



Life Line

December 2011

New Life Lutheran Church

249 N. Bolingbrook Dr., Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Tel: 630.759.7636 Fax: 630.759.7790

www.newlifebolingbrook.com

Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ is Lord!

Advent/Christmas Schedule

- December 1** – Care Giver Kit Assembly @ Bolingbrook High School --
7:00pm
- December 3** - Ladies Gift Exchange and Breakfast - 8:30am
- December 4** – **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Advent Tea - 3:00pm
- December 8** – Christmas Caroling at Greenleaf
(meet at church to carpool at 6:30pm)
- December 11** – **3rd Sunday in Advent**
- December 17** – Children's Christmas Program 4:00pm
"The Jesse Tree"
- December 18** – **4th Sunday in Advent**
Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata
SUPPLY Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- December 21** – Las Posadas – 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
- December 24** – **Christmas Eve**
Family / Children worship with puppets - 5:00pm
Candlelight Service & Communion - 7:00pm
Christmas Special Music - 10:30pm
Candlelight Service & Communion - 11:00pm
- December 25** – **Christmas Morning**
Worship with Communion 10:00am
note: only one service on Sunday, December 25
- January 1**– **Sunday Morning Worship at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am**



CONSPIRED WAITING

As Advent knocks on our door, the Christian focus turns to waiting for Jesus Christ to come again. In my own waiting for the birth of my first child the past few months, one thing I've discovered seems to carry and cross over into the spiritual life as well.

WAITING needs distractions.

Sitting around just waiting isn't productive. That's why those pots never boil. Besides excruciating boredom, sitting and waiting for a future to happen means a lot of the present is missed. So Intentional waiting needs intentional action.

For me this has meant readying a nursery, washing tiny, tiny clothing, and reading books like *The Happiest Baby on the Block*. All have been welcome distractions that keep me busy and still able to enjoy the anticipation of what lies ahead.

Advent, or church in general, is no different. It is easy to forget that we are waiting for Christ to come back because of all our distractions. Mission trips, Sunday worship, choir, Vacation Bible School—all are wonderful distractions that keep us busy and yet focused on Christ and the anticipation that lies ahead.

This Advent we will immerse ourselves in the *Advent Conspiracy*.

We will challenge ourselves to *Worship Fully*, *Spend Less*, and *Give More*.

The Conspiracy is to do Advent differently and get out of the ordinary pulse of the hectic season. Check out the Graffiti Wall in the Narthex during Advent to be reminded of our intentional Advent distractions for 2011.

Distractions isn't the best word. Disciplines is better. This Advent, for 4 weeks, embrace some disciplines, some intentional actions that remind your heart and mind and body that you are a Christian, waiting for Christ to come back.

Worship Fully. Sunday mornings. Christmas Eve. Christmas Day.

Spend Less. Much can be rearranged in our budgets to cover our needs. Toys or mortgage payment? Expensive presents or unpaid bills? Wants? Or Needs?

Give More. ELCA World Hunger. ELCA Good Gifts. The Good Sam Fund. The red Salvation Army bucket. Your favorite non-profit.

Blessings as you do Advent differently, disciplined and distracted for Christ's coming.

With the arrival of December, we find ourselves in the Advent season and looking forward to holiday decorating, and enjoying the events that occur in this month. December also brings the winter season with the exhilarating colder temperatures and pristine white snow. It is also a time to reflect on the year's happenings and accomplishments. For New Life, we have the opportunity to attend the special worship services during the month and share our gifts with others.



Council is working on items for the **annual congregational meeting planned for January 22**. Spending plan proposal has been submitted to Council with committee budgets being reviewed with each committee. The Stewardship committee has presented to Council a new program for 2012 that will provide New Life Members with opportunity to better understand our gifts. Council is encouraging all members to participate in these sessions as it can be an Important part of your faith journey.

Please be sure to worship during the holiday season and be sure to experience the spirit of the Lord.

Yours in Christ

Jack Schlea
Council President

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 22nd

Immediately after the 11:00am Worship
We will be voting on the 2012 Spending Plan and electing new
church leaders. All Members are Encouraged to Attend
Childcare will be provided

Youth Choirs

No **Possibilities** or **Jr/Sr High** choir rehearsals on 12/21 (so we can join Las Posadas) or 12/28. Our first rehearsal of 2012 will be on Wednesday, January 4.

