



Life Line

January 2012

New Life Lutheran Church

249 N. Bolingbrook Dr., Bolingbrook, IL 60440

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www.newlifebolingbrook.com

Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ is Lord!

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



Great News - Save the Date!

New Life Member Bridget Thien has been called to a church in Texas and will be Ordained on ***Saturday, January 28th at 11am.***

Planning is ongoing and more information will be provided as we get closer. All are welcome!



The New Year is upon us. A new year comes each year, but yet it has a habit of sneaking up on me. What will the new year bring? Are we ready to face what we used to call the future but is now the present?

The last years we were often times talking about a *Vision* for the mission of Christ. We move into that *Vision*. Who would have ever guessed that as we

imagine ourselves as a caring and supporting community, we would be we would be showing our care and support for our Pastor. We are called to support Pastor Rakel in her new vocation as mommy through maternity leave and enabling her to return back to work in a less than full time call in the new year. At the time of this writing that baby girl has yet to be born. But by the time you read these words another Lutheran will have entered this world. And I am hoping for a Bears fan as well.

The *Vision* for the new year has New Life reaching out with the good news of Christ in with new technological opportunities that this pastor is challenged to understand. The *Vision* includes how we can communicate the love of Christ to this congregation, the surrounding community and to the world through this tool called the internet. That will be an exciting and challenging adventure for this congregation and this pastor.

A congregational *Vision* in 2012 continues to challenge and encourage people of God to live out their faith in this crazy and confusing world. The financial stress that is a part of the world and our lives is going to be confronted with the challenge to "Imagine Financial Peace". Beginning this February, as part of our Lenten discipline, a study will be offered to encourage getting control of your money instead of being controlled by it. My vision is that everyone in the congregation would want to get control of their finances and experience a spiritual journey to financial peace. Sandy and I have gone through this study and it does work. We have made some great strides in the spiritual journey of being educated stewards of the finances God has provided in our lives. In a world where money is such a stressor, it is possible to "Imagine Financial Peace" and experience God's presence in finances.

A New Year brings new opportunities, new challenges as well as many of the same challenges and celebrations experienced 2011. May God's power be seen and felt as the People of God at New Life see a *Vision* for serving Christ in the world in 2012.

May you be blessed in this New Year as you are a blessing to others,

Pastor Paul

Plans for 2012 have been submitted and will be presented at the Annual Meeting this Month. The Guiding Vision and Mission goals continue to be the important actions for committees, council, and congregation. There will be continued emphasis on these goals in the coming months. Council is urging all groups to keep their focus on these goals as we move forward in our ministry in 2012.



The positive financial position for the end of 2011 is certainly a blessing that speaks volumes for the members at New Life. The faithful giving and dedication to do God's work in helping others continues to strengthen our ministry at New Life. This effort enables us to enter 2012 with a stable base to reach new levels.

During Pastor Raket's absence, Pastor Carlson, the Council, and Committees will be working to cover all activities until PR returns. Please contact the Church Office or any council member if assistance is needed.

Your servant in Christ

Jack Schlea
Council President

Preaching Assistance

The Mutual Ministry and Church Council have arranged to have some special preachers filling the pulpit when Pastor Raket is on her maternity leave. We are blessed to have in this congregation three persons preparing for the ordained ministry. Lucy and Dan Wynard, who are members of New Life, and Peter Mannoja who is our Ministry in Context student. All three of them will be preaching in the coming months. Lucy Wynard on January 8th, Dan Wynard on January 29th, and Peter Mannoja on February 19th. We look forward to their sharing in our worship service. In addition, Pastor Carl Evenson, that's right Grandpa Evenson (*Pastor Raket's Dad*) will be leading worship and preaching on February 12th. Rumor has it that Momma and baby may be there in worship on that Sunday to give the The Most Reverend Grandpa Evenson some family support!

LOMC RETREAT

Please keep the children and chaperones attending the ***“Follow the Star”*** retreat, on January 13th & 14th at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, in your prayers.

