

NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH
"ABIDING IN CHRIST"

New Life Methodist Church 979-968-8323

Church Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8:30am-3:30pm
Wed. 8:30am - 5:30pm
Friday 8:30am-12:30pm

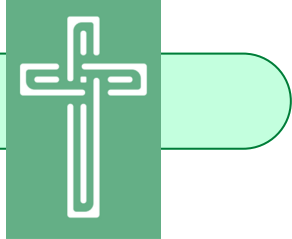
Website - www.newlifelg.org

Andy Smith
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Dawn Eppers
Office Manager
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Nancy Hajek
Director of Classical Church Music
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Erica Menconi
Finance Office
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Non-Profit Organization

WORSHIP TIMES
Sundays at:

9:00 am - Traditional Service
10:00 am - Fellowship Time
10:15 am - Disciple Hour
11:10 am - Contemporary Service
(see calendar for more details)



December 2025 Edition

O HOLY NIGHT

A	D	N	H	P	W	P	J	Q	B	T	G	F	F	S	Q	V
Y	D	M	Q	M	I	A	A	S	T	A	R	R	L	G	F	R
F	X	F	A	G	R	D	O	N	K	E	Y	A	S	Q	L	J
F	S	B	U	G	S	A	V	I	O	R	M	N	F	W	U	W
H	H	E	A	X	W	I	X	H	Z	I	E	K	J	A	C	B
E	E	T	M	B	Y	J	R	S	N	M	V	I	N	Z	X	I
M	P	H	I	N	Y	R	O	A	E	H	N	U	G	L	B	
I	H	L	B	K	Y	P	G	S	Z	B	N	C	Z	O	Q	J
W	E	E	Z	M	Z	N	I	M	E	U	Q	E	X	L	M	E
K	R	H	I	M	Z	W	F	M	E	P	S	N	P	D	N	S
Z	D	E	R	A	S	K	T	A	B	A	H	S	L	D	Y	U
G	N	M	Q	J	J	J	S	N	Y	I	A	E	S	R	V	S
V	A	N	F	Q	F	A	T	G	F	T	G	I	A	Z	T	X
N	J	C	U	R	Z	Z	X	E	U	N	O	M	N	G	L	Z
B	K	Y	M	W	I	H	F	R	A	P	E	A	C	E	G	W

ANGEL	GIFTS	MYRRH
ANIMALS	GOLD	PEACE
BABY	JESUS	SAVIOR
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SHEPHERD
DONKEY	MANGER	STAR
FRANKINCENSE	MARY	WISE MEN



LIGHTSHINE

DECEMBER 2025 EDITION
NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PONDERING

How do you feel about surprises? Your answer likely depends on the circumstances. There's a huge difference between an unexpected gift from a loved one versus a letter from the IRS. For the most part, we cherish those delightful and unexpected moments. As we enter into the season of Advent (the four weeks before Christmas Day), it is helpful to look at this season as one big surprise. Advent is the season of great surprise where God intrudes into our normal, everyday routines to bring about the greatest gift of all.

Long ago, in the town of Bethlehem, the world was not prepared for the Messiah's birth. The population had no idea what God was bringing to the world. Instead of maintaining the status quo, God was about to shake things up. This gift would not fit into the world's expectations. We see this in the prophesy of Isaiah 11: *"The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them."* This prophesy is full of the unexpected. Wouldn't you be surprised to see the calf and the lion hanging out together? Yes! And that's the point. God is full of surprises. We can never place God into a box or expect God to embrace our routines.

Look upon these weeks before Christmas as a season of surprise. Look for how God is intruding into your daily life, into your normal routine with acts of grace, love, and inspiration. We have an intrusive God who loves to change our direction in life, who loves to correct our attitudes, who loves to heal our wounds, who loves to conquer fear, who loves to give second chances, and who loves to accomplish acts of charity and mercy through us.

I hope you will take advantage of our Advent Bible study. You can choose from two separate meeting times: Tuesdays at 1:00pm or Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Our study is based on the book, *"Brought into the Light"* by Anna Grace Legband. Copies are in the church office or you can pick up at the Bible study. With this study, I hope that God intrudes into your life in a powerful way.

May this Advent season be far from routine. May God reveal Himself to you in a fresh and surprising way; may the Lord call upon you to serve as a disciple of Jesus Christ, because there's always someone who needs the light of God's grace and love.

