DECEMBER 2020 Volume 20, Issue 12

New Life News





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701-771-0004 brendamae88@yahoo.com

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mjpeterson@rothsay.us

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Stephanie Olson, Education Committee 218-867-2546 blahbob@yahoo.com

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John Reber, Stewardship Committee 218-770-8145 john.reber@gmail.com

Gayla Western, Property Committee 218-770-2950 gaylahaukos@gmail.com



CONFIRMATION VIA ZOOM

5:30 pm Wednesday, December 2nd 7:00 pm Wednesday, December 2nd

YOUTH ZOOM

8:00 pm Sunday, December 6th

NLLC COUNCIL MEETING

6:30 pm Wednesday, December 9th

YOUTH ZOOM

2:00 pm Sunday, December 20th

CHRISTMAS EVE FIRELIGHT SERVICES

3:45 pm Thursday, December 24th 5:00 pm Thursday, December 24th

NEW LIFE & LITTLE BETHANY WORSHIP OPPORTUNTIES

Sunday Worship Times

Little Bethany - 8:45 a.m. New Life Lutheran 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion:

Little Bethany ~ First Sunday each month New Life ~ First and Third Sunday each month

Coffee Fellowship:

Cancelled until further notice

Sunday School

Kids Power in Christ at NLLC 9:00 a.m. Sept-May

Youth Group at NLLC

Check the Youth Page

WELCA/Bible Studies:

Cancelled until further notice

SERVICE GROUP LEADERS

December Matt & Missy Amundson Chris & Anita Heier

Office Manager Hours

Tuesday - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wednesday - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Thursday - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

* Bold are just to help differentiate each individual and their contact information.

(If you are on this list and your information is incorrect or missing please contact Patrice in the office)

| Committee | Name | Email | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| Christian Education: | Hillary Langfeld Missy Amundson Nikki Oien | hillary_johnson@hotmail.com meshelman@hotmail.com n_august16@hotmail.com | | |
| Church Property: | Brian Buchholz John Kunze Jon Reber | btbuch81@rrt.net | | |
| Evangelism, Family Life, & Social Concerns: | Marlowe Rasmusson Nancy Aaberg | marlowe@rtelnet.net | | |
| | Tracy Buchholz Faith Waldoch Linda Haarstad Gail Reber | btbuch81@rrt.net waldochf@yahoo.com haarstad.linda@gmail.com gail.reber@gmail.com | | |
| Stewardship: | Tammy Lankow Bruce Brenden | tmoenlankow@gmail.com kbrenden@hotmail.com | | |
| | Kristen Heidecker | kheidecker@rothsay.k12.mn.us | | |
| Worship & Music: | Heather Reber Jennifer Honer Steph Curtis | hreber@rothsay.k12.mn.us stacyandjen@yahoo.com scurtis@rothsay.k12.mn.us | | |
| outh: | Kari Carlsrud Kellie Barry Heather Nelson | jkcarlsrud@yahoo.com kopsahl11@icloud.com Heather.Nelson@state.mn.us | | |
| NLLC Foundation Board: | Julie Brenden Eric Nelson | jbrenden@rtelnet.net enelson58@gmail.com | | |
| | Mike Heidecker Chris Heier | mheidecker@rdoequipment.com | | |
| Council Representative: | John Reber | john.reber@gmail.com | | |
| ILLC Cemetery Board: | Harry Opsahl Kim Lang Tom Jensen Kevin Watterud Alan Brandt Warren Helgeson | kskj@rothsay.us | | |
| Service Group Coordinators: | Elaine M Balken Tracy Buchholz Deb Opsahl | ewbalken@rtelnet.net btbuch81@rrt.net dopsahl59@icloud.com | | |
| Nominating Committee: | Steph Curtis Doris Moen Heather Reber Mary Jo Gaugler | scurtis@rothsay.k12.mn.us wadomoen@prtel.com hreber@rothsay.k12.mn.us cupajo28@hotmail.com | | |
| | Bruce Brenden Lynn Brenden | kbrenden@hotmail.com | | |
| Audit Committee: | Arnie Moen Dan Froslie Natacha Evans | amoen@rtelnet.net danfroslie@gmail.com | | |
| Synod Assembly Delegates: | Marlowe Rasmusson Faith Waldoch | marlowe@rtelnet.net waldochf@yahoo.com | | |

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Grace and peace to you in the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Bob Weber, who served as President of Kiwanis International 50 years ago, told this story that happened to him years before. I apologize in advance as some of the words have fallen into disfavor in our modern context. Bob had spoken at a Kiwanis Club in a small town and was spending the night with a farmer on the outskirts of the town. He was relaxing on the front porch with that farmer when a paperboy delivered the evening paper. The paperboy noted a sign which read "Puppies for Sale." The boy got off his bike and asked the farmer, "How much do you want for a puppy, mister?"

