

# NEW LIFE NEWS

DISCIPLES OF JESUS,  
GROWING DISCIPLES OF JESUS



New Life Lutheran Church & Little Bethany Lutheran Church

[www.newlifeparish.net](http://www.newlifeparish.net)

New Life office hours:

Wednesday's 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

[newlife@rtelnet.net](mailto:newlife@rtelnet.net) or 218-867-6557

## December Scheduled Events

### **December 1st**

9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class

### **December 2nd**

*Quilted Footprints –Private Event*

### **December 3rd**

*Quilted Footprints –Private Event*

5:30 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm 56er's Grade Youth Group

### **December 4th**

*Quilted Footprints –Private Event*

9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class

### **December 5th**

*Quilted Footprints –Private Event*

### **December 6th**

*Quilted Footprints –Private Event*

### **December 7th**

8:45 am LB Worship at Little Bethany

9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at New Life

9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship at Little Bethany

10:00 am Worship at New Life

Sunday School Christmas Program

### **December 8th**

9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class

### **December 10th**

10:00 am Mission Quilters

5:30 pm Confirmation

6:30 pm NLLC Council Meeting

### **December 11h**

9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class



### **December 14th**

8:45 am LB Worship at Little Bethany

9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at New Life

10:00 am Worship at New Life

11:00 am First Communion Class (option 1)

### **December 15th**

9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class

6:30 pm Lions Club Meeting

### **December 17th**

3:45 pm First Communion Class (option 2)

5:30 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm 56er's Grade Youth Group

### **December 18th**

9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class

### **December 21st**

8:45 am LB Worship at Little Bethany

9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at New Life

10:00 am Worship at New Life

### **December 22nd**

9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class

### **December 24th**

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Worship

### **December 25th**

Christmas Day

### **December 28th**

8:45 am LB Worship at Little Bethany

9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at New Life

10:00 am Worship at New Life

### **December 29th**

9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class

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### NLLC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Heather Nelson, President  
218-770-9577 Heather.Nelson@state.mn.us

Jessi Lehn, Vice President  
218-329-7496 jessicolby@gmail.com

Heather Reber, Secretary  
218-770-8146 heatherreber4@gmail.com

Joyce Peterson, Community Care Committee  
218-770-4006 mjpeterson@rothsay.us

Jessica Nelson, Worship & Music Committee  
701-412-6512 jessica.l.krick@gmail.com

Stephanie Olson, Education Committee  
218-867-2546 stepholson80@gmail.com

Brad Schmidt, Youth Committee  
701-318-4181 bschmidt@mdf.coop

Stephanie Curtis, Stewardship Committee  
218-731-9406 stephcurtis1975@gmail.com

Marlowe Rasmusson, Property Committee  
218-770-1045 marlowe@rtelnet.net

### SERVICE GROUP LEADERS

#### December

Nicholas & Nancy Aaberg  
Casey & Stephanie Curtis

#### January

Mike & Kristen Heidecker  
Brandon & Hillary Langfeld

#### February

Jordan & Kellie Barry  
Harry & Deb Opsahl





*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. [Luke 2:10-11]"*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There's the story of a little boy who decided to write a letter to God one Christmas. He started out by writing: "Dear God, I've been a really good boy this year." As he finished that sentence, however, he remembered that God was all knowing and all seeing. So, he crumpled up the paper he was writing on and threw it away. He figured God would know that was a lie.

He pulled out a second sheet of paper and started writing. This time he wrote: "Dear God, I know I haven't done everything I should have, but I really tried to be good." Again, he stopped, crumpled up the paper, and threw it away. It was obvious that he was struggling with what to write to God.

As the boy sat there thinking about it, he looked up and his eyes fell upon the nativity set his mother had set up for Christmas. That nativity set, with the baby Jesus in the manger, Mary and Joseph hovering over him in the stable, and shepherds, wise men, angels, and various animals surrounding the stable, was his mother's favorite Christmas decoration. It was then that the boy had an idea. He got up, ran out of the room, and returned with a small towel and a shoe box. He quietly walked over to the nativity display, looked around. Seeing no one, he tenderly picked up the Mary figurine, wrapped her in the towel, and carefully put her in the shoebox. He then hid the shoebox in his bedroom closet. At that point he returned to the table, pulled out a fresh piece of paper, and began to write: "Dear God, if you ever want to see your mother again . . ."