God bless you and yours, and may you have a joyful and peace-filled Christmas!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Andy

INSPIRING READS

Pastor's Pondering

Musical Notes

Altar Rail

Finance Report

Methodist Men

Holy Land Trip

Poinsettia Orders

Disciple Hour News

Christmas Critter Party

Youth Archery Program

December 2025 Calendar

Church Events

Notes From the Office

Dates to Celebrate

Second Chance

Shoeboxes

Thank You's

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bible Quiz

Church Humor

Thank you for your generous support of our ministries.



MUSICAL NOTES



You know it's a musically rich season when you see my article THIS long, right?

On Friday, December 12th, Glory Tones will be ringing at Ledbetter's Lane of Lights. Come out and support the local volunteer fire department, see wonderful holiday light displays, enjoy some hot apple cider, hot chocolate, and homemade cookies and hear some fun Christmas ringing! We're set to bring the residents of Schulenburg Regency some Christmas ringing cheer on Saturday, December 13. We're also ringing in the Chancel Choir's cantata. With all of that, please keep the Glory Tones in your prayers for safe travels and for us to bring lots of joy to those who hear us.

Sunday, December 14 the Chancel Choir is presenting our Christmas Cantata. "Only a *Brath* Away" will be our gift to you at the 9:00 a.m. service here at New Life. The narrator is Rachel Smith who takes on the role of a homeless person, along with Molly Hudson who tells the Christmas story. Beautiful choral arrangements from several composers will be woven within the story.

Jim Kahlden and I have joined the Columbus Community Choir for their annual cantata, this year, singing "The Ballad of Bethlehem" by composer Pepper Choplin. It's also on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. at the Columbus High School Auditorium. We invite you to come listen to more holiday music.

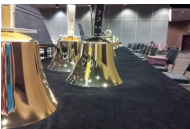
I invite you to join our church family as we celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Eve. We will have two services - at 4:00 p.m. which will be led by Lifesong 5:19, and at 6:00 p.m., with Ruby at the piano and the Chancel Choir in the choir loft. You and your family can join us for wonderful candlelight services that evening which will be filled with familiar Christmas songs and carols!

(And just FYI, we're planning to have a single service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 28, as well.)

I wish that you all enjoy the blessing of family as we celebrate God's gift to us.

Merry Christmas from the music family at NLMC!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Nancy



HOLY LAND TRIP

Oct. 27 ~ Nov. 5, 2026

LEARN MORE &
REGISTER

New Life
METHODIST CHURCH



Poinsettias

Remember or
honor a loved
one this
Christmas

Order Deadline:
Monday, Dec. 15



Altar Rail giving for the month of
December will be to:

Texas Ramp Project

**Christmas Eve Special Gifts to
Methodist Children's Home**

FINANCE UPDATE

Giving for October 2025 was as follows:

General Fund	\$41,489.25
Altar Rail	\$ 755.07
(Habitat For Humanity)	
Total	\$42,244.32

METHODIST MEN

Methodist Men will not be meeting this
month. We look forward to returning to
our regular schedule of meeting the third

Monday of each month at 6:30pm in

January. Please join us then for a

delicious meal and great fellowship!

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

Methodist Men Chairman,

Gary Martyr

Devotional and Disciple Hour Info

Upper Room... This devotional publication comes out every other month. Go to <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals> to see archived and daily devotionals and other information.

Disciple Hour... will follow the 9:00AM worship service after fellowship time in the fellowship hall at 10:00am. John Wesley created 'Methodist Classes' where small groups meet weekly for mutual support, accountability and spiritual growth. Come take the opportunity to grow with your fellow church members in a more personal relationship with God.

Childcare is available. Please contact the church office for other special childcare needs.

