



Life Line

January 2010

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!

The Nominating Committee has presented this slate of nominees for the 2010 Congregational Meeting.

Congregational Council

President - Sandy Niemiera - 1 year term

Vice President - Bob Clark - 1 year term

Secretary - Laurena Beckett - 1 year term

Members at Large - 2 year term

David Thomas

Amy Beaugard

Debbie Countryman

Member at Large - 1 year term

Rick Stach

Mission Endowment Fund Trustees - 3 year term

Shireen Behzadi

Dan Kloepfer

Mission Endowment Fund Trustee - 2 year term

Scott Bovaird

The council is still working on nominees for the Nominating Committee.

**Please come to the Congregational Meeting on Sunday,
January 17th - immediately following the 11am worship.
Childcare will be provided.**

Pastor's Corner

Since the end of the summer the Church Council has notice that fewer persons were worshipping this fall than last. It was suggested that perhaps the economic situation or the national church's statement on human sexuality have made people unsure as to how comfortable they may feel worshipping.

I would state again as it is stated each Sunday – **"New Life is a place where everyone is somebody and Jesus Christ is Lord"**. New Life is a place to come together to encourage and challenge and comfort one another as we worship and proclaim the greatness of our God. We are a welcoming community. We welcome the homeless and the comfortably housed. We welcome those who biblically conservative and biblically liberal. We are an equal opportunity place of worship and service.

Several of New Life members heard Bishop Wollershiem talk about the ELCA decisions regarding homosexuality. They felt that sharing the talking points from the Bishop might assist us in realizing that "Everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ is Lord" in the ELCA as well as New Life. His comments are below.

Five affirmations about the Church wide Assembly Decisions

1. There are good and faithful Lutheran Christians on both sides of the issue and lots of folks who are somewhere in between. Here are a few examples: The former Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Herbert Chilstrom, is in favor of the ministry policy changes, while the former Presiding Bishop of the Lutheran Church in America, Dr. James Crumley, is opposed. Retired Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago professor, Dr. Ralph Klein, is in favor of the changes, while retired LSTC professor, Dr. Carl Braaten, is opposed. Two members of the ELCA Task Force on Sexuality came from our synod. Erin Clark was in favor of the changes and Dr. John Prabhaker was opposed. Two voting members from our Northern Illinois Synod delegation spoke on the Churchwide Assembly floor in close proximity to each other. Alan Wold spoke in favor, and Mary Howe was opposed. In each congregation in our synod, there are good and faithful people on both sides of the issue and many in between.

2. The people who are opposed to the ministry policy changes do not hate homosexuals. They do not want to exclude gay and lesbian people from attending their congregations. They are not bigots. They are not homophobic.

3. The people who favored the ministry policy changes have not rejected God's Word. They do not reject the Bible. They are not heretics.

4. If you are in a congregation that does not see the need to change your practices in response to these decisions, no one will force you to do so. This will be true of the vast majority of the congregations in the Northern Illinois Synod. Specifically, this means you will not be required to interview or extend a call to a gay or lesbian pastor in a faithful committed relationship. You will not be expected to bless same gender covenant relationships.

5. If you are in a congregation that sees aligning with these changes as an opportunity to grow your ministry, no one will prohibit you from doing so. I only ask that you wait until the implementing guidelines are developed by this church and approved by the ELCA Church Council. This probably will not be completed until sometime in 2010.

My staff and I will respect the varieties of views represented in our synod, whether opposed to change, in favor of change, or somewhere in between.

*I conclude by reflecting on an image from a story I heard long ago, and it still rings true for us today. **The Lutheran Church is a big old boat. There is room for all who want to come aboard:** reformers, evangelicals, traditionalists, land lovers, and **all** those who are cast away. Yes, the old boat creaks, lists, and leaks. And sometimes, frankly, the rising and falling can literally make one sick. But the old boat is faithful and gets her passengers to where they are supposed to go. Always has. Always will. Thanks be to God.*

Your pastors are open to talk to any members of the congregation that are struggling with any issues of faith and life. We encourage you to bend our ears, for you are somebody to us and the Lord.

