



Life Line

January 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!

Congregational Meeting

The Nominating Committee has presented this slate of nominees for the 2011 Congregational Meeting.

Council:

One Year Term: Officers
Jack Schlea President
Bob Clark Vice President
Suzanne Schorsch Secretary

Two Year Terms: Members at Large
Charlene Hopper
Michael Stoehrmann
Norma Sabine

Audit Committee: Two Year Term
Shawn Scott
Mark Karas

All members are encouraged to come to the Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 23rd** - immediately following the 11am worship. We will review reports from the various committees, receive an update on the New Life for New Life Vision process and vote on the 2011 Spending Plan. *Childcare will be provided.*

A Note from our Council.....

Greetings, and Happy New Year. By the time you receive this your Christmas shopping, baking, entertaining, traveling, etc. will be done. You will likely have thought about all of the things you want to make sure you do in 2011 that did not get done in 2010 and you may even be taking a deep breath and a sigh of relief that it is all over for another year. This January I am going to challenge you to change your thinking just a bit and not think in terms of it being over but rather think about this as a new opportunity. Think about 2011 as a time when you can keep Christmas and Christ alive in your life everyday, a time when you can share the good news of Jesus Christ in all that you do!

As we enter 2011, I am so excited to tell you that, as a congregation, we were able to raise all of the \$2000.00 that we were challenged to send to Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center for their walk-in-cooler. This is but another example of the wonderful stewardship of this congregation as we do Christ's work with our hands. Thank you for all that you do for the Lord.

We are quickly approaching the time for our Annual Congregational meeting. I would like to encourage all of you to attend as this is a time when we will elect our leadership, share the good news of our work together, and decide on our annual spending plan for 2011.

Have a wonderful start of the New Year and may God's blessing be with you.

Sandy Niemiera



New Members!

We welcome Jennifer & Steven Scheele (Madeline, Christian, Lindsay), Jennifer & Craig Chamberlin, Richard & Kay Olsen, Walter Judnic, and David Eggestein to the New Life family. They were formerly received December 12th.



New Life for New Life Vision Team

Greetings from the Vision Team. As we bid goodbye to the year 2010, we look back at our adventures and accomplishments during our vision journey during the year. We have traveled completely through the Discerning process carrying with us the many ideas and discoveries that we wanted to use in our ministry design for the future. We have now entered the Embodying stage of our journey where we are developing our new ministry for the future. We begin a creative time of experiencing, experimenting, and planning our way into the future. . We have 20 dedicated individuals that are working in three design teams putting ideas together that will begin to move us toward accomplishing our vision and goals. We are hoping to have drafts for presentation to the Church Council sometime in February as the New 2011 Council takes office. We will be sharing updates on what is emerging with the congregation as available in the New Year.

The teams met in early December to review their progress and understand the direction that each is heading. We had some very interesting concepts and ideas presented which will be molded into a ministry plan. . For those who have been involved in this process from the start back in April, 2009, the ability to see the results as they are developing is truly a light that is providing clarity, excitement, and focus to a process that was fuzzy at times. As we begin to live our vision and move toward accomplishing our vision led goals, we will continue to enjoy the fruits of the efforts that we placed into this journey



Were you aware that New Life has a Prayer Chain?

What is it?

The Prayer Chain is a group of members who pray for the concerns of the New Life Community. They receive the prayers via email each day.

How you could be involved?

If you would like to become a member of the Prayer Chain please contact the church office and Terri will be happy to help you.

Have a need you would like prayed for?

Just contact a Pastor or the office and we will be happy to add your request to the Prayer Chain. Prayers can go on anonymously if you would like. All prayers are handled with respect.

Questions? 630-759-7636

New Year: Let it Come

How many times have you heard that someone is glad that a year is over because it was so challenging that the New Year has to be better? Have you ever experienced the New Year as a fresh start - a time to resolve to do something or not do something?

The end of one year and the beginning of another always seems to be a time of retrospect and anticipation. A time of moving beyond what is or was into what might be or is to come.

2010 has surely been a challenge to many, and perhaps and most likely for everybody. Some may have even wondered if they were going to make it through the year. If you are reading these thoughts, you have made it into 2011!!!

For some the future is a scary thing, for some it is filled with expectation or adventure. Sometime the future is expected to be very similar to the past. Often the New Year promises a big change.