Challengers, Parlor - led by Jo Anne Hill
Foundations, Conference Rm - led by Pastor Andy
New Covenant, Rm 5 - led by Gary Martyr
Parables, Library - led by Marie Allen
Children's Sunday School, Rm 11 - Brenda Holcomb,
Youth, Rm 14 - Sarah Janisch & James Dornwell,
Light finger food refreshments are provided by our Disciple Hour Classes following this schedule -
First Sunday: **Pastor Andy's class**
Second Sunday: **Gary Martyr's class**
Third Sunday: **Marie Allen's class**
Fourth Sunday: **Jo Anne Hill's class**

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE * CLOSED WED. - FRI. DEC 24 - 26 AND DEC 31 - JAN 2

Please consider volunteering at AMEN Food Pantry in La grange. Please be aware that even if you are not available to volunteer for the entire 4 hour shift on our dates, it is appreciated if you only have an hour to give. We have a food donation box in the church narthex. You may bring items to the church office or take them directly to AMEN. Please identify that you are donating in our church's name if you take items to AMEN. Thanks for all of your donations!

There will not be an **Emmaus Gathering** this month. We look forward to meeting again in January for a potluck dinner and worship. Information about the 2026 gathering schedule for church locations will be forthcoming.

Your faithfulness has fully funded the ministries of our church this year. Thank you for your stewardship. Please consider making a pledge for 2026. Your dedicated commitments helps the church budget and plan for the future. Pledge cards are in the Narthex or online under "Give."

Advent Bible Study is held Tuesdays at 1:00pm OR Wednesdays at 6:30pm through December 17.

We love to hear from you about our newsletter! If you want a hard copy mailed, the church appreciates a \$5 annual donation to cover the cost. This is not mandatory. Please have any articles in by the 20th of each month.

SECOND CHANCE NEWS

Please consider volunteering to support our ministry at Second Chance Emporium where millions of dollars have been donated back to the community. This is an excellent way to serve! We prepare the store of furniture, clothing and other treasures for resale.

Current Work Dates

Monday, Dec. 1, Noon - 3pm

Tues. Dec. 2 - Thurs., Dec 4, 9am - 3pm

Friday, Dec. 5, - Saturday, Dec. 6, 8am - 3pm

Sunday, December 5, 1:00pm

*Thank you for donating your time!
Nancy, Judy, Sandy, Maxine, Lisa, Julie & Bev*



**Another
Successful
Shoebox Year!!!**

**Thanks to Dan Teas
And Everyone Who Helped!**

Janet	Parker	12/03
Marty	Emmons	12/06
Dustin	Machinsky	12/06
Denise	Woodyard	12/07
Susan	Gage	12/07
Noreen	Dopslauf	12/08
Brett	Janecka	12/09
Geralyn	Vasut	12/10
Doug	Schlabach	12/11
Sandy	Hinman	12/14
Kristen	Carden	12/15
Frank	Dawson	12/19
Charles	Vannoy	12/22
Roger	Stone	12/24
Annabelle	Chovantez	12/26
Jaxon	Cada	12/27
Doris	Pieratt	12/29
Diana	Wilson	12/29
Clara	Schubert	12/29

Jack & Sandra Anderson	12/21
Charles & Sally Vannoy	12/08
Scott & Lisa Davis	12/30

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to the anonymous donors who gave toys, crib sheets and blankets to the Nursery. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.
Martha and Noreen - Nursery Workers

Missionaries Steve & Pam English thank us for our generosity and encouragement in their ministry. We look forward to having special time with them in May.

Tejas Health Care Center sent us thanks for our kind and generous support in their 6th Annual "Back To School Bash" supplying local students with the tools they needed for the school year.

BLESSED PRAYER SHAWLS

Do you know of someone going through an eventful time in life that is challenging praiseworthy? We have beautiful handmade prayer shawls available to give as gifts to those who might be experiencing a joyous event or sadness in their lives. We are also recruiting those who already have a crocheting talent or would like to learn. We have yarn available to have shawls made and labels that need to be sewn onto our shawls. If you have time to donate or want more ministry information, please call the church office.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

LADIES ANEW CONFERENCE WAS INSPIRING AND FUN



MOVING SPEAKERS & GREAT MUSICIANS

A VERY SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



NEW LIFE WAS WELL REPRESENTED ON TURKEY DAY!



Friends 'n Fellowship



PRESENTS:

CHRISTMAS CRITTERS

Thursday, Dec. 11th
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Please come and join
us in the fellowship hall
at New Life

FOOD:

Chili, Frito Pie, Cornbread
You bring the Dessert.

Donna Pyle

President of Friends N' Fellowship

We are having Teresa Stanley-Brown from Gardenia E. Janssen Animal Shelter come speak to us about the needs and care of the animals that are waiting for adoption. Teresa is doing a great service for this community. I hope to see you all there.

