

The Vine

New Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

February 2025



January 2025

Suffering, Truth-Telling, and Prayer at NLLC

“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.” Romans 5:3

I’m not a fan of suffering. My personal workout model is, “no pain, no gain.” I’m happy enough to get my heart rate up on the recumbent bike or through a brisk walk, but if there’s a way to create hope and joy by skirting sweating, sign me up for that.

Sadly, life doesn’t work that way. Whether it’s deteriorating knees or the vicissitudes of change on a larger scale, sometimes suffering shows up as the uninvited guest who will not leave until painful truths are met and managed.

Truth-telling is actually the first key to managing suffering. Sure, endurance is terrific, but suffering in silence and endurance are not the same thing. If we won’t tell the physical therapist the real amount of pain we’re in, we’re not going to get the right therapy. Likewise, if we’re suffering sadness or upset related to the state of the world or the state of our hearts and we’re unwilling to ask for help, that upset can cause other problems through illness or displacement.

Suffering happens, but the key to developing the endurance that produces character and eventually joy comes from telling the truth about our suffering in a way that creates connection. Yep, the path through suffering requires vulnerability. Yikes.

This is why we Christian folk worship and pray in community. When we realize that we’re all going through our own suffering and we can pray for each other, carrying each other through the rough times, being God-with-skin-on for each other, that’s how we develop endurance, and character, and hope.

All this to say that here at New Life, our prayer chain has gone a bit quiet in recent months. We know that there hasn’t been a pause on suffering, but vulnerability can be a hard habit to build or maintain, even when getting that love from our siblings in Christ really does help get us through.

So friends, beloveds, siblings in Christ, I want to encourage you to share your prayers with each other through our prayer chain coordinator Gail Payne. Give her any information about your prayers concerns that you have desire or permission to share and she’ll share it with our prayer chain and in worship. Gail can be reached at gmpayne@att.net.
Grace and Peace to all of us in this time,

Pastor Jennifer



Gail Payne

Offerings Year To Date 2025

January offerings were	\$5,850
January offerings budgeted	\$7833
Amt. of offerings received (Jan. 2025)	\$5,850
Amt. of offerings budgeted (Jan. 2025)	\$7,833

Fellowship Snack Providers - February

We are using the following schedule for fellowship snack providers. Last names beginning with the following letters will be asked to provide snacks:

January	QRSTUWXYZ
February	A-D
March	E-K
April	LMNOP

Transition Team

Our New Life Transition team just had their first meeting at the end of January and will soon be collecting ideas from the rest of the church about how we'll move forward in our leadership. Look for ways to be involved as those times and dates are set.

We're picking up themes of love for worship this month:

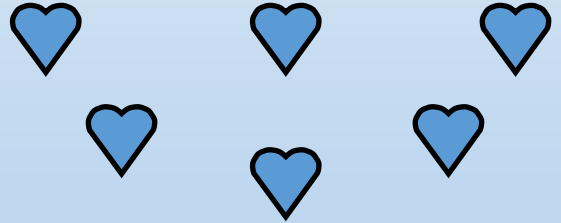
On **Feb 2**, we celebrate that God is Love.

On **Feb 9**, we're looking at Love and Creation.
Feb 16 has us lifting up Love of Neighbor.

Feb 23 is Love and Forgiveness .

March 2, we'll be Transfigured by Love.
(It's a Love Glow Up!)

Please join us in person for this lovely worship series, or catch us on our YouTube channel. Worship services get posted every week.



Organist Needed

NLLC is still seeking a permanent organist. This person would be responsible for playing the organ/piano each Sunday, including special worship services (easter season, Christmas, weddings). Working closely with the Pastor planning the music for worship service. Please let Wayne Kern or Pastor know if you have any information of someone to fill the position.

75 year Anniversary

Save the date: June 29, 2025

More information to come!

Are you interested in helping? Contact
Pastor Jennifer or the Church office.



NLLC Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2025

Call to Order: President Wayne Kern called the Council meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Present were Pastor Jennifer Yocum, Roy Hagar, Dave Braley, Bryant Payne, Carrie Aburto, and Secretary Lisa Dreher.

Meeting opened with Wayne leading a prayer.

Minutes: Roy made a motion to approve the minutes of December 19th, Wayne seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bryant presented the December and year end financials.

