

The Vine

New Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

March 2025



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“La plus changer le meme de chose.”

My High School French teacher, Madame Ralston, made sure that I understood this saying which translates to, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” So much has changed in our country in the last month that making this statement might seem a bit absurd, but while the winds of change might be tearing through our federal government, the charge we have as Christians (and as people of faith in general) remains the same.

Feed the hungry.

Tend to the sick.

Look after the poor.

Care for the immigrant and the foreigner.

Do not speak (or share) falsehoods.

Do not steal.

Do not covet (or let greed become a driving force.)

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Love your enemies.

Pray for your persecutors.

In the midst of profound change, these practices become even more essential. When government programs are cut to care for immigrants, refugees, and poor people, the nation suffers, but we, the church can rise.

When leadership at any level repeats statements that are not true, we, the church, remain committed to bearing true witness.

When decency and kindness are slashed from the idea of “common” courtesy, we, the church, shine a light for compassion and care.

The basics are basic for a reason. They are necessary in all settings no matter how much change takes place. In the same way that the needs of the poor, the sick, and the suffering will always be with us, more love, more hope, more truth, and more joy are always available through our faith in God.

“La plus changer le meme de chose.” Amen.

In Joy,

Pastor Jennifer

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Lent starts March 5. New Life will join with our friends at Florence United Methodist Church at 333 Kingwood at 4 pm for imposition of ashes and a brief worship service.
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Did you grow up “giving up” stuff for Lent? Intermittent periods of fasting and abstinence are ancient spiritual practices. Some folks give up treats of some form. (The year my Mom decided to give up coffee for Lent was not pretty.) Others try to “give up” a bad habit, or try a new practice (like spending a minute in daily prayer) to see if that practice will stick past Easter. If you’ve got a Lenten practice you’d like to share, let us know. You can email Pastor Jennifer at jenniferyocum@gmail.com. We’ll pray for your Lenten resolutions.

Pastor Jennifer

Offerings Year To Date 2025

February offerings were	\$10,009
February offerings budgeted	\$7833
Amt. of offerings received (Jan.-Feb. 2025)	\$15,859
Amt. of offerings budgeted (Jan. -Feb. 2025)	\$15,667

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:

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



Spiritual Renewal 2025 Ecumenical Weekend

March 29-30

Faithfully Together

Storytelling Into Our Next Chapter

Saturday Sessions 10:00 & 1:00

luncheon served at noon

Ecumenical Worship Sunday 10:30



**hosted at Presbyterian Community Church
3996 Hwy 101, Florence**

Workshop Leader:
Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum

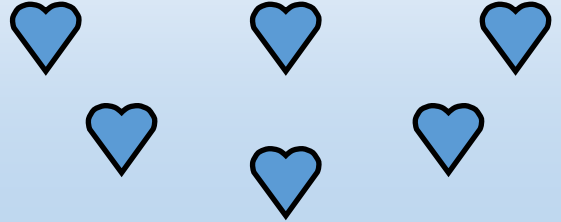
Sponsors:



Our final worship service with the the theme of love:

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

Please catch us on our YouTube channel.
Worship services get posted every week.



HANDBELL CHOIR

Would anyone like to play or even just try out handbells we have a low-commitment opportunity.

For the Spiritual Renewal Weekend we would like to have an ecumenical group play one of the Prelude pieces for our combined worship service.

We will take anyone interested in playing, it is helpful if you can read music, we can try and work you in even if you don't.

We will need four rehearsals and focus on just one piece of music for worship.

Rehearsals will be at 3:15 pm on Thursday March 13, 20, 27, and after the last workshop on Saturday March 29th (2pm).

If you would like more information please contact Greg Wood 804-908-9663

☘ ☘ ☘ HAPPY ST. PATRICK DAY ☘ ☘ ☘



All singers/choir members from Presbyterian Community Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Florence United Methodist Church, New Life Lutheran Church, and St. Mary Catholic Church are invited to participate in the combined choir for the Lenten Renewal service, which will be held Sunday, March 30th at the Presbyterian Church.



