

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
andy@newlifelg.org

Dawn Eppers
Office Manager
office@newlifelg.org

Nancy Hajek
Director of Classical Church Music
nancy.hajek@newlifelg.org

Erica Menconi
Finance Office
finance@newlifelg.org

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)



February 2026 Edition

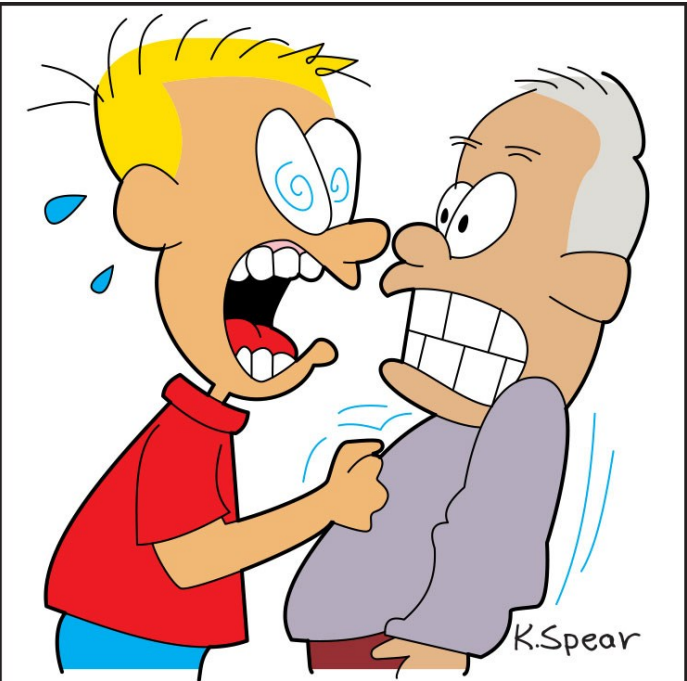
S	E	I	Z	E	D	S	R	D	R	O	W	S	C	L
L	I	L	O	S	E	E	C	F	K	D	E	A	A	N
I	C	U	T	D	S	D	G	A	E	C	R	E	A	E
N	T	H	S	C	T	O	W	I	B	C	U	I	N	N
E	T	L	U	H	L	N	F	E	A	B	S	R	G	I
Y	H	E	I	I	O	E	U	S	R	E	A	N	T	T
F	D	C	A	O	D	U	S	O	P	D	U	R	O	S
E	W	T	H	E	N	E	T	R	C	L	L	O	D	I
D	H	F	C	O	S	D	R	E	S	C	T	W	H	L
E	T	N	H	O	O	N	E	E	D	R	A	E	B	I
E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

Copyright 2007 © GIL PUBLICATIONS, www.BibleWordSearchPuzzles.com

12. David Defended Israel – Defeated Goliath

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| ABLE | FOREHEAD | SAUL |
| ACCOUNT | GOLIATH | SCABBARD |
| BEAR | LINE | SEIZED |
| CARCASSES | LION | SHOUTED |
| CHASING | LOSE | SLUNG |
| CHOOSE | PAW | STREWN |
| CUT | PHILISTINE | STRUCK |
| DEFIED | PLUNDERED | SUBJECTS |
| DEFY | RANKS | SURGED |
| DREW | RESCUED | SWORD |

CHURCH HUMOR



"I can't run the
worship slides anymore...
IT'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE!"

©2022 Kevin Spear www.kevinspear.com



LIGHTSHINE

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION
NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PONDERING

Are you a fundamentalist? I know that's a loaded word, but if we're honest, everyone is a fundamentalist about something. Think about the person who goes to the gym every morning at 6 a.m. They are a fundamentalist about health. Or how about the person who waits 20 plus minutes for a venti caramel crunch Frappuccino with extra whip, extra drizzle, and a scoop of almond milk? That's a fundamentalist about their coffee.

We all have those hills we're willing to die on, those routines or rituals that get our best time, energy, and passion. There's nothing wrong with dedication. In fact, it's what makes us who we are. It reminds me of what Jesus said in Revelation 3 to the church in Laodicea. This church was known for being "lukewarm" about their faith. That's why Jesus says, *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other. So because you are lukewarm, I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*

It's a tough message, but still given with love and grace. Jesus doesn't want us to sleepwalk through our faith, giving it the leftovers after everything else gets our best. He calls us to be as passionate about Him as we are about our workouts, our coffee, or even our favorite sport teams.

Speaking of which, we have a special event on Sunday, February 8. Though it's Super Bowl Sunday (and I think we all wanted to see J.K. Dobbins and the Broncos in the big game) we invite you to wear your favorite jersey or team colors to church. Show your passion, whether you're a die-hard fan or just love a good rivalry. But the real goal is to channel that energy and passion to loving our neighbors. We're asking everyone to bring a special donation for our local food pantry. AMEN always needs our support and we need to be passionate about serving our neighbors as disciples of Jesus Christ. So, please bring a special financial donation or some canned good items.



