

# The Vine

## New Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

### April 2025



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#### *Lenten Musings*

Spring on the Oregon Coast is a rollercoaster! Beautiful, sunny shirt-sleeve days followed by howling winds, deafening hail and diagonal rain. Meanwhile, everything green grows with abundant profusion that remains wet enough to discourage all but the most dedicated gardeners.

This Lenten season has felt like that to me. Sometimes Jesus is flipping over tables; sometimes he's schooling the scribes; sometimes he's weeping over Jerusalem. Sometimes in the meetings I'm in, folks are happy; sometimes they're distraught; sometimes none of us know what's going on. It's tough to be certain in any of those conditions, but I don't think faith is about certainty. I think faith is about rootedness in what is good and true, while remaining flexible in changing conditions. For me, the Lenten journey is about reaching into the wardrobe of faithfulness and pulling out the sweater, or the shorts, or sometimes both at the same time to just continually show up and be of good service.

Our Lenten journey will end this month in a profusion of activity (see the dizzying schedule below) and emotional range. My prayer for all of us is that we remain willing to keep showing up for each other in faith, in hope, and in the promise of Resurrection.

In Joy,

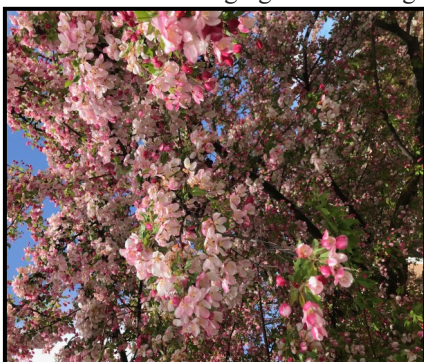
Pastor Jennifer

#### *April, come she will.*

And boy, is April bringing a lot of activity for New Life Lutheran Church!

First up, please mark your calendars for Holy Week. We'll start off with **Palm Sunday on April 13** during our regular worship hour with Fellowship Time to follow. **Maundy Thursday worship takes place this year at the Presbyterian church on April 17 at 7 pm.** (Pastor Greg assures me that the service runs about 40 minutes and everyone will be home by sundown.) **Good Friday services on April 18** will take place at 5 pm at New Life with **Easter Sunday, April 20** at New Life raising up the joy of the resurrection (with special music and dance!) at 10:30 am.

Over the winter, our Transition Team has been hard at work creating a new ministerial site profile to help in the process of calling a new pastor. A draft of the Ministerial Site Profile (MSP) will be available in hard copy and online within the next week with an invitation for congregational review and input. It's a hefty document, so the Transition Team is inviting us to **an Information and Input Meeting on Sunday, April 13** (yep, that's Palm Sunday) after worship. There will be food (of course!) and a great opportunity to talk about the vision and values of our congregation heading into the future.



That might seem like a busy April already (and it is!) But wait, there's more! New Life has three more big, congregational decisions on the horizon:

- 1) We need to elect a Call Committee. The Transition Team will complete its task with the MSP going out into the world soon. The Call Committee will then begin the confidential process of interviewing and selecting candidates. Our constitution requires a Congregational Vote to elect our Call Committee. Those interested in serving on such a committee should contact our Church Council President, Wayne Kern. [WBkern2@gmail.com](mailto:WBkern2@gmail.com).
- 2) We need to adjust our constitutional quorum. Our congregational constitution has been in a bit of a limbo state for a while following efforts to update it according to Synod guidelines. Our constitution currently calls for 25 voting members to convene an official meeting. That number is out of sync with our current active participation, so we're looking for a downward revision of quorum requirements. We're in the process of getting guidance from Synod on how to make that adjustment appropriately, but we do know that we'll need a congregational vote to approve the change.
- 3) Finally, some of you will remember that we had an advisory vote about 10 days ago related to our 75th anniversary party. That vote was "advisory" because, although we had 27 in worship, only 18 were members. (There's that pesky quorum issue at work.) Those who cast an advisory vote did approve an off-budget allocation of up to \$5000 to spend on a party, but several voices were raised about wanting to apply that amount toward mission support. Your church council took that recommendation seriously so now, pending your approval, New Life Lutheran Church plans to set up a Challenge Grant of \$5000 for our north parking lot partner, Florence Food Share, and \$2500 for Bright Beginnings Preschool. If you're excited about that idea, concerned about it, or just want to ask questions, please contact Wayne or other members of the church council.

We hope to be ready to vote on all three of these proposals at a **Special Congregational Meeting on April 27**. We'll confirm that date once all of the moving pieces have settled into place. You can pretty much count on something exciting happening through all of April. Please plan on joining us!