Rehearsal dates:
Wednesdays, February 19th --
March 26th
Times: 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Location:
Presbyterian Community
Church,
3996 Hwy 101, Florence

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

February 20, 2025

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

Minutes: Dave made a motion to approve the minutes of January 16th, Roy seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bryant presented the January financials. \$5K is requested for catering and supplies for the 75th anniversary celebration. We will need to have a congregational meeting to approve funds, Dave made the motion to have a special meeting on March 16th after service to put this request to a vote. Roy seconded and the motion passed.

President's Report:

Water heater replacement. The water heater has been showing signs of needing replacement, it will be monitored. **HVAC evaluation.** May need to do an energy audit for our heating system in the near future. **Organist/Pianist update.** No candidates have applied for this position. More efforts will be made to advertise for the opening.

Pastor's Report:

Altar Guild. Pastor Jennifer met with the Altar Guild to plan for Holy Week celebrations. The Methodist church will host Ash Wednesday, March 5th, at 4 pm, then Presbyterian church is having a soup supper at 5:30 pm and a Lenten devotional at 6:15 pm. Maundy Thursday, April 17th, will be hosted by the Presbyterian church, and we will host Good Friday celebrations at 4 pm, April 18th. Palm fronds and lilies have been ordered. The altar guild approved purchase of a Lenten chasuble and a lectern cloth, a private donation paid for these items. **Membership rolls.** A letter has been sent to 9 members asking if they wish to remain on our rolls. Currently we have 49 active members, 35 that contribute, and approximately 25 that attend. 25 members are needed for a quorum, according to our current constitution. **Safe Space zoom meeting.** Wayne and Pastor Jennifer attended this meeting for information on what to do if ICE comes to our church. Know your rights cards will be printed for distribution. Our response to judicial vs. an ICE warrant was explained. **Partnerships.** The Methodists are content with their new pastor. Presbyterians are busy with internal programs. Episcopalians are not interested in shared worship. **Website and media.** Bryant will update information on our website. Paul Strike's name will be removed from our sign. **Delegates.** Roy and Ann are interested in attending the Synod meeting.

Old Business:

Alarm incidents. Roy recommends the key pad be replaced to alleviate the alarm code errors. **Fence update.** 1st estimate is high, we will get a 2nd estimate and discuss.

New Business:

Office coverage. Cathy requested time off in March and August. **Transition Team.** Work continues, next meeting is February 26th. Congregational input is to be planned. A second laptop for zoom meetings is needed, Roy made the motion to make a purchase up to \$700.00, Carrie seconded, the motion passed. **Applicability of Gun Policy.** Food Share asked if our gun policy applies to them as leased property. Discussion indicated that our policy does not apply to them. An earlier vote was taken, 4 yes, 3 no. Dave moved to reconsider the vote, Don seconded. A new vote was taken and passed that Food share be informed that it needs to make its own policy, and that the Council recommends a non-lethal approach.

Next meeting. March 20, 2025 at 4 pm.

Meeting Adjournment. Meeting adjourned with a prayer from Pastor Jennifer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dreher, Secretary

March 16, 2025

St. Patrick's Day Fellowship

Fundraiser for the Alar Guild

Corned Beef, Cabbage & Carrots provided.

Snack providers please bring other snacks or side dishes.



"If I send my prayer as a text message, will I get a faster reply?"

Fun Days in March

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1st Share a Smile Day | 18th Johnny Appleseed Day |
| 2nd Dr. Seuss Birthday | 19th Chocolate Caramel Day |
| 3rd National Anthem Day | 20th First Day of Spring |
| 4th National Poundcake Day | 21st Children's Poetry Day |
| 5th Parachute Day | 22nd National Goof Off Day |
| 6th Dentist Day | 23rd World Meteorological Day |
| 7th Telephone Day | 24th Chocolate Cover Raisin Day |
| 8th Working Women's Day | 25th International Waffle Day |
| 9th Barbie's Birthday | 26th Make up your own Holiday |
| 10th Genealogy Day | 27th National "Joe" Day |
| 11th Basketball Day | 28th Something on a Stick Day |
| 12th Girl Scout Day | 29th Pickle Day |
| 13th Good Samaritan Day | 30th Doctor's Day |
| 14th Potato Chip Day | 31st Clams On the Half Shell Day |
| 15th Ide of March | |
| 16th Freedom of Information Day | |
| 17th St. Patrick's Day | |

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National Craft Month