President's Report: Camp Florence Work. January 3, 2025, Camp Florence completed clean up of brush. A neighbor to the bordering our property was concerned about the clearing of brush encroaching on her property. Clarification of the property line and discussion resolved her concerns. **Organist/Pianist Update.** We have had no response to our advertisement for this position. We will explore other sites to continue the search.

Pastor's Report: 75th Anniversary Celebration. Gail Payne, Bryant Payne, Cathy Dietz, and Pastor Jennifer met to plan our upcoming celebration on June 29th. Bishop Laurie will attend, and we are inviting the Methodist, Presbyterian, and the Episcopalian churches to join us. We will have catering and special music. **March 29-30th Spiritual Renewal Weekend.** Pastor Jennifer will lead the program on the 29th at the Presbyterian church, more information will [be announced](#) as it becomes available. **Lent and Holy Week.** We will have shared services with the Methodists and the Presbyterians during Lent and Holy Week as we did last year, Easter Sunday services will be at our home churches. **Synod Assembly in May.** One or two congregants and Pastor Jennifer will attend the assembly in Portland this May 30th and June 1st.

Worship Planning Meeting January 26th. After service on Sunday, we will have a meeting to provide input as to how we all would like to see our Sunday services [proceed](#). Currently, we are following the formal liturgy. **July Pulpit Supply Pastors.** For July 2025, we will have pulpit supply pastors to cover for Pastor Jennifer. **Episcopal Partnership.** The Senior Warden from the Episcopal church inquired about sharing a priest with their congregation.

Old Business: OPB Savings Account Signees. We will need to update our savings account signees. Dave Braley moved that Wayne Kern, Council President, Roy Hager, Council Vice-President, Bryant Payne, Treasurer, and Lisa Dreher, Council Secretary, be approved as authorized signees for the Church's savings account at Oregon Pacific Bank.

New Business: Filling of Council Seat. As per our bylaws, the remaining council members vote for a member of the congregation to fill the seat until regular elections take place. Don Stewart [was put](#) forward, Roy made a motion to offer the seventh council position to Don, Carrie seconded, motion passed. **Transition Team Update.** A meeting [is scheduled](#) with Pastor Heidi Bolt on January 31st. **BBPS Rent Reduction Request.** The Pre-school is requesting a reduction of \$400.00 for July and August of 2025 and a reduction of \$200.00 per month due to a drop in attendance/tuition. This would be an overall reduction to NLLC of \$2800.00. The Pre-School is an important part of our mission to the community. Pastor Jennifer suggested that, since the preschool is a ministry of our church, the rental cost should only reflect the cost of hosting the school (i.e., utilities, building insurance, cleaning supplies, and maintenance. Bryant made a motion to accept the reductions as [requested](#), Roy seconded. The motion [was passed](#). **New Member.** Zinta Sovers has requested membership to NLLC. Carrie made the motion to accept her as a member, Lisa seconded, the motion passed. **Expense authorization.** Roy made a motion to authorize the purchase of a replacement vacuum up to \$300.00. Carrie seconded; the motion passed. **Food Share/SOS donation requests.** Letters requesting donations received. **Anniversary Party Budget.** We will need to budget at least \$3,000.00 or more for the upcoming celebration to include catering for approximately 100 people.

Next Meeting. February 20, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

Meeting Adjournment. Wayne made a motion to adjourn after we joined in the Lord's Prayer, Roy seconded, meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dreher, Secretary

Free Lunch Program

February Month of Love

Please help collect food for the Free Lunch Program at Florence United Methodist church.