We chuckle at this, but it seems as though, every year, the greater part of our modern society does something similar. It tries to take the Christmas season, the Christmas story, hostage, with its multiplicity of gadgets and must have toys, its dizzying schedule of parties and expectations, and the ever-building pressure to make sure this Christmas is a seamless and perfect holiday. The world tries to make demands and hold Christmas for ransom--to make Christmas about anything and everything other than God's physical entry into the brokenness of this world. He came as an innocent and vulnerable baby—a baby who, ultimately, grew up to reclaim as his own, including you and me . . . as he ascended a cross, suffering and dying for our sins, . . . but also rising from the dead to conquer death so that we can live fully and vibrantly, fearlessly and generously not just at Christmas, but at every moment of every day of every year.

While our modern society tries to take Christmas hostage, it can't, not really. The Christ child, his story, which is our story, is just too powerful, too life changing.

The wayward world's response to this is to try to take us hostage. Sometimes, it happens—but only when we take our eyes off Jesus, only when we allow the noise of the world to fill our ears tuning out Jesus' words, his calm, steady voice.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, amidst all the hubbub of the world's artificial, un-sustaining version of Christmas, perhaps our greatest prayer for ourselves, for one another, and for the world is a prayer that the sights and sounds, the reunions and remembrances we choose this season might all be centered around the true meaning of Christmas--the birth of the Christ child, whose very presence makes the glitter of our Christmas decorations and presents pale in comparison.

Have a Merry and Meaningful, Joy-filled Christmas! . . . and a Blessed New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

**New Life Lutheran Church  
October 2025 Unapproved minutes**

The council did not meet in  
October

Evangelist Luis Palau tells of a wealthy European family that decided to have their newborn baby baptized in their enormous mansion. Dozens of guests were invited to an elaborate affair, as they all arrived dressed in their finery. After depositing their elegant wraps on a bed in an upstairs room, the guests were entertained royally.

Soon the time came for the main purpose of their gathering: the infant's baptismal ceremony. But where was the baby? No one seemed to know. The child's governess ran upstairs and returned with a desperate look on her face. Everyone searched frantically for the baby. Then someone recalled having seen him asleep on one of the beds. The baby was on a bed all right—buried beneath a pile of coats, jackets, and furs. The object of that day's celebration had been forgotten, neglected, and nearly smothered.

The baby whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas is easily hidden



## **NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH** **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **October 2025**

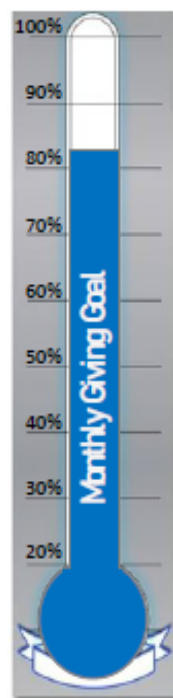
October Income      \$9,856.98  
October Expenses (\$15,769.39)  
October Net Loss    (\$5,912.41)

Scan the QR code to  
give to New Life  
Lutheran Church  
online!



### **October 2025 Giving Outlook**

| Week          | Giving              |
|---------------|---------------------|
| October 5     | \$2,697.00          |
| October 12    | \$1,099.00          |
| October 19    | \$2,547.00          |
| October 26    | \$1,477.00          |
| October 31    | \$1,915.00          |
|               |                     |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>\$9,735.00</b>   |
|               |                     |
| <b>Goal:</b>  | <b>\$15,684.00</b>  |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>(\$5,158.25)</b> |





Did your child miss the First Communion Instruction Class earlier this Fall? Well, if so, Just in time for Christmas, we will have another two opportunities for your child to receive instruction, and receive the Lord's Supper with you this Christmas. He or she can attend the First Communion Class on Sunday, December 14, at 11 am (following the worship service) or on Wednesday, December 17, at 3:45 pm. Both classes will be at New Life Church. Please let us know ahead of time with which class works out for your child.

If neither time works out for you, please contact Pastor Randy to arrange a different time.



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

Joy Toso ~ 215 Skogmo Blvd # 203  
Fergus Falls, MN

Harold Larson ~ 1131 S. Mabelle Ave Room C-205  
Fergus Falls, MN (Pioneer Care)

Obert Aaberg ~ 803 Mill St. Apt # 100  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Betty Magnusson ~ 1131 S Mabelle Ave Room C206-1  
Fergus Falls (218-736-8824)

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

Charlene Boe ~ 1307 S Mabelle Ave  
Fergus Falls

Elaine Amundson - 211 E. Mill Ave #200  
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Margaret Brenden ~ 1500 7th St. S #4212  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
(218-284-9114)

Linda Froslic ~ 600 5th St SE  
Barnesville, MN 56514

Dorothy Knutson ~ 2401 11th St. S # 323  
Moorhead, MN 56560

Karol Brusven ~ 3102 S University Dr  
Fargo, ND 58103

Annual—

# Christmas Bag Goodies

Looking for donations for our Christmas bags.

