



# The Vine

New Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

March 2024



Dear Folks and Friends of New Life,

Sometimes, we need reminders about the things we love. My reminder over the month of February is that I love a well-told story. The vivid scenes, the plot twists, and the emotional roller coasters of a good story pull me in and take me into another world.

Over the month of February, we had many awesome opportunities here at New Life to share and listen to stories. Our Spiritual Renewal Weekend was all about stories that connect us to one another. Our Learning Hour has been studying the book of Daniel with its famous stories of fiery furnaces, fantastical dreams, lion's dens, and God's faithfulness through it all. We began our "Wandering Hearts" Lenten study groups, where we follow the disciple Peter's story and relate to his ups and downs with our own.

As we enter March, we will continue to encounter incredible stories found in Scripture and in our daily lives. As always, I encourage you to take part in our many fellowship and educational ministries here at New Life! You will find wonderful stories there. The Sunday Scripture readings will involve Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) stories of God's faithfulness to Israel, as well as Gospel stories of Jesus' journey toward the cross.

I want to make a special request. This year, please consider joining us for all four services of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. (Details are found within this newsletter.) Holy Week is *the pinnacle* of the Christian story! Join this community as we ponder anew these stories that narrate the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

After all, who doesn't love a good story?

Peace of Christ,

Pastor Paul



### Offerings Year To Date 2024

February offerings were	\$9,018
Amt. of offerings received (Jan.-Feb. 2024)	\$16,595
Amt. of offerings budgeted (Jan.-Feb. 2024)	\$16,333



Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum presenting on "Who is My Neighbor?" at the Spiritual Renewal on February 10th.

# Save The Date

**Baby Shower**  
**For Pastor Paul &**  
**Pastor Logan**  
**April 14 @ 2:00 pm**  
**at NLLC**  
**It's a joint shower**  
**with FUMC**  
**Everyone is invited.**  
**Details to follow.**

*Spring Forward*



**March 10, 2024 • Set your clock ahead!**

### Fellowship Snack Providers - March

We are using the following schedule for fellowship snack providers.

Last names beginning with the following letters will be asked to provide snacks:

<b>FEB</b>	<b>ABCD</b>
<b>MAR</b>	<b>EFGHIJK</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>LMNOP</b>
<b>JAN</b>	<b>QRSTUVWXYZ</b>

## Property Update

We received two big updates on the property over the past month.

1. The Church Council approved another extension on the sell-by date. Now, the sell-by date is April 30th. The extension was requested because the City of Florence is going to do some water table testing on the sale property in either March or April. As a gesture of goodwill, the buyer, Pacific Rental Corp., released \$10,000 of the sale money to New Life.
  2. On the surveying side of things, Northwest Land Surveying, Inc. will be finalizing the land survey in early March. This will kick off the final process of registering the new boundaries with the city and county.
- Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Paul

**Lent: February 14th to March 27th**  
**(excluding Sundays)**

In the season of Lent, we enter into the forty-day fast that Jesus undertook in the wilderness. We prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter in this season through the traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving--all things that are meant to deepen our connection to God.

The season starts with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. It is in this service that we are reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

You may be wondering: why doesn't Lent include Sundays? Even during Lent, we are called to treat every Sunday like a little Easter! On Sundays, we celebrate the paschal mystery: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Sundays are always meant to be days of celebration and feasting.

**Easter Lilies!**

18 Pre-Ordered Lilies, \$12.99 donation. Those who wish to donate: please indicate if you want to donate in honor/remembrance of a loved one. Please contact Ardel Braley (541-997-6803) if you are interested.

# Holy Week

**Palm Sunday** (Sunday, March 24th, at 10:30am)

This Sunday kicks off Holy Week, the biggest week of the church calendar. The beginning of the service begins with cries of "Hosanna!" as we, like the people of Jerusalem long ago, welcome Jesus with the waving of palm branches.

**Maundy Thursday** (Thursday, March 28th, at 4:30pm, at Florence United Methodist Church)

"Maundy" (a take on a Latin phrase meaning "mandate") Thursday is an intimate service. This service commemorates the night of the Last Supper. The "mandate" is Jesus' new commandment to the disciples (and to us!) to love one another. We will receive absolution for our sins, hear the loving words of Jesus, receive the Lord's Supper, and strip the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

**Good Friday** (Friday, March 29th, at 4:30pm, at NLLC)

Good Friday is the day we commemorate Jesus' death on the cross. This is the most somber day of the church year, but we celebrate it because of what it means for us and for the world's relationship with God.

**Easter Sunday** (Sunday, March 31st, at 10:30am, and Easter Season (March 31st up to Pentecost, May 19th)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The miracle of Christ's resurrection and God's ultimate victory over death is the cause of celebration this day and season. We bring back the word, "Alleluia" (meaning, "Praise to God"), and we rejoice in what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.



**Lenten Study Small Groups**

New Life is doing a joint Lenten Study with Florence United Methodist Church as part of our ongoing Friendship Process. The theme for the study is "Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter". There will be singing, reflection, Scripture study, and more!

There will be two opportunities every week in Lent for you to participate:

**Wednesdays at 4:30pm in the Parsonage (1135 2nd Street).**

—This session will be led by Pastor Paul and Beth and Patty Evans.

**Fridays at 10:00am in the Florence United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (333 Kingwood Avenue).**

—This session will be led by Pastor Logan and Claudia Siebert

The sessions, lasting around an hour, will begin February 21st and 23rd and will take place every week until March 20th and 22nd.

**NLLC**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 15, 2023**

**Call to Order:** President, Wayne Kern called the Council meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Present were Roy Hager, Sue MacTaggart, Cathy Dietz, Bryant Payne, Treasurer, Barb Vogel, Vice-President, Lisa Dreher, Secretary, and Pastor Paul Strike.