This new year there are at least two things that entice me into the future: The first is personal. It is the promise of being a Grandfather. I am clearly uncertain as to what that will mean. It will be a new exciting and I'm sure a challenging adventure.

The second is congregational. In 2011 the work of the New Life for New Life Visioning Process will culminate in plans for our future life together in the mission of Christ. What will the Holy Spirit call upon this congregation to do together in ministry? It will be a new exciting and I'm sure challenging adventure.

What I know for sure about the old year and the New Year is that no one was or will be on their own. What I do know is that the power of God's love and encouragement of brothers and sisters in Christ enabled us to make it through the challenges of 2010. What I do know is that the promise of God's presence and hope in God's grace along with the hugs and encouragement of the family of God will enable us to walk into 2011 knowing once again that we are not alone to navigate the challenges and adventures of the New Year. *(I also realize that I have a tendency for run on sentences)*

May you feel the touch of God's presence in this New Year

Gramps

February Bible Study

The Church has answered your call. We are having a four week bible study based upon the input from your Stewardship Commitment forms. Jerry Streeky will facilitate the class, on Sunday mornings at 9:30am, beginning February 6th. Look for more details in your bulletin insert in January.

Upcoming Mission Trip to Camp Restore



**New Orleans, Louisiana
February 13-19, 2011**

Currently we have **13 missionaries** heading down to New Orleans in February - *interested in joining them?* We can still make some room - contact the office or speak with Pastor Paul.

New Life Play

Can you believe it's been almost 6 years since our last Play at New Life? Plans are underway to put on a Play May 6-8th. If you want to be involved on-stage as part of the Cast, or behind the scenes as part of the Crew, please contact Shireen Behzadi or Mark Arentsen (630-985-3645). Tentative plans are for tryouts in January and practice to begin in February. Keep watching for more updates as plans get finalized.

Family Nights

Family nights will be starting in January. Please plan on joining us every Thursday evenings at 7:00pm starting in January for family fun and games.

**1st Thurs is Volleyball
2nd Thurs is Board Games
3rd Thurs is Wii
4th Thurs is Cards**

All are welcome to attend. You can even bring a friend and a snack to pass (which can lend itself to bringing friends). See you there!

Money Matters

Personal Financial Stewardship

Living Within Your Income

Since it is unlikely that you have an unlimited income, you will need to adjust your spending habits so you can give generously, save aggressively, and still live comfortably. Spending is easy, whereas giving and saving require self-discipline. Your ability to give and save is made possible by your willingness to say “no” to your spending. To live on the portion of your income that you have left after giving and saving, you need to control your spending. Improper spending habits are the biggest hindrances to living successfully within your income.



The concept of “self-limitation” is new to many people. When you intentionally buy fewer things than you can afford, you are choosing to limit your lifestyle. “Self-limitation” decisions are based not on the premise of what you can afford, but rather on what you need. You must ask, “Do I need this certain thing or does God have need of my money to help others and his Church?” When your income rises and your lifestyle doesn’t reflect your increased buying capability, you are choosing to limit yourself, which frees up more for giving and saving.

What lifestyle does the Bible suggest? Are you pleasing God by living in substandard housing, driving broken down used cars, wearing cheap clothes,



and not satisfying any of your desires? Is God happy if you have an abundance of new things? Living comfortably is not a sin. God does not condemn being rich, but he speaks against the self-centered attitude wealth can cause. Living in opulence without any regard for others does not please the Lord. However, if you love the Lord and serve him and others with your money and time, you are free to live in comfort. Jesus said “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

Certainly, there is a tremendous amount of diversity among Christians and what they own, but your lifestyle should reflect your relationship with Jesus.

According to Russ Crosson in his book *A Life Well Spent*, we have increased our standard of living at the expense of our lifestyles. "We have increased our lifestyles, but in the process haven't we also lost our ability to really live? We have amassed wealth, not wisdom. We have given our children toys, not time. We have children who have been taught to consume rather than work; we have fathers who don't know their children, and marriages that do not work or last. We have been in a rush to run a race without understanding the finish line. Could it be that we are being robbed of our very lives because we are not thinking correctly about why we have money and what we are to do with it?" Our culture promotes monetary wealth. You need to be careful not to become a victim of the foolish desires money can create.