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) Ms. June
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

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

Youth Choirs

*I'm excited to announce that our spring musical this year will be **The Lost Boy**. This is a brand new musical by Allen Pote and Tom Long who wrote *The Tale of the Three Trees* and *Table for Five Thousand*.*

***The Lost Boy* tells the story of Luke 2:39-52.**

Mary and Joseph lose track of twelve year old Jesus for three days and when they finally find him, he is sitting in his "father's house" - demonstrating with his questions a great understanding of God. So what happens when we misplace Jesus? The musical tells the story of the search for Jesus and the lessons learned along the way. There are many speaking parts.

Please pick up a rehearsal CD for your family from Sally Minor.

Scripts will be distributed at the kickoff on 1/1. If you are not able to attend the kickoff, please let me know.

Shireen Behzadi will be working with us again as the drama director. We learn so much working with her! She most recently directed the fall play at Bolingbrook High School.

If you have friends that are interested in participating in the musical this year, we would love to have them join in the fun. **All 2nd-8th grade youth are invited.** You do not have to be a member of choir to join the musical. Information about the musical is below for you to share.

Rehearsal/Performance Schedule

Based on last year's feedback that January and February worked well for timing, we are planning on using the same rehearsal pattern this year. Because Lent comes earlier this year, we will have fewer rehearsals and will be performing over the long Presidents Day weekend.

Below are the planned rehearsal/performance dates.

- **Kickoff will be Sunday 1/1 Noon - 2pm** (with post 11am service taco party)
- **Friday rehearsals** from 5:30pm - 7:00pm
1/6, 1/13 (MLK Jr. Weekend), 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17 (mandatory dress rehearsal, President's Day Weekend)
- **Saturday rehearsals** from 2:00pm - 5:00pm (we hope to end Saturday rehearsals at 4pm if things go well, but have fewer rehearsals this year) on 1/7, 1/15 (MLK Jr. Weekend), 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11
- **Saturday 2/18 performance** at 7pm followed by dessert at 7:30pm
- **Sunday 2/19 performance** during 11am worship service - please reserve the Genesis room from 10:30am - 11:15am



*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.*

Mission Trip to Ocean Springs, Mississippi! Feb 11 - 18, 2011.

If you are planning on going on the upcoming trip to Mississippi the meeting will be on January 8th following the 11am Worship. You will need to turn in your forms and the \$125 fee. 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!



Imagine...Financial Peace

Imagine aligning yourself with Biblical principles for
a sense of protection
a sense of destiny
a sense of control
a sense of confidence
a sense of a future on where you're going with your
money and your life

Imagine telling your money what to do and achieving
Financial Peace.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is returning
to New Life in February. In the coming weeks, you'll
see and hear more about this personal finance program
that is designed so you learn how to handle money
God's way.

Romans 12:2 says, "Be not conformed to this world."
Dave Ramsey says, "Don't be normal. Normal is
broke."

Imagine...Financial Peace

=== 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."*

THE WALK TO JERUSALEM

The Care Team is bringing a new opportunity to begin the New Year. The Walk to Jerusalem is a walking program designed to increase the physical and spiritual health of our members. This "imaginary" trip to Jerusalem is accomplished by individuals logging their own physical activity each week. Then the individual "miles" are added together with the goal of accumulating enough miles as a group to reach Jerusalem by Easter. Here are some of the common questions you might have:

What is the WALK TO JERUSALEM?

The WALK TO JERUSALEM is intended to be a physical, spiritual and maybe even an educational journey.

Why are we offering this?

The beginning of a New Year seems to be a time of renewal of healthy goals for many people. We want to support those goals as well as give people the opportunity to be a part of this Christ-centered journey.

How far will we be walking?

It is 6,192 miles from Chicago to Jerusalem. Don't worry; you don't have to walk all those miles by yourself! Everyone's individual miles will be added to the overall group's goal of reaching Jerusalem by Easter.

