

The Vine

New Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2026



September 2026

From Christ in our Home

Sunday, September 6

Matthew 18:15-20

New Life 75



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(Jesus said,) “Whatever yo bind on earth
will be bound in heaven.” (v. 18)

I have heard it said that resentment is like drinking poison and hoping the other person gets sick. We may think holding on to hurt punishes someone else, but in truth, it harms only us.

Jesus offers another way. Release your resentment. Go directly to the one you’ve quarreled with and seek peace. If that fails, invite a trusted person to help. If that still doesn’t work, bring the matter to your community for guidance and restoration. And if even then healing doesn’t come, Jesus says, “Let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector” (v. 17).

Before you think being treated as a tax collector or a gentile is a form of curse, remember that Jesus welcomed tax collectors and gentiles, loving them as people still learning the fullness of God’s grace. Jesus has empathy, and we are called to the same response. We care for those with whom we disagree. So set down the poison of resentment. Let compassion lead. In the end, your hear will thank you.

Jesus, give me courage to let go of resentment. Amen.

Prayer concern: *Mediators*

Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14

Offerings Year To Date 2026

Sept. offerings were	\$7,110
Sept. offerings budgeted	\$5,833
Amt. of offerings received (Jan.-Sept. 2026)	\$40,308
Amt. of offerings budgeted (Jan.-Sept. 2026)	\$46,667

Fellowship Snack Providers –August

We are using the following schedule for fellowship snack providers .

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

June A-D

July E-K

August L-P

September Q-Z— Tailgate party Themed!



We Need You!

There are several committees that are needing volunteers:

Money Counters

Ushers

Assisting Ministers

Fellowship

A commitment of 1 or 2 Sunday's a month is needed. If you are interest please let Cathy know.



Graduating Senior? A wedding to attend? Needing a gift that will hold a lifetime of memories?

Give a handmade quilt!

New Life Lutheran quilting group is selling quilts. Proceeds help with shipping cost to Lutheran World Relief which ships the quilts around the globe.

The quilters are asking for a \$75 donation.

Contact the church office: 541-997-8113;
newlifelutheransecretary@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday September 6, 2026

**Ecumenical
Service and
Potluck Picnic
East Woahink
Lake.**

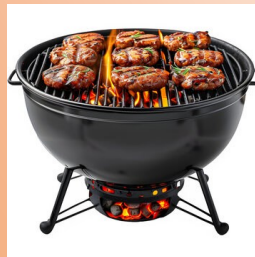


Service begins and 10:30 am

Hosted by the Presbyterian Church

**With the Catholic,
Methodist, Lutheran
and Episcopal Churches.**

**Deb Anderson will
lead the service.**



Taizé Community Prayer Service

*Embracing the Dawn
of a New Season*

**Sunday, September 13
at 4:00 pm**

**Florence United Methodist Church
333 Kingwood Street
Florence, Oregon**

For more information contact:
Patricia Evans, Taizé Coordinator
541-997-2628

www.florenceoregonumc.org All are Welcome

NLLC Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2026

Called to Order: President Dave Braley called to order at approximately 1:03 pm. Members present were President Dave Braley, V.P. Don Stewart, Secretary Cathy Dietz, Treasurer Bryant Payne, Lori Olienyk and Dianna Barry.

Opening devotions led by President Dianna Barry.

Minutes: Minutes for July 16, 2026, were approved. Don Stewart moved, Bryant Payne 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Was presented by Bryant Payne. Report filed. Noted the decline in monthly giving. The next renewal of the CD will be in October.

Pastor's Report: N/A

President's Report: Call process: Dave had a brief conversation with Rev. Eppelsheimer before his vacation. The prospective candidate has declined to move from current synod, saying he wasn't ready. Pastor would like to bring a representative from the Episcopal Diocese with him in the Fall to speak with us. The consensus would be that we would be open to this. **Rev. Tim Herzfeldt-Kamprath:** He suggested the congregation look at ELCA YouTube videos of other church services. We could possibly nominate someone who we thought could be suitable. We would then contact the office of Synod Bishop. It could either be a younger minister or one that is older. Lori Olienyk said she could look around YouTube. **Camp Florence:** A work crew will be here September 7th & 8th for brush removal and pruning landscape shrubs.