Step Into Africa

An amazing, free, and moving exhibit is coming to Bolingbrook in February, the 20th-27th. It is called "Step into Africa" and it walks you through the life of a child who has been affected by HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are needed to staff the exhibit as up to 400 people can pass through in one day! The exhibit will be located at Living Water Community Church on Lily Cache. If you want more information or would like to volunteer, please see Sandy Niemiera or Pastor Rakel.

More information is also at www.worldvisionexperience.org/bolingbrook

A Special Music Thank You

*from Roland Johnson,
Special Music Coordinator*



A special thank you to all the members of the Cherub, Possibilities, Jr/Sr High, Chancel Choirs and their leaders for providing special music at our weekly worship services during the choir season. A special thanks, also, to the talented members that provided solos, duets, trios, quartets or played musical instruments for special music at worship services throughout the year. Giving of your time and talent in service to the Lord is greatly appreciated.

A Big GREETER Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has been a greeter in the last year or ever . This job takes very little time but the means so much. A friendly Good Morning , a handshake or a smile makes you feel the church cares for you. I know we have super friendly people that would like an opportunity to serve.

Not sure how to be a Greeter? There is now a Greeter Training Video! It is available in the narthex on Sunday morning or you can contact Pastor Raket for a copy. Please sign up on the kiosk in the Narthex or contact Cathy Hess at 630-739-5892.

Worship Committee

Worship Committee meets the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the Genesis Room. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 6. We are currently working on creating Training Videos for all Worship Participant Roles. *If you are interested in being trained as a greeter, reader, or communion assistant, videos are available on Sunday mornings for you to take home, view, and be trained!*

Being a Communion Assistant on Sunday Mornings

Previously, folks signed up to be communion assistants for a month. There is now a new system that began this fall. Worship Assistants now find the communion assistants for each worship service, each Sunday. The Worship Assistant will have a list of folks who are willing to be a communion assistant for any worship service they attend. *****To be on this list, sign-up in the narthex, giving your name and your usual worship time(s). ***** The hope is encourage broad and deep participation within the congregation in this important ministry—serving the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. *Further—if you would like to be trained to be a communion assistant, a training video is soon available! Contact Pastor Raket.*

Advent's Done; When's Lent?

Before Lent comes Epiphany. Epiphany is a season that begins January 6th, when we remember the Three Wise Guys who visited baby Jesus and brought him gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold. Because Jesus' divine nature was revealed to the Wisemen, the season of Epiphany at church will celebrate the different ways Jesus reveals how he's God's Son. This year Epiphany is two months long! Lent will finally begin March 8th, on Ash Wednesday.





Youth Ministry Calendar Winter-Spring-Summer 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)
Sally Minor—Confirmation Leader
Julie Selep— Youth Education Coordinator
Ms. June
Pastor Rakel

January

2nd SUPPLY youth group
14th-15th LOMC Epiphany Retreat (4th—5th gr.)
16th SUPPLY youth group
23rd JAB night

February

6th SUPPLY youth group
20th SUPPLY youth group
20th—27th Step into Africa Exhibit
27th JAB night

March

5th & 6th Possibilities Musical
6th SUPPLY youth group
20th SUPPLY youth group
27th JAB Night

April

1st-3rd JAB Quake Event
3rd SUPPLY youth group
10th JAB Post-Quake Lunch Debrief
17th SUPPLY youth group
21st Maundy Thursday Stripping of Altar (Confirmation)
24th SUPPLY Easter Breakfast

May

1st SUPPLY youth group
15th SUPPLY youth group
22nd Last Day of Sunday School
22nd JAB Night

June

10th First Communion Retreat (4th graders)
12th First Communion Sunday
19th-25th SUPPLY Workcamp Trip to Omaha, NE
27th—July 1st Vacation Bible School

Sunday School Christmas Program was Saturday, December 18 at 4pm. There were about 61 children present to tell The Xmas Story. Sunday School will resume on January 9th @ 9:30am

Epiphany Retreat

It's another Retreat @ LOMC-this time it is for 4-5th graders. The dates are January 14-15, 2011 and the cost is \$60.00. It is an Epiphany Event. More info will be sent home as date gets closer. Sign up you your child, with Ms. June, ASAP to attend this fun event.

SUPPLY Youth Group

SUPPLY Youth Group meets **2 times a month**; the first and third Sundays. SUPPLY is the New Life High School youth group and includes all 9th-12th graders. In December, SUPPLY meets on **Sunday, Jan. 2 and Sunday, Jan. 16 from 7pm to 8:30pm** at the youth house.

