

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
Lead Pastor
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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)

May 2026 Edition



LIGHTSHINE

MAY 2026 EDITION
NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PONDERING

Great Commission Weekend: May 29 – 31

Our church family has walked through some challenging seasons. I'm thinking back to Covid, then with the whole disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church, followed by a devastating flood. I'm grateful for how God provided His goodness and mercy through those seasons.

Imagine if the next season for our church didn't involve reacting to or recovering from challenges or disasters but instead was an opportunity to grow in God's calling to live and serve as the church. It's called the **Great Commission Weekend**. The goal is to rediscover the outward call of the church and to be intentional with our efforts toward missions and evangelism.

Friends, the outward call of the church is vital to our identity as Christians. It's not something we can ignore as a congregation. It's easy to focus on what happens inside our walls with worship, learning, fellowship and prayer. But if we only look inward, we risk missing Jesus' command in Matthew 28.

During this special weekend, we welcome once again seasoned missionaries **Steve and Pam English** who will help us discern God's calling on our congregation. Yes, we need to plan and fund the inward ministries of the church, but we cannot ignore the ability to do great things for Jesus beyond our walls. If you remember, Steve and Pam have lived in Guatemala since the mid 1990's. They used to operate an orphanage but are now training and equipping missionaries, addressing Christian persecution around the world, and working to spread the name of Jesus.

The heart of this weekend isn't fundraising or simply hearing stories from the mission field. We're not gathering to celebrate Steve and Pam's accomplishments. The goal is to let their experience and wisdom help us understand how we can do more ministry beyond our walls. But this cannot happen without participation. Please mark your calendars for these wonderful events.

Friday: We begin with light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00pm. At 7:00pm, we will have a special worship service with Steve preaching and with music led by Rev. Erik Smallwood from the Elgin Methodist Church.

Saturday: We'll begin at 10:00am for a time of learning, conversation, and lunch (provided), finishing up by 3:00pm. Then on **Sunday morning**, we'll have a combined worship service at 10:00am to celebrate what God is doing in our midst.

Please join me in praying for this weekend and for God to lead us into a season of ministry that takes us beyond the comforts of our walls.

In Christ's Service,

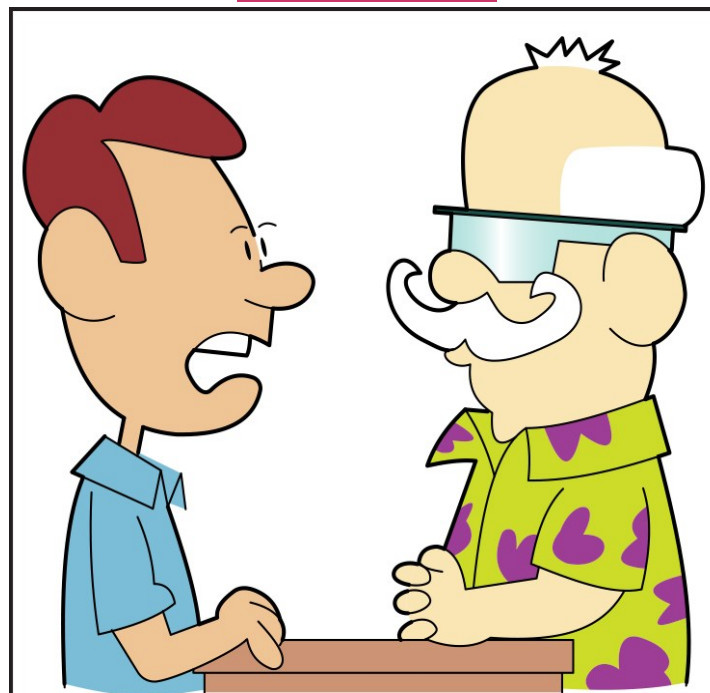
Pastor Andy

INSPIRING READS

- Pastor's Pondering
- Musical Notes
- Altar Rail
- Methodist Men
- Finance Report
- Disciple Hour News
- Upcoming Events
- Friends 'n Fellowship
- Great Commission
- May 2026 Calendar
- Church Happenings
- Notes From the Office
- Dates to Celebrate
- Second Chance
- Prayer Team
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Bible Quiz
- Church Humor

Thank you for your generous support of our ministries.

CHURCH HUMOR



K.Spear

"His thoughts are not our thoughts. Then again, your ideas are pretty unique too."