Twenty-five dollars, son," the farmer replied. The boy's face dropped.

"Well, sir, could I at least see them anyway?" he asked.

The farmer whistled, and in a moment the mother dog came bounding around the corner of the house followed by four cute puppies, wagging their tails and yipping happily. A few moments later another puppy came straggling behind them dragging one of its hind legs.

"What's the matter with that puppy, mister?" the boy asked.

"Well, son, that puppy is lame. We took her to the vet and he said the pup doesn't have a hip joint and that its leg will never be right."

To the amazement of both men, the boy dropped his bike, reached for his collection bag and took out a fifty cent piece. "Please, mister," he pleaded to the farmer, "I want to buy that puppy. I'll pay you fifty cents every week until the twenty-five dollars is paid. Honest I will, mister."

The farmer replied, "But, son, you don't seem to understand. That puppy will never ever be able to run or jump. That pup is going to be crippled forever. Why in the world would you want such a useless puppy?"

The boy paused for a moment, then reached down and pulled up his pant leg, exposing an iron brace and leather knee strap holding a poor twisted leg. The boy answered, "Mister, that pup is going to need someone who understands him to help him in life!"

Christmas is thought of in a lot of different ways by different people. But when it comes right down to it, Christmas is God looking down on his creation and seeing something quite broken. It is a world filled with souls crippled by sin--people who have no means to right or heal themselves. We are people in need. God sees that need. Knowing that we need someone who understands us to help us in life, God has chosen to enter our world in the person of Jesus—to walk with us and, to ultimately deliver us. That is Christmas. That is this little child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. God comes to be "Emmanuel—God with us!"

Have a very blessed and Merry Christmas!

Take care and God bless!

Yours in Christ,

Fastor Randy

Due to the power outage on November 18th the NLLC council didn't meet.

The council plans to meet on December 9th, 2020 as a combined November and December council meeting.



We will be holding two services on December 24th in the parking lot of New Life Lutheran Church to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The services will be held at:

3:45 pm and 5:00 pm

We will be having luminary lanterns and, weather permitting, we will be launching sky lanterns during our sending hymn "Silent Night".

These services will be held outdoors in the parking lot. We would appreciate that you call ahead to reserve a parking space so that we can ensure we have enough availability for all. There are only 31 front row spaces available per service with an additional 17 over flow spaces. There may also be parking available out of view should you decide to attend last minute. Please only park in your reserved space.

We are in need of 3-4 portable fire pits for the worship services. If you have one we can borrow please give us a call.

There is also a need for 10 volunteers per service to help light the sky lanterns. Our insurance requires those volunteers to be age 18 or over. If you are willing to help light the sky lanterns please call the church office at 867-6557.

Baptisms in November

With joyful celebration these children were baptized:
Niko Callen Neu son of Tyler & Anna Neu
Abigail Jo Barry daughter of Jordan and Kellie Barry

Dear Family and Friends in Christ -



It is hard to believe we are nine months into what we now know as the current normal. It is understandable that there are activities that we may have taken for granted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with large gatherings being one of them. It seems like every day we learn something new about COVID-19 and how it can affect us directly and those around us. "Information fatigue" can set in along with the want for something normal and comforting such as a church service or coffee fellowship.

From the perspective on behalf of the NLLC Council, we would like to share information from our discussions and current/continued planning for getting back into church.

We have recently seen, in all areas of the world that, when restrictions have been lifted altogether, cases of coronavirus spike. The Council formed what is known as the SMART Team, which is responsible for meeting, reviewing, and making recommendations to Council as to how to best move forward with church activities in our new world. This team is comprised of congregation members who are health care workers, moms, dads, and grandparents, people with more understanding of the virus, yet are just like you and me. Part of the team's planning work included the surveys that were sent out. The survey from the SMART Team dispersed in October had roughly 50% of surveys returned. Among those, 50% of those responding (so roughly 25% of the congregation) were ready to have "in person" church again. But as we are all aware, over the past few weeks the situation with COVID-19 has unfortunately changed rapidly. The SMART Team receives regular guidance from our state health department and our Synod to make these informed recommendations. When presented with the information from the SMART Team, the Council takes into consideration these recommendations along with your needs. At the end of the day we are making decisions based on the health and safety and care of our congregation members.

The Team is making strides in completing an action plan to safely open the doors of the church again. As part of the new processes necessary to safely hold church services inside the building, we will need 5-7 volunteers per service to help perform the new duties (health screening, sanitizing, etc.) required to return to church in-person. If you are willing or capable to help with these new duties please contact the church office (867-6557).