Possibilities Choir will sing at 5pm on Christmas Eve 12/24.

Start your New Year with New Life! All 2nd - 8th grade youth and their families are invited to join us for the **musical kick off party** on **Sunday, January 1 following the 11am worship service** in the Fellowship Hall. We will read the script, sing songs, eat yummy lunch, and play theater games. You do not have to be a member of the choir to join the musical.

Here's a clue to our theme for this year...*what would happen if you misplaced Jesus?*

We are excited to have Shireen Behzadi as our drama director again this year as she recently finished directing the fall play at Bolingbrook High School.

Parts will be assigned following the kickoff party. If you want to join the musical, but cannot attend, please contact Sally Minor. The musical rehearses on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons in January and February and will be presented the weekend of 2/19 on Saturday evening and again on Sunday at 11am worship.

Questions? Contact Sally Minor at 630-441-0756.

Las Posadas—Save the Date!

On Wednesday, December 21, we will once again celebrate Las Posadas! This is a wonderful tradition from Mexico that couldn't be more fun. **Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm** to walk around the neighborhood, singing and looking for a place to stay (just like Mary and Joseph) and then come back for warmth, good food, and fun. Dress warm! Our friends from Santa Cruz in Joliet will join us once again.

Youth Ministry Calendar Summer—Fall 2011

More information on all events comes out to respective groups as dates draw near. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with identified youth ministry liaisons:

Amy Beaugard—J.A.B. Coordinator (6-8th grade)
Joe Moles—S.U.P.P.L.Y Coordinator (9-12th grade)
Tina & Jim Blumenstein—SSAY Coordinators (VBS ages)
Sally Minor—Confirmation Leader
Julie Selep—Sunday School
Beth Girardier - Youth Education Coordinator

Ms. June
Pastor Raket

December

4th SUPPLY

8th Caroling at Green Leaf at 6:30 pm

17th Sunday School Christmas Program 4:00 pm

18th Cantata Breakfast – SUPPLY

21st Los Pasadas at 6:30 pm

25th No Sunday School

January

1st No Sunday School

13th – 14th Epiphany Retreat (3-5 grades)

15th SUPPLY

22nd JAB Night with Confirmation

February

5th SUPPLY Super Bowl Party

19th SUPPLY

26th JAB Night with Confirmation

CONFIRMATION/JAB

Our fundraiser for this year will be a beautiful, handcarved "JOY" centerpiece, created by one of our generous church members. The funds collected from these sales will be used for our Quake trip in April.

These will be sold in the Narthex between services after Thanksgiving. **THERE ARE ONLY 20 OF THESE AVAILABLE**, so please don't wait.

Confirmation/JAB thanks you in advance for helping to defray some of the cost of the Quake fees.

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters

8:00am	Jerry Schmidt
9:30am	Nathan & Amy Foster
11:00am	Rich & Cathy Hess

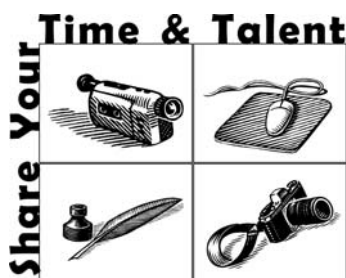
Worship Assistants

8:00am	Jackie Schmidt
9:30am	Mike Selep
11:00am	Amy Beaugard

Ushers

8:00am	John & Jackie Schmidt, Pat Jahn, Fred Mills
9:30am	Karas, Nelson, Blumenstein & Costello Families
11:00am	Bruno & Maggie Sadowski, Cathy Taylor, Susan Ellwing-Ridley
Christmas Eve	
10:30pm	Jason & Carole Koronkiewicz David & Susan Thomas

Volunteers are always needed to help with worship - interested?
Contact the church office at 630.759.7636 or
officemgr@newlifebolingbrook.com



Time & Talent

Share Your Hobby and Talents

Do you enjoy making videos? Creative writing? Snapping photos? Producing Power Point presentations? If you are interested in any of these areas, New Life needs you! We are looking to increase our promotion of programs and events and need a core of resource folks to assist. Professional experience not neces-

sary, just a strong interest in the aforementioned areas. Assignments will be based on your availability and number of volunteers.

