

New Life Lutheran Church Timeline

1988-2022

1988

- Seminarians pray to reach Gypsies - Meet Gypsies at a street fair
- Church planting starts as church for all nations in Gypsy home

1989

- House church continues with fellowship activities (Pig roast, roller skating)

1990

- April 15, Easter Sunday, 1st public worship service at Southeast YMCA

1992

- March 04, New Life Lutheran Church - Officially Chartered in service at YMCA
- Move to 2901 N. Clinton Street
- First Moment in Mission (Tim and Michelle Miller)
- September, Pastor Larry Merino Ordained and Installed as 1st pastor, at Clinton St.

1993

- First Easter Egg Hunt event, at Clinton St.
- Move to Concordia Lutheran High School (CLHS) – services held in exercise room
- Opened a church office at corner of 4th Street and Schilling
- First October Fun Night – held in CLHS auxiliary gym
- December – services move to CLHS auditorium

1994

- Holy Spirit leads to exploration of Harvester neighborhood as possible new home
- Mission house - 225 Woodland Ave. becomes NL women's shelter (Joshua House), Vicar Dan and Charlene Beattie direct the ministry

1995

- Move to Shadybrook building, Harvester Neighborhood (Late spring/early summer)
- Evangelism & prayer walks through neighborhood
- Bible Studies held with neighborhood youth
- Wednesday evening meal and family Bible nights begun
- October – Phone call from Viola Fronkova in Slovakia asking Pastor Larry to come help reach Gypsy people there

1996

- Purchase and renovation of Mynett Music building and property to become church
- Slovakian Gypsy outreach begins (Early trips involve listening, learning, and start of lay-ministry training)
- Mission House becomes Men's shelter

1998

- Youth mission trip to Slovakia with Merinos (Adam Merino, Sarah Ziko, Paul Ziko, Jeanne Burger)
- Pastor Dubblede shares a vision for cross-cultural outreach, NL prays and develops burden for Internationals, Immigrants, refugees
- 1st Christmas party held for Burmese friends and leaders, 100 attend, Burmese ministry begins

1999

- Jim Keller (& Annette) begins as field worker to work among Burmese
- Jim Keller assigned for summer vicarage to focus on Harvester neighborhood and Burmese immigrants
- Merinos visit CA & find Gypsy people curious about Jesus, visit Rev. Gary and Grace Rohwers who are doing work among Muslim people in LA
- Pastor Hans Martin Dern (Slovakian Gypsy Ministry leader) visits New Life
- New Life Mission Connections newsletter begins
- New Life launches its first web site

2000

- New Life leads Indiana District outreach at Centlivre Village Apartments – All Nations Friendship Center reaches refugees and immigrants from many countries
- Joe Boway travels to Liberia to attend dedication of Krahn New Testament (Joe was instrumental in completing the translation in his mother tongue)
- Jim Keller begin as New Life's vicar (April)
- First Gypsy in California in 25 years becomes a Christian and renounces fortune-telling
- Rohwers begin outreach to Gypsy people in LA
- Web site for Gypsy people launched
- Weekly online bible study held with Gypsy women in California and Texas
- First Burmese Labor Day Picnic at Camp Lutherhaven
- Slovakian Roma Mission Teams formed

2001

- June 3 – Jim Keller ordained and installed as assistant pastor, to work among Burmese people
- October – First International Gypsy Summit
- 1st Day Camp for refugee children held at Camp Lutherhaven

2002

- June 2, 10th anniversary worship celebration
- New Life starts Burmese language service
- 1st International Camp (overnight camp) held at Camp Lutherhaven
- SPERK (School For Lutheran Gypsies for Christ) begins in Slovakia
- Mission House changes to International housing ministry

2003

- Pastor Keller travels to Burma
- Burmese Common Language New Testament dedication service held
- Gypsy Ministry expands to Latvia

2004

- Joe Boway commissioned as missionary to the people of Liberia. Liberian Children's Ministry begins

2005

- Pastor Merino released from New Life to begin Harvest Mission International
- Pastor Luther Strassen installed as interim pastor
- Monday Mission Prayer team begins

2006

- January 8 – Rev. Mike Wakeland installed as senior pastor

2007

- New Life members Chuck Thompson and Walter Fisher join Joe Boway on mission trip to Liberia
- Coffee houses held at Cherished Again

2008

- New Karen worship group planted in partnership with Southwest Lutheran Church

2009

- Rev/ Dave (& Sally) Strable installed as associate pastor, to serve with LAMB, with focus on Muslim Burmese people

2010

- Gypsy Mission Team in California (Sonia, Luigi, & Doreen) hosts Outreach event at Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church, with Pastor Larry and Linda Merino, The Dorns from Germany, and New Life representative Jeanne Burger attending

2011

- Bible Women ministry begins in partnership with LAMB

2012

- 20th anniversary celebrated with theme of *20/20 Vision, Looking Forward While Remembering the Past*
- Men's Group holds Bible studies at local low-rate hotels reaching men recently released from prison.
- Celebrate Recovery group started
- Pastor Wakeland accepts call to become executive chaplain at Lutheran Life Villages

2013

- Pastor Keller installed as Senior Pastor
- Pastor Strable moves to Associate Pastor of Care and Counseling for New Life
- Neighborhood witness teams begin regular Saturday outreach under leadership of Chuck Thompson
- Members host *New Life in the Park*, a week of activities to connect with and witness to the Harvester neighborhood
- Hosted first Halloween Containment event for Parolees (and Parole Officers)

2014

- Sunday services names changed to *First Service and Second Service*, in place of English and Burmese services, to indicate that anyone is welcome at any service. The Second Service is done in English & Karen
- In-Step Ministry begins – serving Men related to the DOC and their families: those on parole, and also jail visits, individuals and families living long-term in area hotels, and the Rescue Mission, under Pastor Strable's leadership
- Ebola outbreak in Liberia impacts our schools, churches, and families in Liberia. Members provide ongoing support and prayers for Joe Boway and the Liberian Children's Ministry. Shipping container packed and sent with hygiene supplies and other items useful for combating Ebola.

2015

- New Life hosts first week of Youth Leadership Training for summer outreach

2017

- Monthly mission outreach activities conducted to explore new ideas
- Burmese language service added. 3 services now offered - English, English & Karen, and Burmese (under Kyaw Sann and Ma Cho's leadership)
- Members unite in studying the book *The Battle Plan for Prayer* to expand prayer life and outreach

2018

- Monthly Free Family Movie Nights begun
- Neighborhood VBS held with help of visiting mission team

2019

- God miraculously provides for major (unbudgeted) repairs on New Life's fellowship hall through generous donation of heating system, and Men's Group repairs on roof outside and mold remediation inside.
- Pastor Strable granted a peaceful release from his call to New Life – moves to Iowa to support family there.

2020

- Covid-19 Epidemic hits. Services moved to online. Combined worship services held outdoors during warmer weather. Weekly online prayer meeting begun.
- Members support and help one another through Covid epidemic. Medical Deaconess Taylor Aung helps Burmese families with Covid.
- Wednesday evening community meal shifts to take-out.

2021

- Congregation begins weekly prayers for Revival and Movements of Faith among people groups.

2022

- New Life member, Pete Meneghello, ordained and installed into ministry at Lutheran Live Villages