In the meantime, with the upcoming weeks of cold and snowy weather, we will continue to offer different ways to worship. We are currently having parking lot services on Sunday mornings along with the sermon and readings being posted on YouTube and Facebook. The sermons are also updated on the website, newlifeparish.net, weekly. But, with the rapidly changing weather we may need to make changes to those outdoor services. We are also keeping the older kids engaged and staying in contact with them in creative ways for confirmation and youth group. Involving our younger Sunday school kids in this atypical environment continues to be a challenge, as finding activities and platforms that work for our young ones continues to be a barrier that is being worked on.

In an area of responsibilities that does seem familiar, our Nominating Committee is just starting the process of contacting folks to fill the roles soon to be vacated by expiring terms on boards and committees. We are also in the early stages of budgeting for the future. If you are called upon to participate in these aspects of our church, please thoughtfully consider sharing your time and talents if you have these resources to give. Your participation and guidance are needed to support the overall wellbeing of the church and its operations.

When we look to the future, we are a short couple weeks away from Christmas. This is normally a special time of celebration, worship, singing and togetherness with our family and friends. It is hard to comprehend that this year may be different from our treasured experiences in the past, but as stated above the decisions as to how we worship are not being taken lightly nor are we wanting to risk the health and safety of each and every one of you. As we continue to plan for the coming weeks, we are all looking forward to the days when we can gather again safely indoors.

Take care, stay safe, and God Bless,

The New Life Lutheran Church Council

Annual meeting report due dates are quickly approaching!

As you get your reports completed please email them to Patrice at newlife@rtelnet.net. I appreciate your timeliness.

Advent Family Activity

2020 calls for a new Advent tradition! We invite the families of New Life to pick up an advent kit from the church to celebrate the season together. Through thoughtful prompts, we will be creating swaddling clothes for baby Jesus, wrapping him in all our hopes and fears to hold him as he holds us. These kits will be available beginning Sunday, November 29th.



Quilts for sale! Made by the women of New Life Church! All sizes and price ranges. A great gift for Christmas. On display at the church or by appointment. If interested, you can stop by the church Wednesday afternoons or call: Elaine Balken, 218-867-2352 or Dar Rose, 218-867-2276.



8:45 am at Little Bethany Lutheran Church

10:00 am at New Life Lutheran Church
(Tune in your radio to 101.3, online
bulletins available at newlifeparish.net)

Please feel free to bring a lawn chair to sit outside, you can also bring an umbrella or canopy for shade.

Feel free to wave or yell "Hello" to others while practicing social distancing and maintaining 6 feet away from those not in your immediate household.

Masks are not required but are encouraged if you are sitting outside of your vehicle.

If you are unable to access the online version of the weekly bulletin for the parking lot worship service and would like a copy mailed to you please call Patrice in the church office at 867-6557. If no one is available please leave your name, number, and mailing address on the answering machine and we will add you to the list.

LORD, STIR US TO DREAM

Advent 2020 Stewardship Series

For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1:37



Lord, Stir Us to Dream

For Advent, we move out of our time of lament into repentance and dreaming for the future. We read in Isaiah 40 a call to prepare the way of the Lord. This is a call to repentance for our own transgressions. In the time of confession in the liturgy we confess "We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone." Each of us has our own areas of shortcoming to acknowledge as we prepare to have an open heart for our Lord. The Lord sends out John to prepare the people for Christ's arrival and the Lord sends us the Spirit as well.

Advent is our time to dream and commit to the future God has envisioned for us. Use Isaiah 61 as a scriptural picture of God's vision for the people in your prayer and discernment. Use the coloring exercise as a form of prayer and meditation. Ask God to show you ways your church and you could expand ways to minister to the world. This is a time of dreaming without the editing of what you think would never be possible. Mary had that thought when Gabriel told her she would be pregnant as a virgin. His response to Mary in Luke 1:37 is, "For nothing will be impossible with God." Dare to be open to the impossible.

It is out of dreams that new hope for the future springs. Share the dreams with others. This is a time to also consider the resources you are willing to give back to God in pursuing these dreams. God works through the people in bringing together resources to live into those dreams. We each partner with God in creating the kingdom here, as well as looking to that final return of Christ. So yes, now we ask, "Lord, stir us to dream."

Advent is our time to celebrate with Mary as she sings her song of praise in Luke 1:46-55. This is a time we can recognize and affirm that everyone, no matter their station in life, is a precious child of God; a time to celebrate and acknowledge like Mary that everyone matters and has something to offer.