Who can participate?

Any individuals or families; young and young-at-heart, physically able and not-so-physically able. Family members and friends near or far may choose to join us as well.

When does this opportunity start?

We will start recording miles on January 15. This gives us 12 weeks to reach Jerusalem by Easter.

How do I start?

Starting in January, we will have a signup sheet for those individuals/families that are interested. You will receive a passport booklet to record your activity. **The Passport to Good Health (adult and child version)** provides a tool for walkers to record individual miles, log their daily fruits and vegetables, list prayer needs and document pre and post personal outcomes.

How do I earn miles?

Miles are earned in several ways: If you walk or ride a bike or do any activity where you can actually measure a mile, then count those miles. Any type of aerobic exercise for 20 minutes equals one mile. Kids can help us reach our total by including their basketball, volleyball, soccer or other sports practice/game time.

How will we know how we are doing as a group?

Each individual/family will record their miles in their passport booklet. On a weekly basis, you will report your physical miles to a coordinator. There will be a tracking map in the fellowship hall for all the church to see how far we have walked geographically. There will also be total miles to date posted by this map. As we reach destinations, photos and "postcards" with information on that site and the surrounding area may be available for viewing.

How can I grow spiritually during this Walk?

In addition to the Passport booklet, you will receive **The Walk and Pray booklet** which provides a starting point for prayer and devotion and includes familiar prayers, hymns and Scripture from many traditions. You may even choose to get a small group together to do some walking around the fellowship hall or at in indoor mall.

So come join us as we exercise our bodies and spirits. This could also be a great and unique way to help you prepare for the upcoming Lenten season.

If you have questions, please contact Jen Fredrick or Susan Brown from the Care Team.

DONATING BLOOD...PASS ON THE GIFT!

January 22, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Let's keep the gift giving going into the New Year. But don't worry, it doesn't require you to go to the mall, spend money, or worry about if someone will like your gift. The gift is donating blood. Our first opportunity of the New Year will be January 22. Sign up in the narthex now for your preferred time. Walk-ins will be welcomed as well. Thank you to all those donors who passed on this lifesaving gift at our drive in November. YOU are eligible to give again! And let's start the New Year off with meeting our goal of having 40 donors again!

COUPONING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

Go to a company's website to look for downloadable coupons or to register your email address to receive coupon offers. Some sites may even have free samples to send you. 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 - NEW RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

It's a new year and here are some new items that can be recycled responsibly.

-Christmas lights: Help keep them out of landfills

-Christmas cards: Recycling cards can support the children's non-profit organization of St. Jude's Ranch for Children. All occasions of greeting cards are accepted, except the brands Hallmark, Disney or American Greetings. Please cut off the front of the card to bring in and make sure there is no handwriting on the other side.

-Worn out tennis shoes: These shoes have a second life by being ground up and reused to make playground surfaces.

There will be boxes in the fellowship hall until the end of January for the lights and cards. The blue wire bin located in fellowship hall will be for the shoes and continue for the next several months.

And we will continue to have available now and everyday at church throughout the year:

- **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.

January Anniversaries



7th Bill & Barb Vanoskey

9th Ron & Carolyn Yost

19th Larry & Ellen Buege

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

Operation Christmas Families

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Christmas Angels who bought gifts for families in our community that would otherwise have had to do without this Christmas. What a wonderful way to share Christ's LOVE with the community. Thanks again for being so generous.

Ms. June

Giving allows us to store up treasures in Heaven rather than here on the earth (Matthew 19:21).

Good Stuff

Congratulations to Karen Buege who's entry into the ***Weight Watchers Inspiring Stories*** for 2011 was selected as a first place winner. She has worked so hard in this journey and has been a Lifetime member for 2 years now.

*Have **Good Stuff** (positive - uplifting stories) you would like to share with the congregation? Contact the church office! officemgr@newlifebolingbrook.com*

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

The Borrower is Servant to the Lender

Are there really only two certainties in life: death and taxes? Debt is likely a third. We live in a society that depends on credit card and installment debt. As the bumper sticker reads, "I owe, I owe, so off to work I go."