Please consider sharing your time and talents!

For more information contact Laurie Freeman at 630-312-8359 or
beahappycamper@comcast.net.

Step Into Africa...the Journey Continues

Help assemble Care Giver Kits December 1st at the Bolingbrook High School Cafeteria at 7:00pm. Join in with folks from all around Bolingbrook to do what we can to alleviate the suffering and provide dignity to those suffering from HIV/AIDS in our sister city of Magambe, Tanzania. *And did you know the community of New Life gave \$961 for these Care Giver Kits?* That's 34 kits! Way to go New Life!

Mission Trip to Ocean Springs, Mississippi!

Feb 11 - 18, 2011.

Pastor Paul will be leading our group down to Ocean Springs, MS this February. If you are interested in going please contact the church office at 630.759.7636. Cost of the trip is \$125 per person. Please speak with Pastor Paul if you have any questions! ***Vans are needed for the trip - arrangements can be made to swap vehicles for that week. Please contact the office if you have one to lend!***

Please keep these and all service members and their families in your prayers.



Bob Beckett - son of Dick & Laurena Beckett. Stationed at Fort Carson.

SPC. Beckett, Robert
PO Box 13519
Colorado Springs, CO 80902

Eric Frederick - Son of Charles & Vanda Frederick. Deployed in Afghanistan.

PV2 Frederick, Eric P
HHC Mortars 1 - 24 IN BN, 1-25
SBCT FOB Lagman
APO AE 09383

Erik Gundersen - Son of Roger & Amy Gundersen. Stationed F.E. Warren AFB

Lt. Erik Gundersen
62B Ft Warren Ave
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Please contact the office with information on your loved one that is serving in the military.

Advent Tea – Blessings from Above
Sunday, December 4
3:00-5:00 p.m.



We invite all women and girls to start or continue a meaningful tradition by attending the annual Advent Tea. Start your Advent season with a beautiful, peaceful reminder that our faith decorates our lives much like ornaments decorate a Christmas tree. The program will include prayer, music, special children's activity, an advent message and fellowship with your family,

friends and neighbors. It is a beautiful way to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Enjoy tea and hot chocolate along with cookies and other light snacks.

Tickets will be available on Sundays starting November 6 in the narthex or by contacting Suzanne Schorsch 630-378-1366.

Ladies Gift Exchange Pot Luck Breakfast

All ladies of the church are invited to engage in a Fellowship Breakfast on Saturday, December 3rd at 8:30am. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex and bring a gift valued at around \$10 to exchange.

Operation Christmas Child
Shoebox Christmas

Thanks to the generosity of New Life members and the hard work of our Sunday school students New Life was able to fill **126** boxes to share the love of Christ with the world!

Mitten/Sock Tree

The tree is in the Fellowship Hall this year!

Besides mittens and socks please add these items to the branches: children's underwear & tights, scarves, hats/caps and gloves. We will collect them until December 11th and then deliver all to Operation Christmas here in town.

Christmas Caroling

Please join us in our annual Confirmation/JAB sponsored, Christmas Caroling event on **Thursday, December 8th**. We will meet at the church at 6:30 pm and carpool to Greenleaf Apartments in Bolingbrook to carol and bring Christmas joy to the residents. We will sing from approximately 7-8pm and the entire congregation is invited to participate. *Please join us as we bring smiles and the love of Jesus to others in our community.*

The following is a letter sent to President Obama from Reverend Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Dear President Obama:

As the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of the Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, I write to lift up the support of our national church body for comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act. We are a church that belongs to Christ, and we believe God calls each of us by name. Therefore, the ELCA has repeatedly affirmed the biblical witness and our shared experience of working with and on behalf of America's newcomers through our ministry with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA voted overwhelmingly in support of immigration reform and the DREAM Act. The churchwide assembly is the ELCA's highest legislative authority serving on behalf of 4.2 million baptized ELCA members.

The biblical call to hospitality also inspired Lutheran congregations across the country to discuss transforming communities into centers of hospitality through relationship building and advocacy. In addition, congregations are holding DREAM Act Sabbaths to lift up the experiences of undocumented youth and encourage broader public support for the legislation.