From another somebody,
Pastor Paul

From the Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Christmas decorations around the house are put away for another year. But the Christmas memories of the joyous gatherings with family and friends will remain. In addition, I am reminded of the passing of time with the start of 2010. Once again, Christine had to wake me up as I slept on the couch so that I could celebrate the start of another new year. New Year's Day signaled the end of another college football season. If that is one of your passions as it is mine, I hope your favorite team was victorious. And I thank God for a wife who understands as I changed the channel to watch just one more game on that day. At this time, my resolutions are a thing of the past and we all begin to settle in for the long winter.

At New Life, this New Year will bring a celebration, as we commemorate our 40th Anniversary. The celebration will have events throughout the year and I hope you can take advantage of the opportunities to renew relationships with former pastors and friends and they return to enhance our celebration. During 2010, we will also conclude our visioning journey. This journey needs all of us to succeed so please consider participating in as many of the New Life for New Life activities as possible.

This excitement is tempered by the harsh realities of the economic times. As you all know, the church council is struggling with some very difficult decisions concerning a realistic spending plan for 2010. Thank you for all of your prayers during these deliberations. I also encourage you to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 17th when the new spending plan will be presented. Finally, your generous donations in December were truly awesome. Praise the Lord!

Undoubtedly, this New Year will bring joys and sorrows, excitement and peace, disappointment and satisfaction. But as long as we remain united in the service of our Lord, we can help each other through the bad times as well as joyously celebrate the good times as a Spirit-filled community of Christians.

Your humble servant,
Jerry Streeky



EnVISION

This year, "New Life for New Life" will direct us on our Lenten journey by way of small groups and a 4 week discipline.

The Visioning Process is now at the Discerning Phase and one method of our discernment includes

"People of Salt and Light,"

the 4 week study that will invite small groups to share faith, inspire vision, and discern God's calling for our congregation at this time.

What you need to know now:

- 1.) Leaders of Small Groups will be trained Saturday, January 23, 9:00-10:15 a.m. A hot breakfast will be provided.
- 2.) Sign Ups for joining Small Groups will be at church beginning Sunday, January 24 through Sunday, February 14.
- 3.) Small groups will begin the week of Feb 21 on different days of the week, at different times, and at different locations and run for four weeks. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for a small group.
- 4.) Lenten Midweek Worship will begin with Ash Wednesday, February 17. The following Wednesdays will be times for several of the small groups to gather at church, begin with prayer and song, then break out into small groups.
- 5) The final Wednesday of Lent, March 24, will be a culmination worship experience, where all small groups, regardless of when they met throughout the previous four weeks, will join together for a time of sharing and prayer for "the vision."

New Addresses



Allen & Glenda Hagen

1120 S. Morgan Street
Olney, IL 62450

Linda Taylor

311 Kent Ave
Romeoville, IL 60445

Gretchen Stapp

149 Valley Dr
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Bill & Nancy Dewitt

933 Terrace Lake Dr
Aurora, IL 60504

SUPPLY

SUPPLY Youth Group Nights continue on the 2nd Sunday night of every month. In January we'll meet Sunday, January 10th from 6:30-8:00pm.

Reminder: Deposit for the ZONE Weekend (March 19-21) is due February 1st. Some part of \$75 (or all) is to be given to Ms. June, Pastor Rakel, or a youth leader. Checks can be made out to "New Life Youth Fund." More info is at youthencounter.org

Up-coming L.O.M.C. Retreat dates for the following:

Grades 3-6 Epiphany January 15-16, 2010
Deposit for this is due A.S.A.P. if you are planning to go. Sheets were sent home. Leave church at 5:15p and return Saturday around 4:30pm
Cost: \$58.00 (includes lodging, 2 meals & snacks)

Grades 7-8 Epiphany January 8-10(weekend) 2010
If attending this one-deposit is due NOW!

Alternate one for Jr. High is March 12-14(week-end) 2010
Deposit of \$15.00 is due by February 14, 2010

These both are \$101.00 – leaving church at 5pm & returning Sunday around 3pm

*More info will be coming home as dates get closer.
Any questions?? Call Ms June 630-759-7636*

Operation Christmas Families

During this hectic time of getting Christmas together, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those secret santas who volunteered to buy gifts for members of families in our community that would otherwise have had a bleak Christmas. Thanks again for being so generous. *Ms. June*

Sunday School Christmas Program was on Saturday December 19, 2009, and all went well. KUDOS to the parents, Sunday school teachers, costume makers, sound and video people and the ladies who helped set up the cookies, punch etc. for after the program. And a **SPECIAL** thanks to all the children who told the Christmas Story that afternoon.

