

## New Pastor Selected

New Life Methodist Church of Salado announced that Tom Lathen would become our first permanent pastor effective March 1, 2023. Lathen is the former pastor at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Temple, where he served for nearly four years.

Lathen is a native of Washington, he is a graduate of Washington State University. The Lathens came to Texas in 2012 where he served as the Senior Physician Recruiter for Baylor Scott & White Health in Temple until he retired at the end of last year. Tom is married to wife Kathy, who is an accomplished musician. Kathy works for the Brazos River Authority.

Lathen stated that he was thrilled to become a part of New Life Methodist Church and plans to become active in the Salado community. "New Life Methodist Church is a growing church, and I am excited to be a part of the Salado Community," Lathen said. Lathen pointed out

that "in uncertain times we all need to know that God is real, God is loving, and one way to know that is to share God with a loving church family." He invites residents of the Salado area, regardless of their current or past church affiliation, to join New Life Methodist Church for worship and Bible study.

New Life Methodist Church was formed last September and meets each Sunday at the Salado Museum in downtown Salado. The church holds a worship service at 10:00 each Sunday morning. Last month the church launched a new Bible study class which is held each Sunday at 9:00 AM.



*Tom & Kathy Lathen*



**From the  
Desk of  
Tom**

*By:  
Tom Lathen*

The first time we visited the church in February someone told me y'all are informal. Two things on that. First I never confuse informal with indifference. In the past six weeks we have seen your love of Jesus Christ and your commitment to New Life Methodist Church.

I'm an informal guy too. Please feel comfortable calling me Tom. But if you are more comfortable with Pastor Tom, that's ok too.

Kathy and I want to help you be the church you intend to be. Loving, community minded, focused on worshipping with passion and believing in the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives—beginning with our own.

We are excited to partner in ministry with you.

# Meetings with Pastor Tom

If you haven't already done so, please fill out a Family Biography and schedule a time for a family meeting with Tom.

"I want a chance to meet everyone and have time to find out more than we can in a short conversation before or after services," Tom said.

So during the month of March he has set up times in the morning, afternoon, and early evening for home visits.

The biography forms and visit calendar are at the door of the Museum as you enter.

"Y'all know each other pretty well, I understand. But Kathy and I are just in the beginning process of meeting everyone."

Tom acknowledged that filling out forms isn't a lot of fun. So, he kept the form short. He wants to have a record of birthdays and anniversaries.

"I also know that some families have lost loved ones, and we want to acknowledge that loss

and be sensitive to those times of hardship."

Tom is also looking to find volunteers willing to help with a prayer chain for New Life Methodist.

"Prayer warriors are needed to continually lift up the joys and concerns of our congregation," he said.

He also assured that prayer concerns are kept confidential unless otherwise instructed by the person seeking prayers.

As we meet to discuss the future on the church (March 11th, see calendar below.) we also will be discussing what other committees are needed or required by the Discipline of the Global Methodist Church.

"We want to find a place where every member feels welcome to plug in and help," Tom said.

"Because every member does need to plug in and help."

## Holy Week!

We kicked off Lent with a very special Ash Wednesday. Gathering outside the Museum with the morning rainstorm, and the afternoon sunshine we had "drive thru" Ash Imposition for 27 members.

During Holy Week we are planning for a Palm Sunday Service April 2. Good Friday Service April 7 at 7:00 p.m. We will also celebrate together on Easter Morning.

We will have a service in our Sanctuary at 10:00. The community wide sunrise Easter service normally held has been cancelled this year.

More details will be announced in the new few weeks. So watch your email and listen for announcements at church.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

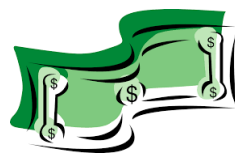
**March 4th—Communion Service**

**March 11th—Strategic Planning Meeting, Salado Museum, 10:00 AM**



A Global Methodist Church  
PO Box 1322  
Salado, TX 76571

New Life Methodist Church meets each Sunday at 10:00 am with Bible Study at 9:00 am at the Salado Museum, 423 S Main Street in downtown Salado.  
Tom Lathen, Pastor (254) 899-5680



### Dollars and Cents

February Beginning Balance	<b>\$61,779.88</b>
February Church Donations:	\$15,204.00
Turkey Relief Donation:	(\$1,375.00)
Expenses:	(\$811.00)
Bank Balance 2/28/23:	<b>\$74,797.88</b>