



The Vine

New Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

May 2024



Dear Folks and Friends of New Life,

Change is afoot here at New Life! The focus of this article is to detail plans during my parental leave and expectations as we near the end of my pastorate here at New Life.

Parental leave will last for four weeks, starting the day of the birth of Pastor Logan's and my kiddo. An announcement will be sent out to notify you when it happens. Then, the following plans are in place for worship, pastoral care, and administration:



Our **worship** schedule will be the following:

May 12th: If I am gone, Bryant Payne will serve as the Lay Leader for worship at New Life.

May 19th: Pentecost Sunday worship at Presbyterian Community Church.

May 26th: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum will serve as Presiding Minister at New Life.

June 2nd: Joint worship at Florence United Methodist Church.

June 9th: If I am still gone, Dave Braley will serve as the Lay Leader for worship at New Life.

****All worship services begin at 10:30am.**

For **pastoral care** concerns, please first call or email Gail Payne. Her contact information is:

phone: 925-998-8945; email: gmpayne@att.net

For **administration** questions, please contact Cathy Dietz at the church office. You can find the office email and phone number here in this newsletter.

On April 21st, I announced to the congregation that Pastor Logan and I are moving to Grants Pass, where Pastor Logan will begin her new position as Pastor of Newman United Methodist Church. My resignation letter can be found later in the newsletter. It looks like my last Sunday with you all will be **Sunday, July 14th**.

Wayne Kern, the Council President, and I are actively working with the Synod on figuring out next steps as New Life transitions into a time of interim ministry. Wayne will keep you all informed.

Suffice to say for now, please know that I will continue to serve you all with the skills and grace that God has given me. I am happy to talk, to visit, and to do the good things of pastoring for this congregation, as I have for the last three years.

I have full faith that God will continue to guide this congregation during this emotional, yet exciting, time in its history. May we continue together in our mission: "Serving Christ by serving others"!

Peace of Christ,

Pastor Paul

Offerings Year To Date 2024

April offerings were	\$9,190
Amt. of offerings received (Jan.-Apr. 2024)	\$35,889
Amt. of offerings budgeted (Jan.-Mar. 2024)	\$32,664

Pentecost and Time After Pentecost May 19th to November 24th

Pentecost Sunday (Sunday, May 19th) is a festival day when we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit among the multi-ethnic crowd of apostles in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit will guide these apostles to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the rest of the known world, just as it guides us today. On this day, all are invited to wear the color red, which represents the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit. This year, like those gathered in Jerusalem long ago, we celebrate with other folks who we don't normally join on a regular Sunday morning: our siblings in Christ gathered from Florence United Methodist Church and Presbyterian Community Church! We worship together at 10:30am at Presbyterian Community Church that day. The long season that follows Pentecost Sunday focuses on the theme of discipleship and asks us: how may we live as Christ-followers today?

Thank You!

Greetings to you from Ardel Braley's brother, John Duvall. I wish to thank the congregation for all your prayers of asking Jesus to watch over me, my family and my medical team. I am blessed to have many people know that our Lord and Savior is the One we lean on during difficult times.

Yours in Christ,
John Duvall



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

Considerable progress was made during April on completing final steps necessary to sell the Church's undeveloped property. First, the deed to the property was officially changed to New Life Lutheran Church, Inc., an overlooked step that needed to be done in order to sell the property. Second, the final partition survey was submitted to Lane County for review and comment. Once requested changes, if any, are made, the survey can be executed by the Church and returned to Lane County for official filing. Finally, the buyer excavated test pits for soil analysis and groundwater evaluation. This concludes information gathering required by the City of Florence to finalize design requirements for development of the property. At this time, it appears that closing could occur by the end of May or the first part of June.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Kern

Fellowship Snack Providers - May

We are using the following schedule for fellowship snack providers.

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

APR	LMNOP
MAY	QRSTUVWXYZ
JUNE	A-D
JULY	E-K

Cinco De Mayo Sunday

May 5, 2024



11:30am During Fellowship



Salsa!

April 18th, 2024

Dear Folks and Friends of New Life Lutheran Church,

We hope you are well!

One of the wonderful things about ministry here at New Life is the opportunity to be host to so many groups in the church building. We are proud of the benefits these groups offer to the larger Florence community, and we are hopeful that these relationships only continue to grow in the future.

Recently, New Life's Church Council came to understand that one of our on-site partners, Bright Beginnings Pre-school, is required to prohibit the storage and possession of firearms on its premises. According to the Oregon Department of Learning and Care's most recent version of its *Rules for Certified Child Care Centers and General Rules for All Childcare Facilities* (you can find a copy of this document when you click [here](#)), you will find the following under the section labeled "414-305-0840 Prevention and Management of Hazards":

"(6) A certified child care center must not permit the possession or storage of guns, firearms, weapons, or ammunition on the center premises at any time."

