

New Life Lutheran Church
PO Box 278
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Rothsay, MN 56579



DISCIPLES OF JESUS,
GROWING DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

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NEW LIFE NEWS

DISCIPLES OF JESUS,
GROWING DISCIPLES OF JESUS



New Life Lutheran Church & Little Bethany Lutheran Church
www.newlifeparish.net
New Life office hours:
Wednesday's 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
newlife@rtelnet.net or 218-867-6557

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 01.01: Jessica Brandt | 01.19: David Opsahl | 01.29: Tahmor Brandt |
| 01.01: Lucas Schultz | 01.19: Ashley Watterud | 01.29: Joyce Peterson |
| 01.02: Marilyn Moen | 01.23: Daniel Amundson | 01.31: Gene Amundson |
| 01.02: Nathan Ziegler | 01.23: Cole Lang | 01.31: Cheryl Erickson |
| 01.04: Sandra Amundson | 01.23: Corey Moen | |
| 01.04: Thomas Brusven | 01.24: Elaine Amundson | |
| 01.12: Sarah Peterson | 01.24: Sandra Fosse | |
| 01.12: Becky Schmidt | 01.24: Diane Kunze | |
| 01.15: Gary Brandt | 01.25: Mabel Schmidt | |
| 01.15: Gayla Western | 01.25: Avis Wiese | |
| 01.16: Eric Andersen | 01.26: Wylie Brenden | |
| 01.16: Linda Haarstad | 01.26: Madison Honer | |
| 01.17: Susan Erickson | 01.26: Chris Watterud | |
| 01.18: Madilynn Johnson | 01.27: Jessica Holland | |
| 01.19: Kim Lang | 01.27: Elise Whitehead | |

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.



01.05: Breck & Molly Eckley

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.



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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

January
Mike & Kristen Heidecker
Brandon & Hillary Langfeld

February
Jordan & Kellie Barry
Harry & Deb Opsahl

March
Ruth Anderson
Tom & Mary Jensen



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 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	5	6	7 Quilted Footprints Private Group 5:30 pm Confirmation	8 Quilted Footprints Private Group	9 Quilted Footprints Private Group	10 Quilted Footprints Private Group
11 8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL 10:00 am Trent Westerberg Baptism	12	13	14 10:00 am Mission Quilters 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm NLCC Council Meeting	15 Noon Soup & Sandwich Bible Study	16	17 Noon Elaine Amundson's Funeral
18 8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL	19 6:30 pm Lion's Club at NL	20	21 5:30 pm Confirmation	22 Noon Soup & Sandwich Bible Study	23	24
25 8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL New Member Sunday	26	27	28 5:30 pm Confirmation	29 Noon Soup & Sandwich Bible Study	30	31

**NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

NOVEMBER 2025

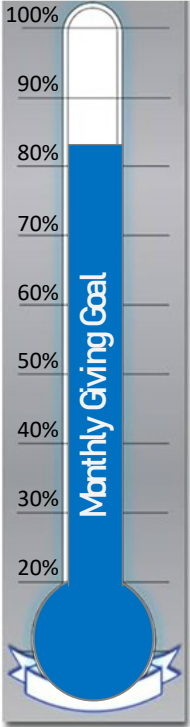
November Income	\$14,199.68
November Expenses	(\$17,662.15)
November Net Loss	(\$3,462.47)

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



November 2025 Giving Outlook

Week	Giving
November 2	\$3,476.00
November 9	\$2,002.25
November 16	\$2,087.00
November 23	\$1,240.01
November 30	\$2,218.00
E-Giving	\$1,750.00
Total:	\$12,773.26
Goal:	\$15,684.00
Total:	(\$5,158.25)



SCRIPTURE READERS FOR JANUARY

January 4th:
January 11th:
January 18th:
January 25th:



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 newlife@rtelnet.net.***



**SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS
FOR JANUARY**

January 4th: Stephanie Curtis
January 11th: John & Heather Reber
January 18th: Nate Ziegler
January 25th: Jessica Nelson

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.

NEW LIFE CHURCH
**NEW MEMBER
SUNDAY**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The apostle Paul wrote: *“For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”* [Galatians 5:1]

Have we taken such words to heart? Or, have we, as individuals, families, and social groups, as nations and a world community submitted to a yoke of slavery once again? I think in large part, we have submitted to the yoke of slavery. A good number of us are slaves to technology. How many of us can go an hour, a day, a week, without a cell phone and not feel anxiety over not having it? Some of us are slaves to work. What are we without our work? Some of us are captive to sports. If we’re not playing them, we obsess over watching and following them. And if that’s not enough we have our fantasy leagues to fill in the spaces. Some of us are slaves to the lottery or the casinos and such. Some of us are shopaholics. Some of us alcoholics. Some of us live to hunt or fish. Some of us are captive to politics, a political slant or party. Some of us even get caught up in toxic religiousness. The list goes on, doesn’t it?