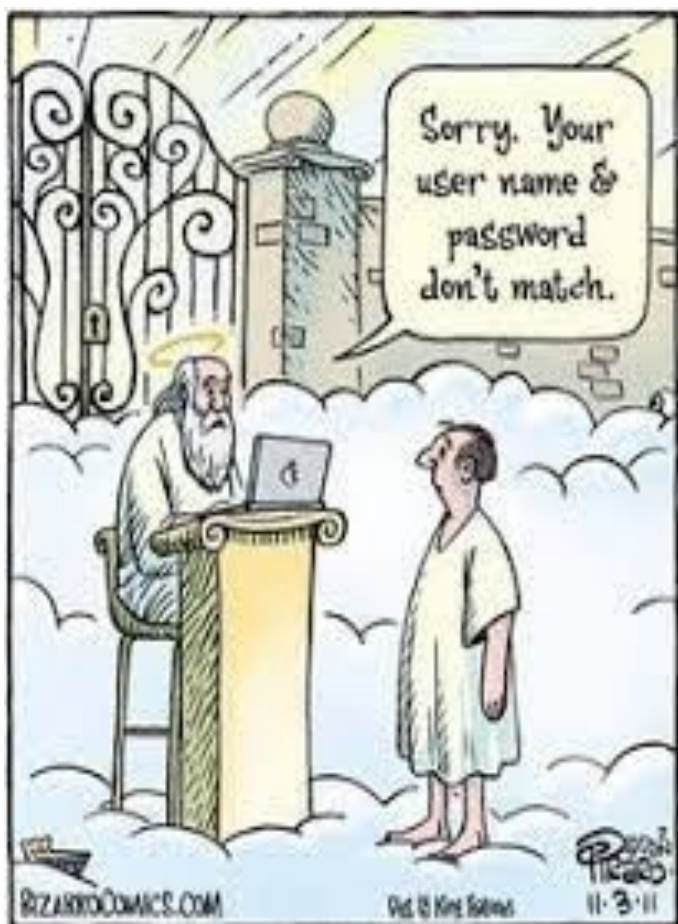
NEEDED ITEMS

- Ground coffee cans
- Bottled juices - any flavor
- Bags of apples or oranges
- Packaged store bought cookies
 - Store bought cakes*
 - Store bought pies*

Gift cards to Grocery Outlet for buying supplies * Individual hand and foot warmers for distribution * Warm heavy socks for distribution

Rhody Bus Passes— these are available in books of 20 for \$20 at River City Taxi, 1699 Pine St. These tickets are handed out individually to those who request them. FUMC is on the Rhody bus line and patrons use it to get to the free lunch.

*check Grocery Outlet for day old goods.



MARKETING CALENDAR FOR HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES FEBRUARY 2025

DAY

2. Groundhog Day

Six more weeks of winter means more time inside with a good book.

9. Superbowl Sunday

Hosting a Super Bowl party? Check out these cookbooks for making a spread that will score.

Who else is bringing a book to read to a Super Bowl party...?

Tip: Create a Super Bowl commercial for social media, but make it bookish!

17. Presidents' Day

Did you know Presidents' Day stems from George Washington's birthday? Cherry pie and other desserts with cherries are eaten in homage to Washington chopping down a cherry tree.

Take a historical armchair journey with these stories of US Presidents through the years.

20. Love Your Pet Day

A bookstore pet is meant to be loved by all of our customers! Come in and say hello to ours, maybe they'll recommend their favorite book!



5. World Read Aloud Day

Check out LitWorld, founders of World Read Aloud Day, and their mission "to celebrate the power of reading aloud to create community and amplify new stories, and to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right."

13. Galentine's Day

Gather the gals for a girls day complete with a wrapped book exchange, chocolates, and a trip to your local indie bookstore!

18. National Drink Wine Day

Whether meeting up with a book club or cracking open a book in your reading chair, a glass of wine goes well with both!

20. Clean Out Your Bookcase Day

Did you sell back or donate books? After you find more space, head to the bookstore to enhance your collection.

20. World Day of Social Justice

In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared February 20 as the World Day of Social Justice to remember that social justice is necessary for peace, security, and development around the world.

26. Tell a Fairy Tale Day

Once upon a time, there were booksellers who wished to recommend a book to every customer... Art imitates life. Stop in for a fairy tale recommendation today!

9. Read In the Bathtub Day

What could be more relaxing than reading in a luxurious bubble bath?

14. Valentine's Day International Book Giving Day

Is it a coincidence that International Book Giving Day lands on Valentine's Day? We think not! See you at the bookstore!

Indie Bookstores = the best destinations for meet-utes, first dates, engagements, and weddings! Share your indie bookstore love story!



21. International Mother Language Day

A few facts for #InternationalMotherLanguageDay:

- A mother language is the first language someone speaks.
- Out of the 6,000 languages in the world, 43% are endangered.
- A mother language disappears every two weeks.

Tip: Encourage multilingualism with book lists that incorporate different languages.