The phrase, "We are in the world, but not of the world," aptly describes us as Christians on how we should be viewing and using debt. Just because people in our society are comfortable in extending themselves to the limit with credit, it should not be acceptable to us.

The Bible warns us that debt should be taken seriously and avoided when possible. In Proverbs 22:7 we read, "*The borrower is servant to the lender.*" As servants, we become obligated. Debt enslaves, and, through debt, we lose our freedom. Debt can impede our serving and giving. If we are in debt, we may not be able to do what God wants us to do with our money because we already owe it to others. If debt is out of control, our livelihood and homes can be in jeopardy.

Mismanaging money through excess debt is costly. For example, if you have a credit card balance of \$4,000 and are paying a minimum of \$100 every month, the costs are as follows:



<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Time to Pay Debt</u>	<u>Interest Expense</u>
9.9 %	45 months	\$ 874
12.9 %	47 months	1,257
15.9 %	53 months	1,736
18.9 %	63 months	2,362

At a rate of 18.9 percent interest, a person would have to pay an additional 60 percent for what- ever purchase he made over the five-plus years. It is very probable that most things would have been broken or worn out before the credit card bill was paid.

Debt is both an opportunity loss and a financial loss. The more you pay in debt, the less you have to invest. Debt causes a depreciation of your asset base instead of allowing your goods and savings to create and appreciate in value. Let's consider two different options of spending \$100 per month. If, for example, you used \$100 to pay off interest of 14 percent for a 20-year period, you would spend \$130,117. In contrast, if you invest \$100 with an average of 12 percent (mutual funds) over the 20 years, you will accumulate \$98,926. The opportunity cost would be the total of \$130,117 plus \$98,926 or \$229,043. Effective money management is getting money to work for you instead of against you.

Remember this maxim: "If I can't pay for it promptly, I won't buy it."

BLESSINGS FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ON YOUR STEWARDSHIP JOURNEY

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters

8:00am	Nancy Leiting
9:30am	Dan & Melissa Dehnert
11:00am	Jack & Barb Schlea

Worship Assistants

8:00am	Jackie Schmidt
9:30am	Rose Nickles
11:00am	Charlene Hopper

Ushers

8:00am	Jerry Schmidt, Joe & Daryl Giganti
9:30am	Rich & Sandie Zihala, Greg & Sherry Krabbenhoft
11:00am	Mike & Sally Martin, Charlie & Carol Ryl-Kuchar

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

AN ONGOING 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

For those who like to sleep in on Saturday mornings, we do have an afternoon trip set for ***Saturday January 21st from 1 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*** We will be meeting at the church at 12:15 and will carpool to the warehouse.

And for those early birds, our next morning trip is scheduled for ***Saturday March 3^d from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.*** We will meet 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 – Friday 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.

Upcoming events and classes for Adult Education

Intro to the Bible

When: Thursday evening
7:30-8:30 pm
4 weeks, January 5th - January 26th

This class will cover bible topics and themes such as the bible as the living Word, a storybook and the church's book as well as the structure of the bible, translations of the bible, various Christian views of the bible and approaches to the bible. There will be discussion on the various tools to enhance bible study such as a bible dictionary, commentary and concordance.

Ephesians

When: Sunday
9:30-10:30 am
6 weeks, January 8th – February 12th

In Ephesians we learn from Paul that God loves us too much to let us stay as we are. You will learn to accept your identity as a member of God's family and allow him to mold you into the masterpiece he designed. Ephesians expresses a profound theology and Paul's most mature thought on the church in God's purposes.

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

When: Saturday
12-2 pm
January 21, and February 4 and 11

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.

PLEASE CONTACT **JOHN BEUGARD** OR THE **CHURCH OFFICE** IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING ANY OF THESE CLASSES/EVENTS.

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