### Offerings Year To Date 2025

March offerings were	\$6,598
March offerings budgeted	\$7,833
Amt. of offerings received (Jan.-Mar. 2025)	\$22,457
Amt. of offerings budgeted (Jan. -Mar. 2025)	\$23,500

### 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:

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

## Informational Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, April 13**

**11:30am after worship**

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# Special Congregational Meeting

**April 27, 2025**

**11:30am after worship**

**Voting on:**

- 1) Call Committee**
- 2) Adjusting Constitutional Quorum**
- 3) 75th Anniversary direction**

### Holy Week

*April 13th: Palm Sunday*

*April 17th: Maunday Thursday,  
7:00pm*

*Presbyterian Community Church.*

*April 18th: Good Friday, 5:00pm,  
New Life Lutheran Church.*

*April 20th: Easter Sunday,  
10:30am,  
New Life Lutheran  
Church.*

## 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.**

*Hello Easter*



## NLLC Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025

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

**Minutes:** Dave made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20<sup>th</sup>, Don seconded, and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bryant presented the February financials.

**President's Report: Organist/Pianist.** No candidates have applied for this position. Pastor Jennifer to do further research into ways to make our offer more appealing. **Water-heater.** We will get quotes for a replacement.

**Pastor's Report: Renewal Weekend.** Pastor Jennifer will lead the Spiritual Renewal Weekend at the Presbyterian church, March 29 – 30. Sunday service will be at the Presbyterian church at 10:30 am. **Maundy Thursday.** April 17<sup>th</sup> service will be hosted by the Presbyterian church. **Good Friday.** Our Good Friday service will be at NLLC, at 4 pm, April 18<sup>th</sup>. **Synod Assembly 2025.** Pastor Jennifer and Lisa will attend, May 30 – June 1. **Seating for Sunday services.** As attendance has declined, we will reduce the number of chairs in the sanctuary from 60 to 50. **Memorial for Rosie Goodwin.** The Methodist church cannot accommodate the expected numbers wishing to attend her service. We will offer our facility to our friends at the Methodist church. **Sidewalk Protest.** Pastor Jennifer will be attending local protests as an individual, not representing New Life Lutheran Church.

**Old Business: Laptop Acquisition.** Bryant will take care of lap top purchase. **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** We did not have a quorum on March 16<sup>th</sup> to approve the \$5,000 for the celebration. Pastor Jennifer proposed a \$5,000 grant challenge to be promoted in our community to support Food Share as an alternative to spending the funds on catering, etc. Also, we could waive a \$2,500 rent payment for one month from Bright Beginnings Pre-School as part of the celebration. Our CD matures this week with \$11,600 interest earned. These funds can be drawn from the interest and set aside to await quorum approval. Don made a motion to withdraw \$7,500 of the maturing CD interest and deposit it into the high yield savings account for the express use for the celebration, and to reinvest the remaining interest and \$400,000 principal into a new 7-month CD. Lisa seconded the motion, the vote was passed, with one abstention.

**New Business: Next Council Meeting.** Change of date to April 24<sup>th</sup> due to Maundy Thursday conflict. **Quorum Conundrum.** C,10.04 in our constitution requires 25 voting members for a formal congregational meeting and it has been difficult to get the necessary number of voting members in attendance for these meetings. We discussed using a percentage of membership as the qualifying calculation or reducing the minimum number of voting members required for a formal congregational meeting. Our constitution is being updated, and this issue is being addressed. Pastor Jennifer will speak with Dave Eppelsheimer at ELCA Synod to see if they can assist us in finding a timely solution. **Transition Team.** MSP (Ministry Site Profile) has been submitted for comments to the council in preparation for presentation to the congregation, and we appreciate all their hard work. Comments will be submitted to all council members as well as the transition team members. An informal meeting of congregation members will be held during fellowship time following the service on April 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the MSP. This meeting does not require a quorum, but we encourage members who are interested to attend. We will have a special meeting to vote on a call committee as well as other church business that requires a quorum, tentatively on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Next meeting.** April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

**Meeting Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dreher, Secretary





## APRIL HOLIDAYS

- 1-April Fool's Day
  - 2-National PB&J Day
  - 3-National Find a Rainbow Day
  - 4-National Burrito Day
  - 4-National Walking Day
  - 7-World Health Day
  - 10-National Siblings Day
  - 11-National Pet Day
  - 12-National Grilled Cheese Day
  - 14-Palm Sunday (varies each year)
  - 15-National Tax Day
  - 15-National Laundry Day
  - 16-Wear Pajamas to Work Day
  - 18-National Haiku Poetry Day
  - 20-Husband Appreciation Day
  - 21- Easter(varies each year)
  - 22-Earth Day
  - 22-National Jelly Bean Day
  - 23-National Picnic Day
  - 25-Administrative Professionals Day
  - 26-Arbor Day
  - 26-National Pretzel Day
  - 28-National Superhero Day
  - 30-National Honesty Day
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