SUPPLY Sunday School

Sunday School for SUPPLY is at 9:30 a.m. in the youth house. This year we are doing something called LIVE. It's an awesome program and all that's needed is the youth to do the talking!

27 Youth, 4 Adults, 1 Awesome Weekend!

In November, 27 of our 6th-7th-8th graders headed to LOMC for their Confirmation Retreat. It was a fabulous weekend filled with Thicket, a Hunger Meal, more Thicket, and The Lorax.



=== 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."

It's the beginning of a New Year and for a lot of people, a time to start the year with a new perspective or a new commitment. The Care Team would like to offer some suggestions in both those areas.

COMMITTEE:

Maybe this is the year that you act on that calling to use your time and talents in service to the church and community. Maybe you are ready to make your church involvement more than just Sunday morning worship. Maybe you are looking to know members deeper than a friendly "Hello, how are you?" The Care Team is a great place to volunteer with lots of action and creative thinking. Please consider joining us. We currently meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Contact Susan Brown for more information.

BLOOD DRIVE: January 23

What a great way to continue the giving spirit into the New Year by donating blood. Your donation can be the gift of life for 3 people. And as if that is not incentive enough, Heartland Blood Centers is offering EVERY donor a \$10 Fandango gift card to purchase movie tickets at www.fandango.com. The tickets are good for the Bolingbrook locations too. Donors from the drive in November would be eligible to give again at this date. So, sign up now in the narthex for your appointment between 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Heartland Mobile Coach will be available in our parking lot to serve your gift giving needs. However, if you just can't commit, walk-ins are welcome too.

MARY & MARTHA MEALS

We are looking for additional members who would be willing to provide meals to families who are experiencing hospitalization, prolonged illness or those suffering the loss of a loved one. We rotate through the volunteers so it's not every week and sometimes not even once a month. And even if you don't cook, you can still participate by bringing carry out. If you can share your time and talents with others, please call Alyson Wold 630-378-0099.

FOOD PANTRY

Let's continue a great tradition into the New Year by filling the shopping cart in the narthex at least once a month. For a suggested item this month, how about soup or stew or chili? This food would warm people's bodies as well as their spirits. Food collected from the generous donations of our members, is delivered to the DuPage Township Food Pantry. If everyone shares a little, we can

give a lot. Please remember that these boxes, bags, or cans must be unopened and unexpired.

SERVANT PROJECTS:

More and more Christians are becoming aware that the heart of God is to move beyond just the sanctuary and into the world to minister compassion and justice - just as the prophets of old. We want to provide and promote opportunities for you and/or your family to be of service to caring for someone in our community or God's creation. Watch the website, monthly newsletter, Sunday bulletins and bulletin board in the narthex for upcoming opportunities.

STEP INTO AFRICA

Get your new calendar out now and save this date: February 20-27, 2011. World Vision is bringing an incredible exhibit to Bolingbrook. This exhibit will create an experience that can change people's lives by helping them better understand the poverty and AIDS epidemic that has ravaged the continent of Africa. Take a journey of a child in an AIDS-affected community through this 2,500 square foot exhibit with an interactive personal audio tour and captivating photography. In a "me-first" world, it's important for people to see how blessed they are and how to be a blessing to others. This will be an exhibit for adults and high school age youth.

HOSPITAL SISTERS MISSION OUTREACH

The Hospital Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis have a mission to be good stewards both locally and abroad. They have systems in place to receive, refurbish and redistribute surplus equipment and medical goods to organizations in need. The program offers servant opportunities by sorting medical supplies as well as learning what it truly means to be "green" and become part of the environmental and social justice movement. Their warehouse is located in Bedford Park at 5213 W. 65th Street. Scheduled volunteer sessions are:

Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.

Thursday evening from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The 2nd and 4th Saturdays of a month from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

This is an opportunity you can schedule on your own or with a group of adults from church or your neighborhood. You can go once or once a month! To serve, simply call Mary Ann Skvara, Warehouse & Logistics Facilitator at 708-496-3900 to get on the calendar.

F.A.N.S. Friends Family and Neighbors Supporting Students

Here is a volunteer opportunity for individuals to get involved with our Valley View School District 365U students in Bolingbrook. Can you spend an hour each week with a child? Can you be a good listener? Can you help a child gain new skills, interests and expand their experience? If you answer yes, these following mentoring programs are available:

Read to a Kindergarten student during the school day

Lunch buddies: Eating lunch with an elementary school student one day a week, throughout the school year.