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D	L	E	I	F	E	L	D	N	I	P	S	P	T
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| BEAUTY | OPEN | SEEK |
| BLESSED | PLANT | SELL |
| BUY | PRAISED | SNOW |
| CANDLE | PRICE | SPINDLE |
| CONSIDER | REACH | SPOIL |
| FIELD | REJOICE | TAPESTRY |
| FLAX | RISE | TONGUE |
| GATES | RUBIES | TRUST |
| HANDS | SAFELY | VIRTUOUS |
| LINEN | SCARLET | WOOL |



MUSICAL NOTES



Can you believe that last year at this time we were anticipating our sanctuary remodel to be finished and eagerly waiting to worship in the sanctuary again?

Glory Tones will ring for the final time this musical year on May 17, then we'll polish bells for our summer break. As always, I appreciate all the time Theah, Kim, Leslie, Janis, Adrienne, Jan, Amy, Lisa, Erica, Judy, Brenda, Misty, and Josh pour into rehearsals and ringing times from September to May. If you see these ringers around, let them know how much you enjoy the beautiful music they prepare for you once a month. We ring for God's glory, not our own, and we pray that as we ring, you feel God's presence in your life.

Our Chancel Choir 'year' is winding down as well. We have some great music planned through June 14, which will be the last Sunday we sing before the summer months. As always, we hope that you feel the Holy Spirit moving through you as we sing our pieces. And again, the praise should not go to us, but to God, because we are mere instruments to bring Him closer to you.



Soli Deo Gloria,
Nancy

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

**TEJAS BACK TO SCHOOL
BACKPACK PROGRAM**

METHODIST MEN

Methodist Men will meet at 6:30 PM, Thursday, May 21, in the Fellowship Hall for their monthly meeting. Come for a great program, good friendship and a delicious meal. Hope to see you there!

Methodist Men Chairman,
Matthew Watson

FINANCE UPDATE

Giving for March 20256 was as follows:
General Fund \$ 50,271.50
Altar Rail (UM Army Schol) \$ 938.00
Total \$ 51,209.50

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Our next **volunteer date at AMEN is Monday, June 1, from 8:30am - 12:30pm**. Please be aware that even if you are not available to volunteer at the food pantry for the entire 4 hour shift on our dates, it is appreciated if you only have an hour to give. Our food donation basket is in the narthex. Please identify that you are donating in our church's name if you take items to AMEN. Thanks!

We will be holding a **Baby Bottle Fundraiser and Diaper/Wipes Drive** for the Brenham Pregnancy Center beginning **Mother's Day on May 10 through Father's Day on June 21**.

The next monthly **Emmaus Gathering will be Tuesday, May 19, 6:30pm, at Shiner Lutheran Church - Shiner, TX** with a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share. The bus will be available. Contact our office at 979-968-8323 for more info.

Friends 'n Fellowship is co-hosting with Fayette Memorial Funeral Home a **Live Smart Expo** for the community from **11am - 2pm, Saturday, June 13**. About 20 vendors such as various health experts, HEB, the Gardenia E. Janssen Animal Shelter and financial planning representatives, will be present to offer advice and give out goodies. If you would like to participate, please ask for a vendor form from the church office.

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 almost half of the cost. This is not mandatory. Please have any articles in by the 20th of each month.



Jack & Sherry Speir	5/5
Charlie & Joy Learned	5/6
Dale & Doreen Alexander	5/7
Bill & Denice Fisher	5/13
John & Debra Schwartzenburg	5/21
Ed & Janet Murphy	5/22

SECOND CHANCE

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.

Our next work dates are -
Monday, June 8, 9am - Noon
Tues., June 9 - Thurs., June 11, 9am - 3pm
Fri., June 12, - Sat., June 13, 8am - 3pm
Sunday, June 14, 11:30am

Thank you for donating your time!
Nancy, Judy, Sandy, Maxine, Lisa, Julie & Bev
Our next work dates-
Monday, July 27 - Sunday, August 3; Monday Sep 8 - Sunday, Sep 13; Monday, October 19 - Sunday, October 25; Tuesday, Dec 8 - Sunday, Dec 13

**Prayer Team
Wednesdays
1:00pm C/R**

UM ARMY
Youth Summer Mission Trip
Boerne, TX July 12 - 18
To Attend or Volunteer
Text or Email Jay Watson
979-249-6201; jwatson316@gmail.com