The need to overhaul the U.S. immigration system is becoming ever more urgent. In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, states have felt compelled to write their own immigration laws, which are often short-sighted and misguided. The ELCA needs your leadership. We urge you to continue to speak to Congress and the American public to take action on comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act and to explore other compassionate policy reforms that advance the common good.

As a national church body, the ELCA -- our congregations, bishops, schools and millions of individual members -- continues to preach, teach, advocate and work with and on behalf of America's newcomers. This nation has achieved such greatness due to the resilience, labor and intellect of immigrants. We will roll up our sleeves and work tirelessly until this nation is once again a place of welcome and justice for newcomers.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Peter, Paul, and Mary

No - Wait! It's Peter, Paul, and expectant Pastor Rakel!



The staff of New Life wishes you
Peace, Love, and Joy at this expectant
time of Christmas!

*Roland~Andrew~David~Dodie~Sally~Jen
Lorri~Gwyn~Bobbi~Roman~Barb~Ms. June~Terri
Peter~Pastor Paul~Pastor Rakel*

=== Get to Know Us ===
* THE CARE TEAM *

Seeking to provide care and compassion to our congregation, our community and the world around us. The Care Team is an expression of faith: a response to God's new commandment in John 13:34-35, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

CHRISTMAS CARE NOTES

Please stop by the kiosks to see the new titles available for the Christmas season. Care notes are great resources for adults, teens, and kids on a variety of subjects like aging, health, family, school issues and faith life.

DONATING BLOOD...PRICELESS!

Thank you to those donors who were able to give the priceless gift of a blood donation. Save the date for our first blood drive of the New Year on January 22!

COUPONING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

Check out www.myfrugaladventures.com for lots of ways to save money and use your savvy savings to have more to help others whether it's the food pantry, women's shelters, or animal shelters.

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

AVAILABLE NOW AND EVERYDAY AT CHURCH:

- **newspaper/white paper/magazine** recycling are available in green/yellow bin at the north end of the parking lot at church.
- **Pop tabs** are recycled to benefit Ronald McDonald House. White bucket is available in the fellowship hall next to the pop machine.
- **Plastic caps** from beverage containers are being collected to be recycled into tubing for dialysis machines. They are located in a tote in the fellowship hall by the kitchen.

Kid's Page



ADULT EDUCATION

Upcoming events and classes for Adult Education:

The Advent Conspiracy is scheduled for Sunday at 9:30am in the Genesis room beginning November 27th for four sessions. If you are tired of how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas you will want to attend this class. Learn how to reclaim Christmas and make it what it should be: a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world.

Coming January/February 2012:

Book Discussion Forum: The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism by Timothy Keller.

Why does God allow suffering in the world?

How could a loving God send people to Hell?

Why isn't Christianity more inclusive?

How can one religion be "right" and the other wrong?

Why have so many wars been fought in the name of God?

These are just a few of the questions and doubts even strong believers wrestle with today.

If you would like thoughtful, reasoned answers to these questions and more you will want to attend this dynamic forum. The forum will feature a DVD of pastor and author Timothy Keller addressing questions, doubts and objections to Christianity and an opportunity for our own discussion. More information will follow.

Beginning January 2012 we will be adding a **Thursday evening class** to our Adult Education program.

Class topics will be announced shortly.

Read and study God's word – it is an important faith practice!

Have A Cow for Christmas!

No, we don't mean invite Olie over for Christmas dinner (although he'd probably like that as long as he wasn't on the menu!) - All through Advent (beginning Sunday, Nov. 27) you'll have the opportunity to purchase some rather unique Christmas gifts for your loved ones & all those hard-to-buy-for people on your Christmas list - barnyard animals! Make a donation to ELCA's God's Global Barnyard and the animal(s) of your choice will be donated to a poverty-stricken village somewhere in the world. You'll receive a special card to present to your loved one announcing the gift you've made in their honor. Gifts come in all price ranges, from \$10 for a dozen chicks - \$500 for a cow. A very fitting way to celebrate the birth of Jesus (He *was* born in a barn, after all) in the truest spirit of the season! See Deb Tomsy if you have any questions in the meantime.