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 2020

| October Income | \$ 14,473.16 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| October Disbursements | (\$15,630.31) |
| October Less in/out Income | (<u>\$ 1,348.00)</u> |
| October Net Loss | (\$ 3,923,08) |

100% Week Giving 1-Nov 3,238 80% 8-Nov 1,776 15-Nov 1,093 22-Nov 2,521 60% 29-Nov e-giving 40% **Monthly** Giving Goal: 15,820 20% Total: 8628 Goal 0% 55%

November 2020 Giving Outlook

Grow Old Along with me The Best is Yet To Be

The following is a list of our members who are either in a nursing home or are homebound. We understand that during this time you may not be able to stop by, but a phone call may go a long ways! You can always call ahead and see if a visit would be welcomed.

Berdella Sogn ~ 394 Woodland Dr. #211, Fergus Falls. (Phone 998-7241)

Debbie Faulkner ~ 1131 Mabelle Ave. Room B-209 Fergus Falls (Pioneer Care)

Lonny Western ~ 117 E Hilltop Dr. Fergus Falls (218-739-5613)

Delores Lerbakken ~ Rosewood on Broadway, 1351 N. Broadway, Fargo, (701-277-7999)

Phyllis Balken ~ 1315 S. Mable Ave. Fergus Falls, MN 56537 (218-998-9974)

Eleanor Opsahl ~ 215 E. Mill Ave. #101 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Donna Nord ~ 2401 11th St. S #109 Moorhead, MN 56560

If you know of someone who should be on this list, please call Patrice at the church office at: (218) 867-6557.



Circle Meetings

TENTATIVE DATES -SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Little Bethany WELCA
Cancelled until further notice

NLLC WELCA MEETING
Cancelled until further notice

Card Shower The Twins are turning "90"

The Twins are turning "90" on Dec. 29th 2020 Honor them with a card shower!

> Doris Jorgenson Box 21 Rothsay, MN 56579

Dorothy Jorgenson 106 3rd Ave SW Apt. # 3 Rothsay, MN 56579

The first fi

Dear Women of New Life Church,

Because we have not been able to meet as a group this past year, our WELCA funds are getting low. It is for this reason we are asking those of you who feel you can, to consider a donation of any amount. It is your generosity that keeps us going. Donations can be sent to: Women of New Life Church, c/o Avis Wiese. We thank you for your consideration and hope and pray that you are all safe and well. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact one of us. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
WELCA Officers:
Gayla Western, President
Char Boe, Vice President
Janice Ruth, Secretary
Avis Wiese, Treasurer

CONFIRMATION FAMILIES

Confirmation classes will be held virtually until further notice. According to the Governors latest guidelines we are not able to gather and continue confirmation classes inside of the church building for 4 weeks.

The Zoom ID for Confirmation to be held on December 2nd is: 775 6374 6846

Password: NLLConfirm

Turkey Trot

Thank you to everyone who left food out for the turkey trot.

We managed to collect 179 pounds of food that has been delivered to the Barnesville food pantry.

Thank you again for helping others to have the ability to celebrate the holidays a little more normally this year!

Pencil In On Your Calendars

Youth Zooms

December 6th 8:00 pm &

December 20th 2:00 pm

Events TBA
Stay tuned to the Youth Facebook
page for updates.

Zoom meeting ID for both meetings: 737 8398 9692

Password for both meetings: NLLCyouth



New Life Lutheran Church Little Bethany Lutheran Church

| | Saturday | 2 | 12 | 19 | 26 | | | |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | Satı | 4 | - | 18 | ay | | | |
| | Friday | | _ | | Christmas Day | Christmas. | | |
| | Thursday | က | 10 | 17 | 24 Christmas Eve 3:45 pm Fire Light Worship Service 5:00 pm Fire Light Worship Service | 31 | thru January 2 nd . | |
| | Wednesday | 5:30 pm Confirmation Via Zoom 7:00 pm Confirmation Via Zoom | 6:30 pm NLLC Council meeting | 16 | 23 | 30 | Randy is on vacation December 26 th thru January 2 nd | |
| | Tuesday | - | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 | Pastor Randy | |
| | Monday | | | 14 | 21 | 28 | | |
| | Sunday | | 6 8:45 am Worship at LB 10:00 am Worship at NL 8:00 pm Youth Zoom | 13 8:45 am Worship at LB 10:00 am Worship at NL Baptism of Rocco Anthony Steiner | 8:45 am Worship at LB 10:00 am Worship at NL 2:00 pm Youth Zoom | 27 8:45 am Worship at LB 10:00 am Worship at NL | | |



The following is a list of birthdays as listed in our church records for this month. If your name should be on the list and isn't (or is on the list and shouldn't be), please call the church office.