Meeting opened with Pastor Paul leading prayer.

**Minutes:** Approval of Council Minutes for two separate meetings held on January 18th, and February 4, Roy made the motion to approve both minutes, Bryant seconded, the motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bryant presented January financials. **Endowment committee** to disperse \$3,556.00 currently deposited in Western Lane Grant Fund account. Fine tuning reports generated by the new accounting system continues.

**President's Report:** Wayne presented the following items: **Sale of land update:** The ground water level report will take place at a date determined by the city during high water season sometime in March or April. The extension expires on April 30<sup>th</sup>, hopefully that will be enough time to finalize the report. A check from the buyer for \$10,000.00 (original \$5,000 earnest money and \$5,000 additional good-faith funds) was received by mail. The check was made out to New Life Center. Bryant will isolate this deposit and it will show as a separate line item. The Title company or realtor will be contacted to ensure the correction of the name be made on the paperwork. Rob Ward, surveyor, reports the survey may be complete by mid-March or sooner. Then it will go the city, then to the county for signatures. All this must occur before we can close the sale. **The Financial Planning Committee Members** are Wayne Kern, Pastor Paul, Ken Henderson, Dave Braley, Bryant Payne and Roy Hager. **The Men's Group** was able to get some work done last week. Weather permitting, items to be addressed will be pressure washing the Church, moss removal on the garage roof, painting touch ups, and landscaping. Sue pointed out the loose and broken tiles on the ladies restroom floor needs to be repaired quickly. **Habitat For Humanity** trailer parked near the church garage-has been removed.

**Pastor's Report:** **Friendship process** with the Methodist church continues. Last week's Ash Wednesday service and the Spiritual renewal weekend were successes. The combined study for Lent begins February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:40 pm, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am, then continuing on Wednesday and Friday the following week. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the church. **Away dates for Pastor Paul:** **March 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>**. This will be the last time he and Logan have time together before the baby is born. Lay ministers will handle the issues that arise during this time with the exception of extreme emergencies. **March 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>**, Pastor Paul will be attending a continuing education course in Arizona. The funding will be covered by a grant, no cost to the church. **April 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>**, baby shower for family in Washington, this includes the Sunday after Easter, and a Lay Minister will conduct the service. **Holy Week** special services will be combined with the Methodist Church. **Maundy Thursday** will be at the Methodist Church and **Good Friday** will be at New Life.

**Old Business:** Retreat for church council on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, will be from 9:30 to 12:30 at the Parsonage. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and the agenda will be emailed to participants this week. **Brauer card** is ready for signatures from the congregation, and a special thank you letter has been written by Pastor Paul. **Neighbor reports:** **Food Share** states 3 overnight campers removed in the last month and a half, and they are applying for a grant to repair their portion of the parking lot. Expected completion in Q3 of 2024. Also, they report a burnt-out streetlight at north side of the parking lot on Spruce. It is believed the light is the responsibility of the city or CLPUD.

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NLLC Church Council

**February 15, 2023**

Continued

**Bright Beginnings Preschool** note trash left on south and east sides of their building. The men's group may need to do a regular patrol to pick up areas of concern. Code enforcement officer, Dan Frazier, is monitoring parked cars on our lot for removal when needed. Also, a window was broken during the last storm. A log that was used to weight down a tarp covering the sandbox went through a smaller lower window in a classroom. Section 4, line E of the lease state that the Lessee shall pay to fix damages that they have caused. As this seems to fall within a gray area and no one is directly responsible for the damages, discussion was needed to resolve this issue. Roy motioned to pay the invoice if it was under \$200.0 then withdrew motion as concerns about setting a precedent were voiced. Wayne suggested a compromise as an offer of good will to split the cost. Barb motioned that we pay half of the invoice, if we were asked to pay for repairs. Bryant seconded; the motion was passed. **A report** of an AA member carrying a weapon to a meeting on our property was made to the Pastor. The church has no written policy, but the Preschool has a licensing requirement of no firearms, ammunition, etc., be on the premises at any time. Pastor will speak to the AA group leaders for clarification of the situation. Issue to be tabled until more information available.

**New Business:** Due to medical therapy treatments located in Eugene, Cathy will be out of the office beginning Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> until April 12<sup>th</sup>. She will continue to work remotely as she is able in the afternoons. Our reduced office hours will be Tuesday to Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm, with a volunteer on Tuesdays to answer the phone, monitor voice mail messages, respond to the doorbell and help with printing and copying. Pastor Paul will cover Wednesday and Thursday.

**Next Meeting:** March 21, 2024, at 4:00 pm.

**Meeting Closed:** Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Adjourned at 5:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dreher, Secretary

NLLC Church Council

Special Addendum Meeting

**February 4, 2024**

Call to Order: President, Wayne Kern called the Special Council meeting to order at 11:38 am. Present were Roy Hager, Sue MacTaggart, Cathy Dietz, Lisa Dreher, Secretary, and Pastor Paul Strike.

Wayne opened this to discuss an addendum to the real estate sale agreement. A city public works requirement of ground water test pits to be dug to check the ground water levels during the high-water season that runs from March to April necessitates an extension to April 30, 2024.

Wayne entertained motion to approve the addendum. Motion to approve request for the extension by Roy, motion seconded by Cathy.

Vote to approve passed unanimously. Sue asked for clarification regarding the additional \$10,000.00 offered as a show good faith by the developer. This amount will be released through escrow to the church upon completion of the sale.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Cathy, motion seconded by Roy.

**Meeting Closed:** 11: 50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dreher, Secretary