



# The Vine

New Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

April 2024



Dear Folks and Friends of New Life,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

This year, Easter marks the arrival of spring in our little corner of the Oregon coast. Our beloved rhododendrons are blooming; Florence Food Share has put down its chicken manure for another season of gardening; and we are basking in just a little more sunlight than in January and February.

I am ignorant to the practices of planting, pruning, and all things related to tending plants. Because of that, I find the blooming and greening of the world in spring to be a wondrous, unexplainable miracle! Whether you are like me or whether you have a green thumb, you have probably made connections between Easter and springtime. This year, I am reminded of a mysterious little hymn in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* titled "Now the Green Blade Rises" (ELW 379). The second verse reads:

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that he would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

The tomb of Jesus here is not the final setting of his story. Instead, it is likened to a seed that, when in the ground, is preparing to spring forth. Now, let's look at the next verse:

*Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

The seed sprouts forth grain! The tomb sprouts forth the resurrected Jesus! What does this mean for us, though? The hymn writer, John MacLeod Campbell Crum, offers this:

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Your touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

We, too, are seeds. No matter where our hearts are, God's touch can spring life out of us again. That is the promise of the resurrection in our own lives. God has done this in Jesus, and God promises to do the same for us, as well.

Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Peace of Christ,

Pastor Paul



### Offerings Year To Date 2024

February offerings were	\$10,104
Amt. of offerings received (Jan.-Mar. 2024)	\$26,699
Amt. of offerings budgeted (Jan.-Mar. 2024)	\$24,500

# Save The Date

**Baby Shower  
For  
Pastor Paul &  
Pastor Logan  
April 14 @ 2:00 pm  
at NLLC  
It's a joint shower  
with FUMC**



### Fellowship Snack Providers - April

We are using the following schedule for fellowship snack providers.

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

<b>APR</b>	<b>LMNOP</b>
MAY	QRSTUWXYZ
JUNE	A-D
JULY	E-K

### Easter

(Sunday, March 31st to May 19th--Pentecost Sunday)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The miracle of Christ's resurrection and God's ultimate victory over death is the cause of celebration this season. After our Lenten journey, we bring back the word, "Alleluia" (meaning, "Praise to God"), and we rejoice in what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Our readings will include stories of the first apostles in Acts; the love-filled letter of 1 John; and stories of Jesus that reveal more fully who he is--both before his death and after his resurrection. He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!



## Property Update

### Property Update

We are currently waiting on two things to happen:

1. Northwest Surveying, Inc. will be sending us the final survey shortly. This will need to go through the city and county for final approval.
2. The city still needs to conduct water table testing on the undeveloped land.

As of now, the sell-by date is still April 30th. We will keep you posted on any further developments.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Paul

## Free Lunch Pantry Update

Thanks to everyone who brought food to help supply the pantry for the Free Lunch Program .

We filled the barrel in the back of the church !!! We delivered much needed coffee, juice, cookies and toiletries on March 28. We will continue to collect these items during April.

Good Work NLLC !!

**Can we fill the barrel again?**



**Signs of Spring**



# Cinco De Mayo Sunday



May 5, 2024

11:30am During Fellowship



Look for Salsa!  
sign-up sheets in the Narthex



**NLLC**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2023**

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

Meeting opened with Pastor Paul leading prayer.

Minutes: Approval of Council Minutes for the meeting held on February 15th, Roy made the motion to approve both minutes, Sue seconded, the motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Bryant presented February financials. **1.** Council agreed to make insurance payments and Synod on a quarterly basis.

**President's Report:**

Wayne presented the following items. **1.** Sale of land update: Rob Ward completed the survey of the property. **2.** The Financial Planning Committee met, next meeting April 19 th . **3.** The Men's Group attended to small landscape projects.

**Pastor's Report:**

**1.** Holy Week plans in place. **2.** April 5 th – 7 th , Pastor will be away, Barb to inquire into availability of a substitute. **3.** New member class may be in April or possibly in the fall.

**Old Business:**

**1.** Cathy's time away will be extended, additional volunteer staffing for office hours will be needed. **2. Neighbor reports:** a. Food Share, concern over a burnt-out streetlight at north side of the parking lot on Spruce continues. Pastor to contact the city to report outage. b. Bright Beginnings Preschool has been experiencing increases in cost of business burdens and requested forgiveness of rent for July and August of the toddler room due to summer recess and a guarantee of no increase in their rent for the facility next year. Roy motioned we forgive the requested \$800.00 rent of the toddler space and table the discussion of the rent freeze until a later date. Bryant seconded; motion passed. Pastor Paul will notify the preschool of our decision. **3.** Refresh committee will be needed to prioritize repairs and maintenance of the church. Their recommendations will either be given to the Men's Group to implement or contracted out. Roy to preside and Sue will be on the committee. We will be seeking additional members to assist. **4.** Weapon/gun policy in process. Proposals will be emailed to council members, and we will vote on a final draft.

**New Business:**

**1.** Pastoral leave coverage progressing. Deacons will cover pastoral care; Lay ministers will be asked to fill in, and Pastor Greg of the Presbyterian church will be available for emergencies. We will join the Presbyterian church for one Sunday service on May 19 th . We will budget coverage of pulpit supply to cover some of the six Sundays needed for Pastor Paul's parental leave and vacation. **2.** Synod Assembly is June 1 st . We will need 2 representatives to attend and vote in the yearly business meeting. They must be registered by May 1 st and the Pastor to recruit. **3.** Bridges Program of Florence. A request to offer an invitation to their unhoused occupants to attend our church was made. These folks have been vetted to be able to stay at this 24/7 pallet housing shelter and the Anchor of Hope van would be used for their transportation. Possible additional training for mental health and first aid may be made available to our congregation and this will be looked into as well as further information into their program guidelines.

Next Meeting: April 18th, at 4:00 pm.

Meeting Closed: Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Dreher, Secretary

# Christ is Risen!



**He is Risen Indeed!**