This means that no individuals or groups are allowed to possess or store guns, firearms, weapons, or ammunition in church buildings and the parking lot at any time.

We expect and appreciate your full compliance with this rule from this moment onward.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the church office phone number: 541-997-8113. You may also stop by the church office during its open hours: Tuesdays from 9-10am and 12-4pm; and Wednesday and Thursday from 10am-3pm. A member of the Church Council or the Pastor will be available to you.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. As we continue to discern our shared future together, may we do so in a spirit of peace, collaboration, and hope.

In Christ,
The New Life Lutheran Church Council

Sunday, April 21st, 2024

Dear Folks and Friends of New Life,

On September 1st, 2021, I began my call as your pastor. Since then, I have been blessed by each one of you. We have worshipped together, prayed with each other, cared for one another, and done the holy things of life together. I am grateful for this time, and for what God has done in and through the ministry of this congregation.

Pastor Logan and I have grown a lot here in Florence. We have both had tremendous experiences as pastors; we have made terrific friends; and we have seized wonderful opportunities. Recently, conversations around our future began to take a turn toward a new horizon. We came to understand that our priorities are guiding us on to a different path than the one we have walked here in Florence.

The week after Easter, Pastor Logan received an offer to serve as Pastor of Newman United Methodist Church in Grants Pass. After much prayer and discernment, Pastor Logan has decided to accept this appointment. She will begin her call on August 1st, 2024. This means that I will be resigning as your pastor. My final Sunday with you will be in July. The specific day is not yet determined, but it will be communicated well in advance. In the meantime, I will continue to serve you according to the best of my abilities and God's grace.

Again, please know that I am grateful for you all. I have experienced the New Life community as a place of warmth, kindness, and generosity—in all things trying to do right by the mission statement: "Serving Christ by Serving Others." New Life has an exciting and hope-filled future; I will continue to pray for God to faithfully guide you into it!

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Paul McLean Strike

NLLC
Church Council Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2023

Call to Order: Wayne Kern, President, called the Council meeting to order at 4:13 pm. Present were Barb Vogel, Vice-President, Lisa Dreher, Secretary, Pastor Paul Strike, Roy Hager, Sue MacTaggart, Cathy Dietz and Bryant Payne attended remotely.

Meeting opened with Pastor Paul leading prayer.

Minutes: Approval of Council Minutes for the meeting held on March 21st, Barb made the motion to approve the minutes, Sue seconded, the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bryant presented March financials.

President's Report: Wayne presented the following items. **Financial Planning Committee** meeting will be held April 19th, at 1:30 pm. **Land sale update:** The church's name on the deed title has been corrected. **Test pits** have been started. Results will be available in about two weeks. **Wayne and Barb** met with Andy Johnson to discuss the discrepancy of additional land included in the sale. It was decided the buyer would pay for the fence relocation near Food Share. Roy made motion to approve extending the sale until the end of May. Barb seconded, motion was passed. Roy made motion to approve final survey. Barb seconded, motion was passed. Rob Ward is requesting \$750.00 for the fee to submit the survey to Lane county and \$4,200.00 for payment to Northwest Surveying his work. Checks will be issued tomorrow.

Pastor's Report: Holy Week, Easter and baby shower all big successes. Thanks to all for their hard work.

Old Business: Cathy's time away will be modified to accommodate health care requirements as needed. She will be back in the office next Thursday and will be available for most of May. **Gun policy:** Pastor Paul's informal letter regarding our policy concerning guns/weapons on church premises will be presented to the congregation and to those who use our facilities. Motion to accept the letter of notice with amendments was made by Sue and seconded by Roy, motion was passed.

New Business: Pastoral leave plan submitted by Pastor Paul and it follows previous discussions. Deacons will cover pastoral care; Lay ministers will fill in, and Pastor Greg of the Presbyterian church will be available for emergencies. We will join the Presbyterian church for Sunday service on May 19th. Rev. Jennifer Yocum will lead service on May 26th. Barb made a motion to approve the leave plan, and Roy seconded it, motion was passed. **Bridges program:** Anchor of Hope church held a resource meeting for the community describing the various assistance services on offer to the area unhoused. Information was also shared about the vetting process for individuals at the Bridges Program shelter north of town. We will be inviting those who wish to attend our services to do so, transportation will be provided by Anchor of Hope. **Synod Assembly Representatives:** Cathy and Frank Dietz will be our representatives this year with Roy and Anne Hager as alternate representatives, if needed. **The Red Cross** is requesting that we allow them to place a donation bin for shoes and clothes that they will maintain. We agreed and Pastor Paul will inform them. **Garbage Receptacle Committee** met yesterday and decided to table the effort at this time.

Next Meeting: May 16th, this meeting may need to be rescheduled due to several absences, notifications will be made.

Meeting Closed: Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Dreher, Secretary



*Pastors Paul & Logan
April 14th
Joint Baby Shower
(NLLC & FMUC)*