12/01 ~ Melissa Nord 12/02 ~ Patricia Nelson 12/03 ~ Irene Melkert 12/05 ~ Jeremiah Ziegler 12/06 ~ Emily Christ 12/06 ~ Jacob Christ 12/06 ~ Natacha Evans 12/06 ~ Jenna Fabre 12/06 ~ Jeffrey Melkert 12/07 ~ Jacob Balken 12/07 ~ Grace Carlsrud 12/08 ~ Allen Flatin 12/09 ~ Matt Amundson 12/10 ~ Greg Erickson 12/10 ~ Stacey Lang 12/10 ~ Jerry Wigdahl 12/11 ~ Nicholas Aaberg 12/11 ~ Nathan Johnson 12/11 ~ Berdella Sogn 12/12 ~ Carly Aaberg 12/12 ~ Doug Lindberg 12/14 ~ Tahren Petersen 12/15 ~ Charles Dupree IV

12/15 ~ Holly Nord 12/16 ~ Abigail Honer 12/17 ~ Jake Ihland 12/17 ~ Justin Kugler 12/18 ~ Alexis Craig 12/18 ~ Jasmine Ringquist 12/20 ~ Connor Nelson 12/21 ~ Elaine M Balken 12/21 ~ Alan Brandt 12/21 ~ Michael Haarstad 12/21 ~ Dorothy Knutson 12/27 ~ Deb Erickson 12/28 ~ Braden Moen 12/28 ~ Hans Ronnevik 12/29 ~ Tracy Buchholz 12/29 ~ Doris Jorgenson 12/29 ~ Dorothy Jorgenson 12/30 ~ Stephanie Curtis 12/30 ~ Jesse Helgeson 12/30 ~ Dante March 12/31 ~ Kim Brenden 12/31 ~ Larry Teberg



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The following is a list of Anniversaries as listed in our church records for this month. If your names should be on the list and aren't or are on the list and shouldn't be), please call the church office.

12/07 ~ Stacy & Jennifer Honer 12/18 ~ Steve & Linda Froslie 12/26 ~ Douglas & Anita Lindberg 12/27 ~ Jim & Julie Boyce 12/27 ~ Michael & Linda Haarstad

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS FOR THIS MONTH



December 6 - Jessica Nelson

December 13 - Heather Reber

December 20 - Jennifer Honer

December 24 - Reber's

December 27 - Stephanie Curtis

We are always looking for volunteers to run our sound system. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office. Training is available.

Website/Mobile Directory/App

Website: www.newlifeparish.net

Mobile Directory: https://

mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/177579/new-life-

lutheran-church

Access Code: 92017

App: Download sharefaith app from google play or the

app store. Open sharefaith app Church is

NLLC Rothsay

Find us on Facebook at New Life Lutheran Church



New Life Lutheran Church

PO Box 278 102 Main Ave. West Rothsay, MN 56579



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

«FIRST NAME» «LAST NAME» «ADDRESS1» «CITY, STATE» «Z1P»

New Life News is a monthly publication of New Life Lutheran Church and Little Bethany Lutheran Church. Articles are due by the 15th each month.



Pastor: Office Manager: Youth Director Rev. Randy Whitehead Patrice Ziegler Jessica Nelson

(218) 867-6557 e-mail: newlife@rtelnet.net www.newlifeparish.net

December Bible Reading Schedule:

Dec 1: 1Cor 9-11 Dec 2: 1Cor 12-14

Dec 3: 1Cor 12-14 Dec 3: 1Cor 15-16

Dec 4: 2Cor 1-4

Dec 5: 2Cor 5-9 Dec 6: 2Cor 10-13

Dec 7: Acts 20:1-3; Rom 1-3

Dec 8: Rom 4-7 Dec 9: Rom 8-10

Dec 10: Rom 11-13

Dec 11: Rom 14-16 Dec 12: Acts 20:4-23:35

Dec 13: Acts 24-26 Dec 14: Acts 27-28

Dec 15: Colossians; Philemon

Dec 16: Ephesians

Dec 17: Philippians

Dec 18: 1 Timothy Dec 19: Titus

Dec 20: 1 Peter

Dec 21: Heb 1-6 Dec 22: Heb 7-10 Dec 23: Heb 11-13

Dec 24: 2 Timothy

Dec 25: 2 Peter; Jude Dec 26: 1 John

Dec 27: 2/3 John Dec 28: Rev 1-5

Dec 29: Rev 6-11 Dec 30: Rev 12-18

Dec 31: Rev 19-22