Community Christmas Concert

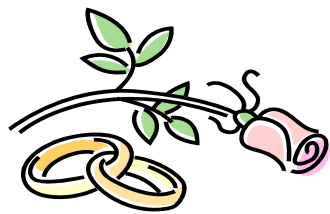
34th Annual Bolingbrook Community Chorus Christmas Concert is being held on ***Sunday, December 4th at 2pm*** at the First Presbyterian Church on Weber Road, south of Boughton. Admission is Free.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC CONCERT

The Christmas season is fast approaching and time to plan for the Christmas Eve pre-service music concert. This concert takes place at 10:30 pm, 30 minutes prior to the 11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. All who want to share music (vocalists, instrumentalists) are invited to participate in this concert. Please contact Roland Johnson at 815-886-2175 or rolflo7@comcast.com or the church office at 630-759-7636 or office@newlifebolingbrook.com to sign up to take part in the Christmas music concert

December Anniversaries

3rd	Mike & Sally Martin
12th	Mike & Jennifer Kenney
	Fred & Colleen Mills
19th	Blaine & Debbi Johnston
27th	Joe & Abby Moles
30th	Scott & Bonnie Bovaird



If you do not see your name & date here please let the church office know. Thanks

Worship Committee

Throughout the summer of 2011, worship services at New Life had a segment called Walk Through Worship. In those brief moments each Sunday there was an explanation of the various parts of worship that we experience in our worship together. Walk Through Worship moments were written by the Worship Committee for the purpose of worship education. The goal was to help the congregation know what and why we do certain things in our worship services.

This is the second in the series entitled Hymns and Special Music.

Hymns and Special Music

Often, a beloved part of any worship service is the music. We sing often in worship: at the beginning of worship, before the gospel is read, after the sermon, through holy communion, and finally right before we go on our way for the week. Sometimes there is also a song of praise at the beginning or a song of welcome during a baptism.

Music is a primary method for lifting up our praise to God. In all singing, our focus is God, what God has done for us, as Creator, Savior, and Sustaining Spirit. It is powerful to sing all together, as one congregational voice, what we believe, what our mission is as God's children, and what we pray for with our hearts.

Special Music is a time when a group, like a choir or duet, or an individual share their musical gifts with the congregation. It is not a performance but rather an offering back to God of time and talent. For the congregation, special music is a time of mediation and a time to enjoy the gifts God gives to the whole people of God.

Guitar, organ, choir, band, soloist, trumpeter, traditional, contemporary, global, taize—all of it and more are not only beautiful ways to praise our God but precious methods by which our faith is strengthened for mission.

Keeping The Church Safe

Keeping the Church safe, through the maintaining of proper boundaries, is a steadfast commitment of the Northern Illinois Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This commitment for safe congregations begins in seminary where the students are not only taught professional ethics in the classroom but are required to practice these disciplines under thorough supervision in ministry settings such as Field Work, Internship and Clinical Pastoral Education. The Approval Process for Ministerial Leaders in the ELCA is led by the Synod Candidacy Committees and is an additional check and balance to seminary education to assure the high standards of future Rostered Leaders. Just because someone graduates from Seminary does not mean that they will necessarily be recommended for Ordination. The Candidacy Committee screens all potential Rostered Leaders through psychological testing, background checks, interviews, references, congregational recommendations and much more.

Then Bishops and Synod Staffs get involved to assist Congregational Call Committees and Councils to discern whether a particular ministerial candidate would be a good match for a specific congregation. Calls to Rostered Leaders are voted on at Congregational meetings. The Congregational Council, serving as the church's board of directors, supervises the staff. Be assured that Rostered Leaders who do not maintain proper professional ethics and boundaries are not passed on from Synod to Synod and are not recommended by Bishops to congregations for interview as potential pastors. Unethical Rostered Leaders are removed from the Clergy Roster of the ELCA and are always reported to proper authorities, if their misconduct involves children.

Finally, keeping the Church safe is an ongoing commitment. For example on November 17 we sponsored a Boundary Workshop for Lay and Rostered Church Leaders at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline. We endeavor to continually raise these important concerns in a variety of ways to assure that all are indeed welcome in the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod.

Bishop Gary Wollershiem
Northern Illinois Synod

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Why God's Word Cautions us about Debt

God cautions us from using debt because debt creates bondage to the world and prevents us from allowing God to act freely in our lives! Reverend Bill Hybels in his "Achieving Financial Freedom" audiotapes discusses reasons that God says "no" to debt:

Debt obligates a person to earn more money and to earn it constantly. Working two or three jobs just to pay off debt is not the way to live.