Old Business: New website: Bryant Payne hasn't done any research about migrating to the new website on Church Trac. There was a short discussion as to what to add to the website i.e. newsletter, calendar etc. **Garbage Cans:** They have been switched out for Bear-resistance, there is an added cost with the new cans.

New Business: Letter for Rev. Schmitz: Dave asked for approval of thank you letter to Rev. Schmitz for the beautiful print of Jesus. Question was raised as to where to hang it, maybe in place of one of the crosses in the Narthex. **Missing congregants:** Suggestion was made to follow up of members who have been missing from worship services. **Black piano:** Again where & how to dispose of. Maybe contacting Bales'. Suggestions were maybe the "Black & White" recycle event or ask Habitat. Dianna had not heard from Rhianna. **Supply pastors:** All of August has been filled. September is filled except for September 20th, also the first 2 Sundays in October need to be filled. **Ecumenical Worship:** September 6th, bring side dish/dessert, place setting, chairs. Sign up for head count.

Other business: Food Share: Dianna Barry asked if Food Share has shared its plans regarding their expansion plans. **Microsoft Publisher:** End of service October 1st. Is there another program to use?

Next meeting: September 17, 2026, at 1:00 pm

Adjourned with the Lord's prayer at 2:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Dietz, Secretary

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Many members and friends have been hoping and praying for success in finding a new permanent pastor for our congregation. As most of you recall, our last pastor, Reverend Paul Strike, left just over two years ago. In accordance with the Oregon Synod call process, a Transition Team was established, working with a Synod representative. That team discerned congregation needs and developed six preliminary drafts of the 14-page Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which describes our congregation, community, and ministry in detail. The MSP was approved by the Oregon Bishop in early May, 2025 and our pastoral vacancy was posted nationwide in the ELCA. A six-member Call Committee was elected by our congregation in late April, 2025 and met every two weeks during spring and summer 2025 to prepare for receiving potential candidates.

We have been working with Pastor David Eppelsheimer who manages pastoral vacancies in the Oregon Synod. He has been at our church a couple times in the past year. He regularly looks for possible pastoral candidates that he believes will be a good fit for our congregation. To do this, he reviews the national ELCA list of pastors open to considering a call beyond their current church. He also has access to the list of recent seminary graduates. It is widely known that the number of ELCA seminary graduates have greatly diminished in recent years. Some months ago, he told us that typically there are 30-35 pastors at any given time who are willing to consider a call in Oregon. Many indicate a metropolitan area. In past decades, Oregon was among the preferred destinations but now is considered by some to be a high-cost area. That tends to reduce the list of those interested in serving in our state and impacts filling pastoral vacancies in both large and small congregations.

Recently Pastor Eppelsheimer thought there was a possible good-fit candidate completing training in a new ELCA program that reduces the high cost of seminary education. However, the person who lives in another ELCA synod, still had obligations in that place at this time.

Pastor Tim Herzfeldt-Kamprath recently suggested that members at New Life should view ELCA services on YouTube in North Dakota and surrounding states for potential candidates. With many Lutheran churches in the Midwest, he thought some of the pastors serving congregations in that area for some years may be interested in finding a parish in places like Oregon. ELCA policy has long allowed congregations to identify ELCA candidates for their vacancy provided the congregation works with the Synod to vet the candidate ahead. Any member can do this. Just inform the Call Committee of what you have discovered.

Continue to pray that we will call our next permanent pastor in the near term. In the meantime, each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. we have a wonderful spiritual worship service. We have been blessed with an outstanding group of supply pastors and outstanding music. Our music director really makes the pipe organ, baby grand piano, and harp sing! Our church family loves our time together and is very welcoming of visitors and those who aren't able to worship in person every Sunday. You can also view our services on our church website

www.florencenewlifelutheran.org

Dave Braley

Chair, Call Committee