One-to-One: Giving time and attention to a middle school child while enjoying shared activities.

High School Mentoring: Developing a positive relationship with a teen, showing them you care.

Being a mentor is about sharing simple moments with a child to provide the extra boost they need to stay in school and grow up right. Training is provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters. For more information, contact Carrie Johnstone at the school district 815-886-2700 x527 or johnstonecl@vvsd.org

RECYCLING, REUSING, and REDUCING

Just wanted to remind you of some ongoing opportunities for you to recycle.

Old, worn-out, run down tennis shoes that are not even worth donating for someone else to wear, have a second life as being ground up and reused to make playground surfaces. Blue wire bin is located in fellowship hall.

Glasses, hearing aids, magnifiers, cell phones, metal keys and printer ink cartridges are collected by Jim Cassidy for the Lions Club.

Newspaper/white paper/magazine recycling is available in the green/yellow bin located at the north end of the church parking lot.

Pop tabs are recycled to benefit Ronald McDonald House. White bucket is available in the fellowship hall next to the pop machine.

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION AND YOU

Cleaning out the medicine cabinet? Don't flush medicine down the toilet, which sends it straight to our waterways, harming fish and aquatic animals and contaminating our drinking water. Contact your local police departments that may have local drop boxes for proper disposal. Or look at www.bookrescue.org for a listing of locations in DuPage County.

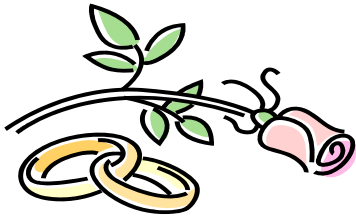
Fast Facts \$140 buys a year's worth of treatment for a person living with HIV/AIDS, down from nearly \$10,000 only ten years ago. That's less than 40 cents a day!



Operation Christmas Families

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those secret Santa's who bought gifts for families in our community that would otherwise have had a bleak Christmas. What a wonderful way to share Christ's LOVE with the community.

Thanks again for being so generous. *Ms. June*



January Anniversaries

7th Bill & Barb Vanoskey (50 yrs)
9th Ron & Carolyn Yost
19th Larry & Ellen Buege

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

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters

8:00am Mike Reese
9:30am Rose Nickles
11:00am Jack & Barb Schlea

Worship Assistants

8:00am Jackie Schmidt
9:30am Rose Nickles
11:00am Amy Beaugard

Ushers

8:00am John Kiersten, Jerry Schmidt
9:30am Rich & Sandie Zihala, Greg & Sherry Krabbenhoft
11:00am Sally & Mike 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

Stewardship of Creation

Water Heaters

Daily Scripture:

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22

In a world of finite resources, for all to have enough means that those with more than enough will have to change their patterns of acquisition and consumption. Sufficiency charges us to work with each other and the environment to meet needs without causing undue burdens elsewhere.

From the ELCA social statement, "Caring for Creation"

Fact:

Just by using the "off the shelf" energy-efficient technologies available today, we could cut the cost of heating, cooling, and lighting our homes and workplaces by up to 80%.

Commitment:

Immediate- Take shorter showers. Don't let the water run when you are washing the dishes. Check out the water heater in your home. Set your water heater to 120° F, which will produce plenty of hot water and still save energy. Wrap your water heater with a water heater blanket, especially if it's in an unheated area of your home. The blanket could save you up to 10 percent on water heating costs. (Some newer models are so well insulated that you don't need to wrap them. Check first to see if adding an insulating blanket to your water heater will affect the warranty.) Conserve hot water by installing water-saving showerheads.

Long term - high-efficiency water heaters (in this area one can also purchase what are called "instantaneous" or "tankless" water heaters—and they can reduce energy consumption up to 20%. Even better, install a solar water heater to reduce energy use and cut down on pollution.

Daily Prayer:

Holy God, with the waters of baptism you have claimed us as your children. Give us the commitment, as we heat the water that washes us, to use energy and your precious water as you would have us. Amen.

U.S. Department of Energy and Maryland Energy Administration

Created By

Sara Olson and Brooke Petersen

Produced for the Web of Creation (www.webofcreation.org) at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago