.ORG](http://WWW.LUTHERHILL.ORG)

ALPHA | Completed 1st or 2nd 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

**Free  
Family  
event!**

**Open Camp Day**  
June 1st



LA GRANGE • GALVESTON

**LUTHERHILL**  
MINISTRIES

what are you waiting for?

## Meals on Wheels Update Barbara Flowers

We will be delivering meals this month on Monday, March 4 – Friday, March 8. Thank you to everyone who helps with this fantastic ministry!

### 2024 Future Dates

- **April 29-May 3**
- **June 24-28**
- **August 19-23**
- **October 14-18**
- **December 9-13**

We are always in need of extra drivers/delivery volunteers. If you are thinking you might want to help with one of the above dates, please let me know. It is really simple, takes about 2 hours, and you only NEED to agree to one day. Reach me at 713-817-1012.

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

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## Welcome to Our New Members—The Kisaka/Minja Family!

Please welcome Raynold Minja, Gloria Kisaka, Reggie, and Zachary to our church family. Raynold and Gloria have been married for 15 years and are originally from Tanzania. Reggie is in 8th grade at McNair Junior High School and will be confirmed in May. Zachary is in 5th grade at Glenn York Elementary School. They are happy to be joining the New Life Lutheran family.





## Women of the ELCA “Brunch and Bunco” Meeting

WELCA’s 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of 2024 was well attended by New Life members and invited guests; attendance of 22 at the Feb 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

President, Cheryl Robinson and Treasurer, Julie Watkins took charge of the meeting details of Old and New business. Bank account officers were appointed and Cheryl R. will contact the Cluster lead to get New Life back in circulation with the other WELCA groups. It was suggested to have meetings every other month on a Sunday (noon). Some ideas were recommended for meeting events.

Everyone brought a food item to share and the game Bunco was played; winners from first to last were awarded. Bunco was such a great idea; lots of laughs, shouts and fellowship.

We invite the same and new faces to our next meeting in April (TBD).





### **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))

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

### **Church Council**

President: Bryan Bradford

Vice President: Korie Williams

Secretary: Tamsey Mims

Treasurer: Julie Watkins

At Large: Evelyn Baldauf, Lisa Hitchcock-Weber, Elna Ritter,  
Cheryl Robinson



## Donations Needed at New Life

Air Filters: 20x18x1 (1) and 20x20x1 (10 every other month).

Light Bulbs: T-12 and T-8 LED/Fluorescent Tubes (Daylight)

2'x2' Ceiling Tiles

Bottled water (any size)

Coffee (regular and decaf)

Individual creamers (Hazelnut and French vanilla)

8 pack of Powdered Creamer or Sugar

Sweeteners (Equal, Sweet-N-Low, Stevia or Sugar)

Z-fold paper towels

2 ply toilet paper (Charmin ultra plus)

Lawn maintenance (\$560/month)

Altar flowers (\$45/Sunday - sign up in the Narthex)

If you shop at Randalls, use their "Good Neighbor" Program

Rewards to benefit New Life: Number 4748

If you shop at Kroger, use their Community Awards Program to benefit New Life: TX769

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## New Life's MASSIVE Souper Bowl Food Donation on Feb. 11



# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
8am - Traditional Worship @ 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary 12pm - Word Fellowship					First Day of Women's History 6pm - WOW - Women of	10:30am - Phoenix Group 4pm - Word Fellowship
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8am - Traditional Worship @ 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary 12pm - Word Fellowship	Meals on Wheels Delivery 6:30pm - Girls Scouts Troop 8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) @ 8pm - Al-Anon @ Sanctuary	9am - Quilters Workshop 7pm - Word Fellowship	12pm - Senior Lunch @ 5:45pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Midweek Lenten	6pm - Property Team	6pm - WOW - Women of	10:30am - Phoenix Group 4pm - Word Fellowship
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time starts 8am - Traditional Worship @ 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary 12pm - Word Fellowship	6pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Girls Scouts Troop 8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) @ 8pm - Al-Anon @ Sanctuary	9am - Quilters Workshop 7pm - Word Fellowship	5:45pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Midweek Lenten	10am - Pearlman Area	6pm - WOW - Women of	10:30am - Phoenix Group 4pm - Word Fellowship
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day 8am - Traditional Worship @ 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary 12pm - Word Fellowship	6:30pm - Girls Scouts Troop 8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) @ 8pm - Al-Anon @ Sanctuary	9am - Quilters Workshop 7pm - Word Fellowship	9:30am - Mary Martha Bible 5:45pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Midweek Lenten		6pm - WOW - Women of	10:30am - Phoenix Group 4pm - Word Fellowship
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8am - Traditional Worship @ 9:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary 12pm - Word Fellowship	6:30pm - Girls Scouts Troop 8pm - AA Meeting (Co-Ed) @ 8pm - Al-Anon @ Sanctuary	9am - Quilters Workshop 6pm - Seder Meal 7pm - Word Fellowship		7pm - Maundy Thursday	4:30pm - Fish Fry 7pm - Good Friday Worship	10:30am - Phoenix Group 11am - Children's Easter 4pm - Word Fellowship
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Easter Sunday 8am - Traditional Worship @ 9:15am - Brunch 10:30am - Contemporary 12pm - Word Fellowship						