APPRECIATION DAY. On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 15, we are inviting all the volunteers who serve AMEN, Blue Hills, 2nd Chance, and Feed the Need to stop by our fellowship hall **anytime between 3pm to 5pm** to receive our gratitude for their service. In addition, we're doing something special: our church will be making a \$5 donation on behalf of every volunteer who attends. Volunteers are not asked to give, this is a gift from the church. We simply ask every volunteer to choose which local charity or mission the \$5 will support. It's a way of letting a little extra love support a special cause.



In Christ's Service,
Pastor Andy

INSPIRING
READS

- Pastor's Pondering
- Musical Notes
- Altar Rail
- Methodist Men
- Finance Report
- Disciple Hour News
- Volunteer Reception
- Friends 'N Fellowship
- Relay for Life
- February 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.



MUSICAL NOTES



John Newton (1725 – 1807), the author of the hymn, “ Amazing Grace,” was influenced by his mother who devoted herself to nurturing his soul. She died when he was seven, so he alternated between boarding school and the high seas. He served in the British navy, deserted, was captured and was flogged. More voyages, dangers, toils, and snares followed. But on the night of March 9, 1748, John was at sea in a brutal storm and cried to the Lord, and he said that the Lord came from on high and delivered him out of deep waters.

The next several years saw slow, halting spiritual growth in John, and in the end, he became one of the most powerful evangelical preachers in British history and the author of hundreds of hymns.

The original title for “Amazing Grace” was “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” It is based on Newton’s study of 1 Chronicles 17:16-17. And the verse that wasn’t included in the hymnal, but added in “My Chains Are Gone,” is

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
But God, Who called me here below, shall be forever mine.*

This information comes from *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan, published in 2011 by W Publishing. It contains 150 stories of some of the greatest hymns. I’d be happy to share it with you sometimes.



Soli Deo Gloria!

Nancy

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

GOOD SHEPHERD FUND

METHODIST MEN

Methodist Men will meet at 6:30PM, Thursday, February 19th, in the Fellowship Hall for their meeting. There will be a delicious meal as well as an enlightening program.

Methodist Men Chairman,
Matthew Watson

FINANCE UPDATE

Giving for December:	
General Fund	\$ 62,060.60
Altar Rail	\$ 791.00

Total \$ 62,851.60

Please let Erica know if you have questions about your 2025 giving statements.



Rob and Marty Emmons	2/1
Jeff and Leslie Powell	2/16



Melissa	Baker	2/1
Chuck	Mazac	2/1
Bill	Wegmann	2/1
Ken	Smith	2/1
Beverly	Edwards	2/3
Homer	Lange	2/5
Bill	Fisher	2/5
Jude	Handy	2/7
Maria	Hartin	2/9
Ted	Burns	2/11
Evelyn	Vasek	2/13
Karen	Salvo	2/20
John	Kelly	2/21
Larry	Hatfield	2/23
Anissa	Menefee	2/27
Paulett	Renfro	2/28

*NOTES FROM THE OFFICE * OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY 2/16 FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY*

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. Our next work date is March 23.

The next monthly Emmaus Gathering will be at Flatonia Methodist Church with a potluck for dinner at 6:30pm Tuesday, February 17. Please contact the church office at 979-968-8323 for information.

Our Prayer Team is on the schedule to pray for the Annual Awakening, Wednesday, February 11 - 14. All are welcome to participate as able.

Our church holds a worship service at Jefferson Place each 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10am. Please feel welcome to attend and be in fellowship with members that live there.

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.

GIRLS IN THE MIDDLE

3RD - 8TH GRADE GIRLS MONDAYS 4:15 - 6:15PM RESUMES 2/9

FORMS IN NARTHEX BUS PICKUP LG ELEM

Prayer Team

Wednesdays 1:00pm C/R

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

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 sale at resale pricing.

Our next work dates are - Tuesday, Mar. 10, - Thursday, Mar. 12 9am -3pm Friday, Mar. 13, - Sat., Mar. 14, 8am - 3pm Sunday, March 15, start time 11:30pm

Note, we are no longer working on Mondays.

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

Upcoming 2026 Schedule

Tuesday, April 28 - Sunday, May 3 Tuesday, June 9 - Sunday, June 14 Tuesday, July 28 - Sunday, August 3 Tuesday, September 8 - Sunday, September 13 Tuesday, October 20 - Sunday, October 25 Tuesday, December 8 - Sunday, December 13

BLESSED PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE

Beautiful handmade prayer shawls are available to give as comforting gifts to those who might be experiencing a joyous event or sadness in their lives. We are always recruiting those who already have a talent or would like to learn to crochet. There is yarn available and tags that need to be sewn into our shawls. If you have time to donate or want more ministry information, please call the church office.

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS!