This year we are again having Teresa from the Animal Shelter back for our Christmas program. We want everyone to bring something for our furry friends and help our local animal shelter out by bringing supplies that they desperately need. Here are some suggestions.

DOGS: Purina or Pedigree dry adult and puppy food.....

(15-20 lb. bags or smaller) **No Chicken if possible**

Pedigree canned adult dog food....Dog treats

Medium or large dog collars....Toys

CATS: 9 Lives, Meow Mix, Friskies dry adult cat food.....

(15-20 lb. bags or smaller)....Cat litter....Toys

SUPPLIES: Paper towels....Dishwasher detergent (liquid or pods)

Toilet paper....Antibacterial wipes....Fabuloso



YOUTH ARCHERY

A New Ministry
3rd - 12th grades



We are introducing an exciting archery program opportunity for our community. Archery is a sport that offers a unique blend of physical challenge and mental stimulation, making it an ideal activity for children and adults. Archery lessons not only teach them valuable life skills such as focus, patience, discipline, and the importance of safety, but they also help them develop a lifelong passion for a rewarding sport. There are team and individual competitions that we hope to eventually have kids participate. Archery is an activity that doesn't discriminate based on popularity, athletic skill, gender, size or academic ability. We will be offering a "Come and Try It" session for hands-on experience soon. We want to thank Barry Watson, Level 2, USA Archery Trainer/Instructor for helping us develop this program and training our instructors - James Dornwell, Jan Janisch, Erica and Al Menconi, Lance Nickel, Andy Smith, Jay Watson and Matthew Watson. Thanks for you all stepping up! If you would like to

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:00pm - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 4:15pm - 6:15pm - Girls In The Middle 5:30pm - 6pm - Exercise Class - Library	2 9:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol 1:00pm - Advent Bible Study	3 9:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 6:30pm - Advent Bible Study 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Choir Practice	4 9:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol 5:30pm - 6pm - Exercise Class - Library 5pm - 8pm - Church represented at Schmeckenfest, downtown La Grange	5 8:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R	6 8:00am - 3:00pm Second Chance Vol
7 Communion Sunday 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:10am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service 1:00pm Second Chance Vol 5:00pm - Community Prayer Service - Redimidos por Cristos Church Annex Behind former 1st Baptist Church	8 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 4:15pm - 6:15pm - Girls In The Middle 5:30pm - 6pm - Exercise Class - Library	9 1:00pm - Advent Bible Study 5:00pm - Council on Ministries Mtg - C/R	10 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 10:00am - Worship @ Jefferson Place 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 4:00pm - Glory Tones Practice 6:00pm - Choir Practice 6:30pm - Advent Bible Study	11 5:30pm - 6pm - Exercise Class - Library 3:30pm - Friends 'N Fellowship Board Mtg - C/R 5:30pm - Friends 'N Fellowship - Christmas Critter Donation Event Speaker - Teresa Stanley-Brown Gardenia E. Janssen Animal Shelter	12 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 6:00pm - 8pm - Glory Tones Ledbetter "Lane of Lights"	13 4:00pm - Glory Tones Perform at Schulenburg Regency
14 9:00am - Traditional Service/Choir Cantata 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am—Contemporary Service Deadline Poinsettia Orders	15 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 4:15pm - 6:15pm - Girls In The Middle Christmas Party 5:30pm - 6pm - Exercise Class - Library 5:30pm - Church Board Meeting - Rm 5	16 1:00pm - Advent Bible Study No Emmaus Gathering in December	17 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 6:30pm - Advent Bible Study	18 5:30pm - 6pm - Exercise Class - Library	19 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R	20
21 Communion Sunday 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:10am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service	22 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 5:30pm - 6pm - Exercise Class - Library	23	24 Office Closed Merry Christmas! 4:00pm - Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm - Christmas Eve Service Prayer Team, not meeting together. Today pray for the gift of our Lord.	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas!	26 Office Closed Merry Christmas!	27
28 10:00am - Combined Service	29 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 5:30pm - 6pm - Exercise Class - Library	30	31 Office Closed Happy New Year! 7:00pm - Friends 'N Fellowship - New Year's Eve Party	1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2 Office Closed Happy New Year!	3