**Deadline is December 15**

Will assemble after church and deliver that week.

Questions? Contact Joyce Peterson

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH



*The Mission Quilters will be making quilts for the Salvation Army Christmas toy shop families. Twin size is usually the most popular size, but they have babies/toddlers signed up who can use smaller ones as well as teenagers who have full or queen beds. If you want to help out; leave donations in the quilt closet.*

*Deadline for donations is December 14th.*

*Questions: call Mary Brandt at 218.867.2693.*



**Mission Quilters will be meeting in church on Wednesday, December 10th, 10-2pm. Bring a sack lunch.**



### Christmas Choir Announcement

We want YOU to join us in singing a Christmas choir piece this season!

The choir will sing during the services on:

- Sunday, December 21st
- Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

If you're only available for one of the performances, that's perfectly fine—we'd still love to have you participate!

A sign-up sheet will be available for all who are interested.

More information and details to come regarding practices dates and times.

Let's make a joyful noise together this Christmas! ✨



*Save These*  
**DATES**



# DECEMBER 25

| Sun                                                                                                                                                | Mon                                                 | Tue                                   | Wed                                                                                         | Thu                                                                                                    | Fri                                                                                       | Sat                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                    | 1<br>9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class                      | 2<br>Quilted Footprints Private Group | 3<br>Quilted Footprints Private Group 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm 56er's Grade Youth Group | 4<br>Quilted Footprints Private Group 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class                                        | 5<br>Quilted Footprints Private Group                                                     | 6<br>Quilted Footprints Private Group |
| 7<br>8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & Fellowship at NL 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship at LB 10:00 am Worship at NL Sunday School Christmas Program | 8<br>9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class                      | 9                                     | 10<br>10:00 am Mission Quilters 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm NLCC Council Meeting           | 11<br>9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class                                                                        | 12                                                                                        | 13                                    |
| 14<br>8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & Fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL 11:00 am 1st Communion Class                                     | 15<br>9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class 6:30 pm Kion's Club | 16                                    | 17<br>3:45 pm 1st Communion Class 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm 56er's Grade Youth Group     | 18<br>9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class                                                                        | 19                                                                                        | 20                                    |
| 21<br>8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & Fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL                                                                  | 22<br>9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class                     | 23                                    | 24<br>5:00 Christmas Eve Worship                                                            | 25<br><br>Christmas | 26<br> | 27                                    |
| 28<br>8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & Fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL                                                                  | 29<br>9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class                     | 30                                    | 31                                                                                          |                                                                                                        |                                                                                           |                                       |



12.02: Patricia Nelson  
 12.02: Lonny Western  
 12.05: Jeremiah Ziegler  
 12.06: Emily Christ  
 12.06: Jacob Christ  
 12.06: Rylee Torgerson  
 12.07: Jacob Balken  
 12.07: Grace Carlsrud  
 12.08: Allen Flatin  
 12.09: Matt Amundson  
 12.10: Stacey Lang  
 12.10: Jerry Wigdahl  
 12.11: Nicholas Aaberg  
 12.11: Poppy Steiner  
 12.12: Carly Aaberg

12.12: Douglas Lindberg  
 12.13: William Hone  
 12.13: Geraldine Steiner  
 12.15: Holly Nord  
 12.16: Abigail Honer  
 12.17: Justin Kugler  
 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  
 12.28: Braden Moen  
 12.28: Hans Ronnevik  
 12.29: Tracy Buchholz

12.30: Stephanie Curtis  
 12.31: Ivy Andersen  
 12.31: Kimberly Brenden

This is the 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.

12.07: Jennifer & Stacy Honer  
 12.27: Michael & Linda Haarstad  
 12.27: James & Julie Boyce

This is the 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.



#### SCRIPTURE READERS FOR DECEMBER

December 7th: Carol Balk  
 December 14th: Marlowe Rasmusson  
 December 21st: Steph/Travis Olson  
 December 24th: Jessica Nelson  
 December 28th: Julie Brenden



We are always looking for volunteers for future readings. ***If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at 218-867-6557 or email new-life@rtelnet.net.***

#### SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS FOR DECEMBER



December 7th: Nate Ziegler  
 December 14th: John & Heather Reber  
 December 21st: Jessica Nelson  
 December 24th: John & Heather Reber  
 December 28th: Jennifer Honer

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/App  
 Website: [www.newlifeparish.net](http://www.newlifeparish.net)

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



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## CHANGE SERVICE

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: Rev. Randy Whitehead  
Administrative Assistant: Lori Ryan  
Youth Director: Jessica Nelson

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