Debt enslaves a person to a creditor (Proverbs 22:7). When the creditor says, "Jump," we say, "How high?"

Debt undermines joy. It is difficult to enjoy a weekend away or a dinner out when we are deep in debt, because money spent for those activities is money not spent on paying off credit card debt, which prolongs the problem.

Debt erodes giving opportunities. God gives us the ability and the desire to help others. The lack of money makes it difficult to respond to God's gracious prompting.

Debt imperils a Christian witness in two ways. First of all, we can be less effective in our evangelism when we face daily tension and anxiety over debt. Second, our witness to others suffers when they see or hear about our financial difficulty.

Debt exaggerates character problems. Experiencing a problem with debt may reveal character weaknesses such as impatience, discontentment, a lack of self-discipline and even failure to trust in the Lord's provisions.

Before you use your credit cards, you should be slow, deliberate, and cautious. Prior to taking on debt, it is advisable to ask yourself some basic questions, such as the following:

If I borrow, will I get something of enough value that it's worth the added obligation? Will the asset purchased appreciate in value?

Will the taking on of debt allow me to give, save, and maintain my lifestyle?

Have I considered giving up expensive activities and/or liquidating valuable possessions?

Does the borrowing fit my budget?

Will the borrowing cause any tension or anxiety in my family?

BLESSINGS FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ON YOUR STEWARDSHIP JOURNEY

Coming Soon



through Financial Peace University

What is Financial Peace University?

FPU is the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process taught by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey. FPU is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more!

Who is Financial Peace University for?

It's for EVERYONE!...from the financially secure to the financially distressed. Over 1 million families and individuals have attended *Financial Peace University*.

Applying God's Word radically changes your life. On average, FPU graduates have paid off over \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 during the 91-day program!

What Will I Learn?

In this life-changing program you will learn:

1. Step-by-Step Cash Flow Planning

Luke 14:28: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it."

2. Debt Snowball Plan Technique to Eliminating Debt

Proverbs 22:7: "The borrower is slave to the lender."

3. How to Invest Wisely

Ecclesiastes 11:2: "Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land."

Testimonials

Here's **what people just like you are saying about FPU:**

"We've actually relieved ourselves of over \$50,000 worth of debt in two years just from using these principles." - Russ and Mary Lee

"It made us sit down as a couple and communicate... and it gave us an instant pay raise!" - Paul and Lynesa Benson

Look for more information in the next couple of months!

Who is this "special" baby?



AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT THE HEALTHCARE OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD AT A LOCAL MISSION!!

You are needed to help us address the serious unmet medical needs of people in developing countries. With your assistance Mission Outreach can increase access to quality healthcare around the world through our medical recovery and responsible redistribution program.

Each year hundreds of thousands of pounds of medical equipment and supplies are deemed surplus by U.S.-based healthcare providers. Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach recovers these usable items otherwise destined for landfills. The surplus is then sorted, cleaned, repaired, inventoried, and published in an online catalog where needy hospitals and clinics can “shop” for what they need.

Mission Outreach has experienced an increased demand from healthcare recipients all over the world. We attribute this increase to the quality of items we ship and to the accountability of our recovery and responsible redistribution program. In fiscal year 2010, Mission Outreach shipped 1.28 million pounds of medical equipment and supplies (77 container equivalents) to people in need throughout the developing world.

Volunteers are the heart of Mission Outreach. We need your help to sort and pack supplies, enter data, or assist in the warehouse. Previous knowledge of medical supplies is helpful, but not required. Volunteers must be 13 years of age or older. High School attendees can earn service hours. Learn more at www.mission-outreach.org

Come and join us as we volunteer at this mission on Saturday 12/3, from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We will be meeting at the church at 8:15 and will carpool to the warehouse. Please sign up in the Narthex for any or all of these dates. Any questions please contact Daryl Giganti at 630-759-7206 or djgiganti@comcast.net

Are your weekends already too busy? There are always shifts open during the week between Monday – Thursday from 9-12 and 1-4, but hours can be flexible. Please contact Betsy Johnson the Mission's Volunteer Associate at 708/496-3900 to let her know that you are coming and what hours you can work. The mission warehouse is located at: 5213 W. 65th Street, Bedford Park, IL.