WE ARE SWEET ON YOU

"COME & GO" RECEPTION 3PM - 5PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 FELLOWSHIP HALL CELEBRATING AMEN, 2ND CHANCE, BLUE HILLS & FEED THE NEED

CHURCH HAPPENINGS!

DOWNTOWN AT SCHMECKENFEST

Jo Anne, one of our many helpers.



LG High School Band

For the last 2 years, our church has had the opportunity of participating in the City of La Grange's annual Christmas event of Schmeckenfest. Many of our members participate with other groups also. We hand out about 150 Christmas coffee mugs, cookies and information about New Life Methodist Church. Our members and others are so kind to make about 1200 cookies each year to place in the mugs and cookie bags to hand out to 100's of attendees. There is a wassail contest that many groups participate in. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at the end of a parade. There are food vendors, kid's activities, shopping and all around fun!

HOLY LAND TRIP

Oct. 27 ~ Nov. 5, 2026

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

New Life
METHODIST CHURCH



We are excited to invite you on a life-changing trip to the Holy Land in October 2026. This trip is organized and led by Educational Opportunities (EO) Tours, a trusted Christian group tour company with decades of experience. **THE BASIC COST FOR THIS TRIP IS: \$4,198.00. This Pricing Includes...**

- Roundtrip Flights between New York & Israel
- First Class Hotel Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast and Dinner
- All Ground Transportation with Guide
- Fees, Hotel Gratuities, Gov. Taxes

Extra Expenses Not Included:
 Airfare to and from New York
 Daily Lunch (budget \$20 per day)
 Bottled Water (available on bus for \$1)
 Tip for Guide (\$6 per day)
 Travel Insurance (optional but recommended)
 Credit Card Fees (a 3.5% fee on any payments made by credit card, except for the initial deposit).

The front office will be glad to answer any questions.

YOUTH ARCHERY

A New Ministry
3rd - 12th grades



We are introducing an exciting archery program opportunity for our community. We are now members of Centershot ministries which is a non-denominational ministry that equips local churches to share the gospel and foster community connections through archery. 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. If you would like to know more, please call the church office for information.

Friends n Fellowship

5:30 TO 7:30

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Please notify Dawn in the church office or use the sign up sheet to let us know if you are coming. Thanks



We are serving breakfast and a movie. Please come and join in the fun and bring a friend.

AUDREY HEPBURN

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S

FEBRUARY 12TH
EVENT

GEORGE PEPPARD · NEAL · EBBSEN · MARTIN · BALSAM AND MICKE

NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL

1215 N. Von Minden Street
La Grange, Tex.

Friends
'n
Fellowship



SAVE THE DATE RELAY FOR LIFE APRIL 18, 2026

This year's Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society will be held on April 18, 2026. If you would like to participate as a team member, you can go to relayforlife.org and search for Fayette County. Survivors are also encouraged to register and participate. More information will be coming soon. If you have questions, please call Team Captain Noreen Dopslauf at 979-966-3164 or email at noreendopslauf@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service 11:30am - Second Chance Vol 5:00pm - Community Prayer Service - Redimidos por Cristos Church Annex Behind former 1st Baptist Church	2 1:00pm - Emmaus Women—C/R 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library	3 8:00am - Life Line Screening - F/H 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H	4 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00am - Friends 'N Fellowship Board Mtg - C/R 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Choir Rm	6 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R	7
8 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service	9 1:00pm - Emmaus Women—C/R 1:00pm - Fayette Co. Retired Teachers - F/H 4:15pm - Girls In The Middle 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library	10 10:00am - Worship @ Jefferson Place 4:00pm - Council on Ministries Mtg - C/R 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H	11 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 3:30pm - Friends 'N Fellowship Prep - Kitchen & F/H 5:30pm - Friends 'N Fellowship - "Breakfast at Tiffany's" Event 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Choir Rm	13 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R	14 1pm - Volunteer Reception Prep - Kitchen & F/H
15 Communion Sunday 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service 1pm - Reception Prep - Kitchen & F/H 3pm - 5pm Volunteer Appreciation Reception - F/H	16 *OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY* 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library 5:30pm - Church Board Meeting - Rm 5	17 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H 6:30pm - Emmaus Gathering, Flatonia Methodist Church	18 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 3:30pm - Methodist Men Meal Prep— Kitchen 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Choir Rm 6:30pm - Methodist Men Meeting	20 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R	21
22 9:00am - Traditional Service 10:00am - Church Fellowship Time 10:15am - Disciple Hour Classes 11:10am - Contemporary Service	23 1:00pm - Emmaus Women - C/R 4:15pm - Girls In The Middle 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Library	24 5:30pm - Tuesday Nite Live Dinner & House of David Study - F/H	25 7:00am - Men's Emmaus - F/H 1:00pm - Prayer Team, C/R 5:30pm - Glory Tones Practice 7:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 5:30pm-6pm - Exercise Class - Choir Rm	27 7:30am - Men's Bible Study - C/R	28