40th Anniversary Celebration



This year is the 40th Anniversary year of New Life Lutheran Church. Be sure to keep your ears and eyes open for events that will celebrate this special occasion. To be sure we will be worshipping together and have an Anniversary Sunday in the fall.

On September 26th Bishop Wollershiem is going to be with us in worship and at the anniversary dinner celebration. In addition there will be Pastor from the Past that will come and share a message of Christ's love on Sunday morning throughout the year. Exact dates for these special visits are being arranged.

We know to date: Pastor Walker will be with us on May 16, 2010

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters

8:00am	Sherry Thien
9:30am	Rose Nickles
11:00am	Jack & Barb Schlea

Worship Assistants

8:00am	Carolyn Yost
9:30am	Josh Schmidt
11:00am	Shireen Behzadi

Ushers

8:00am	The Kolder Family, John Kiersten
9:30am	Rich & Sandie Zihala, Greg & Sherry Krabbenhoft
11:00am	Mike & Sally Martin, Charlie & Carol Ryl-Kuchar, Ronda Goers

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

January Anniversaries

7 th	Bill & Barb Vanoskey
9 th	Ron & Carolyn Yost
19 th	Larry & Ellen Buege



=== 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."

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to care for, share with or serve others, the Care Team has several opportunities throughout the year.

BLOOD DRIVE: Our first blood drive in the New Year will be on Sunday, January 24 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the narthex and walk-ins are welcome. Each donation has the opportunity to save up to 3 lives! All donors will receive a \$5 McDonalds gift card.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: Are you or a friend within the congregation in need of the caring presence of a friend? We have volunteers who can listen, encourage, and show God's love in wherever your life's journey has taken you. Your information and visits will be confidential. If you are interested in having a Friend in Faith, please call Traci Baumgartner 630-679-9906 or the church office.

SERVANT PROJECTS: Please watch for an announcement in the coming weeks of an opportunity to serve in our community. Similar to the Harvest Sunday for the Woodridge Food Pantry that we did in November, we will provide an opportunity to be of service to an organization in our community.

FOOD PANTY: The Christmas food baskets have been delivered and eaten. The Christmas cookies are warm memories. But the everyday hunger remains. Please consider making a monthly commitment to add a food item to the shopping cart in the narthex. Items will be given to the Dupage Township Food Pantry in Romeoville. Remember, food items must be unopened and unexpired.

CARE TEAM COMMITTEE: The Care Team meets once a month September – May. We are always looking for fresh faces and ideas to expand our ministry in the congregation, community and world. Maybe you have a gift in this area to share or maybe you are looking to get involved in a ministry at New Life. Please call Susan Brown 815-588-3561 to discuss.

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION AND YOU

After all the presents have been unwrapped, you may be finding yourself with too many toys and some that have been outgrown. A great way to recycle them while serving a non-profit organization is to donate them to the Toy Box Connection. The organization gets these toys to children in need at homeless shelters, foster homes, and hospitals. For more information call 708-691-2715 or go to www.toyboxconnection.com
Reduce, Recycle, Reuse.

"Faithful Mission Together", is the "microsite" on the ELCA Web site which invites every congregation and member to join in a common witness to the world.

www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Faithful-Mission.aspx

ELCA [World Hunger Bulletin](#): Take half an hour this week to check out the news, your favorite blog or remember one of your own favorite stories. Is there an article or story relating to hunger, poverty, climate change, simple living or the like that focuses on the positive? During this Christmas season as we remember people everywhere in love, and we strive to understand the awesomeness of God's holy gift of Jesus, **let's share our favorite stories of hope, peace and transformation.** This will be a great way to spread some Christmas cheer and encourage all of us to spread some love!

Fast Facts According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, in 2008, 17 million U.S. households -- about 49 million people -- "were food insecure and families had difficulty putting enough food on the table at times during the year." The number of affected households increased by 4 million over the previous year, the highest single-year increase since the USDA began food security surveys in 1995.

Please keep these and all servicemen & women in your prayers.

Dalese White, Jamine White's sister
Care packages and cards can be sent to:
SPC Dalese White
ACO 325 BSB HQ - 3IBC725id
COB Spelcher
APO AE 09393



Please keep Dalese and her family in your prayers.

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