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 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 Dale Alexander

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: **Dale Alexander's class** Fourth Sunday: **Jo Anne Hill's class** Fifth Sundays: **Our Church Treats**



Darryl	O'Bryant	5/1
Charles	Mazac	5/4
Mildred	Todd	5/6
Carol	Kelly	5/6
Ron	Simons	5/9
Bonnie	Goldman	5/10
Dawn	Eppers	5/11
Matthew	Marks	5/11
Alan	Pyburn	5/14
Scott	Davis	5/15
Monica	Smith	5/20
Kari	Willrich	5/23
Taylor	Handy	5/23
Pat	Budde	5/25
David	Hinman	5/27
Dale	Alexander	5/28
Ed	Murphy	5/31

BLESSED PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE

Do you know of someone going through an eventful time in life that is challenging or 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 and labels need to be sewn onto our shawls. If you have time to donate or want more ministry information, please call the church office.



Diana Wilson kindly distributed two beautiful prayer shawls. Mrs. Hatfield (upper right) receives a green and white prayer shawl with her husband looking on. Mercedes (lower right), who is expecting twins - a boy and a girl - is gifted a pretty yellow shawl with a multi-color pastel trim. Please feel free to see what prayer shawls we have in inventory that may work for someone special in your life.



BEGINS ON MOTHER'S DAY

BRENNHAM PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Monthly LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

New Life METHODIST CHURCH

Every First Thursday. Watch for details.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS!

EASTER SEASON AND CELEBRATION FUN



Walk in the Light
Pastor Andy

He cancelled my debt
And He called me His friend
When death was arrested
And my life began

Our Beautiful Flowered Cross
For all to decorate

And the hunt is on!

Shopping at the Easter Store.

Thanks to all of our decorators, Easter egg hiders and Easter store managers!



Join us at the historic Giddings Stone Mansion in Brenham on Sat., May 16. Enjoy lunch at Must Be Heaven. Cost \$5 plus lunch. Signup in Narthex. Bus available.



We welcome missionaries Steve & Pam English to lead us in a time of learning and discernment regarding missions & evangelism May 29 - 31. Our time begins with a special service on Friday evening. On Saturday, Steve and Pam will lead 3 teaching sessions to help us learn more about how we can be more active in fulfilling the Great Commission Jesus speaks of in Matthew 28. Sunday will be a combined service.

MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 8:00am - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	2 8:00am - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol
3 Communion Sunday 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 11:10am - Contemporary Service 5:00pm - Community Prayer Service - Redimidos por Cristos Church Annex Behind former 1st Baptist Church	4 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 4:15pm - Girls In The Middle 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	5 10:00am - Friend's 'n Fellowship Board Mtg 5:00 pm - Dinner and a Movie - Taco Tuesday, bring your favorite Mexican sides - showing "A Great Awakening" - F/H	6 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 11:00am - Ladies Lunch Bunch - Orsak's Fayetteville 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library 5:30pm - LGISD Set For Summer VBS Event	8 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	9
10 Happy Mother's Day 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour 11:10am - Contemporary Service Brenham Pregnancy Center baby bottle & supply drive begins.	11 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	12 4:00pm - Council on Ministries and VBS planning Mtg - C/R Please call church office to volunteer for VBS.	13 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 10:00am - Jefferson Place Worship 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library	15 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	16
17 Communion Sunday 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour 11:10am - Contemporary Service	18 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library 5:30pm - Church Board Meeting - Rm 5 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	19 6:30pm - Emmaus Gathering, Shiner Lutheran Church	20 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Polish Bells 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 3:30pm - Methodist Men Meeting Prep - Kitchen 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library 6:30pm - Methodist Men Meeting - F/H	22 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 8:00am - 3:00pm - Second Chance Vol 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	23
24 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour 11:10am - Contemporary Service	25 Office Closed Memorial Day 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - F/H	26 8:30am - 12:30pm - AMEN Food Pantry Volunteer	27 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library	29 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R 7:00pm - AA - La Grange Gratitude Group - Library 7:00pm - Worship Service The Great Commission with Missionaries Steve and Pam English	30 10:00am - 3:00pm Teaching Sessions The Great Commission with Missionaries Steve and Pam English
31 10:00am - Combined Service The Great Commission with Missionaries Steve and Pam English						