It’s not that technology or work, sports or shopping, alcohol or hunting or fishing or politics or religion is evil; they’re not. But, when we allow them to distract us from healthy living and the nurturing of our most important relationships, any one of them can become a problem, enslaving us, and those around us.

So, why do we submit? Why do we allow ourselves to become enslaved? For most of us, I’m guessing, it is not a conscious choice. We are subtly lured in, and we don’t even realize we’re enslaved until it is too late. And then, still, some don’t realize it. It seems to give us pleasure and/or a purpose--as it continues to build a chasm between us and what is truly life-giving and life-affirming. But again, why? My guess is that it all comes down to fear—we embrace this for fear of losing that, whatever it might be.

Lonny D. Meinecke Ph.D., whose dissertation was on the topic of fear, wrote in an article for *Psychology Today*: A key principle that stood out from my research was the finding that our species is worried about weird things. We worry about losing things all of us are going to lose anyway. We are so worried about losing them, we would do absolutely anything to avoid losing them. In fact, we would sacrifice everything we love—if necessary—just to avoid the thought of ‘losing everything we love’ (Meinecke, 2017).

So, are you enslaved to anything? If so, what are you going to do about it? As one year turns to another, it is usually a time to take stock of our lives and set resolutions for the coming year. Unfortunately, many of these resolutions fail fairly quickly. Why? Because we just try to add these new habits to our already busy schedules. It usually doesn’t work. Instead, we need to do the hard work of making changes—limiting or tossing this out to make room for the new, so that “it” has a chance. In addition, we need to set up support networks, to help us pursue these long-range changes. We need other people to help hold us accountable. This, too, is hard work; but it carries its own God-given blessings—including the health community that is so essential.

When [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
And [Jesus] rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” [Luke 4:16-20]

I pray that your New Year is full of the many life-giving and life-affirming blessings God created you for.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

New Life Lutheran Church
December 2025 Unapproved minutes

NLLC council met on December 10th at 6:30 pm. Members present: Heather Nelson, Stephanie Curtis, Jessica Nelson, Steph Olson, Marlowe Rasmusson, Pastor Randy Whitehead, Heather Reber, Jessi Lehn, Renae Froslic, Brad Schmidt, Joyce Peterson and Lori Ryan.

1.0 Approval of agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Brad Schmidt, seconded by Marlowe Rasmusson. Motion carried.

2.0 Approval of November Council minutes: Motion to approve the council minutes made by Steph Curtis, seconded by Joyce Peterson. Motion carried.

3.0 Treasurer’s report November 2025: Motion to approve the financial statement made by Steph Curtis, seconded by Joyce Peterson. Motion carried. Renae will set up a Minnesota Paid Leave account with the State and it was decided the church employees will pay half of the required. 66%. Motion to approve made by Joyce Peterson, seconded by Jessica Nelson.

4.0 Ongoing business:

- 4.1** Copier Lease - It was decided to go through Loffler for the new copier lease.
- 4.2** Summit Monitoring System - More information is needed on what the actual cost of this will be so this is tabled until next month.

5.0 New business:

- 5.1 Correspondence:** None
- 5.2 Upcoming events:**
 - December 14th - First Communion Class
 - December 17th - First Communion Class
 - December 21st & 24th - Christmas Choir
 - December 21st - Christmas Themed Youth Party
 - December 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm
 - December 27th to January 2nd - Pastor Randy on Vacation
- 5.3 Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee will be meeting in the near future to work on filling positions for the upcoming year.
- 5.4 Meatball Supper:** Possible dates: March 21st or April 18th. Last year, there was a quilt raffle held at the meatball supper and proceeds went to Lutheran World Relief (not to the church). All other money brought in that night was for the church. Discussion was had that proper signage should be put out so there is no confusion as to where the funds are going. Going forward, all groups will need council approval to have raffles/items at the Meatball Supper. This is to keep as much of the funds coming into the church as possible.
- 5.5 Custodian Position:** Jessie Brandt was hired as our new janitorial staff.

6.0 Pastor’s report:

- Pastor Randy is making progress on plans for Lenten. The worship services/dinners will be centered on the Joseph story from Genesis
- First Communion classes will be held on Sunday, December 14th and Wednesday, December 17th for those interested
- John Reber will lead worship on Sunday, December 28th as Pastor Randy will be on vacation from December 27th-January 2nd.
- Pastor Randy is tentatively planning to have a six session Soup and Sandwich Bible Study on Thursdays at 12 noon - Jan. 15, 22, 29 and Feb. 5, 12, & 19. Its title is “Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture.” There is a book participants will be encouraged to read each week. It also has a video presentation for each week featuring Walter Brueggemann. If there is interest, he can also schedule an evening class, or perhaps on weekends
- Bylaw for the nominating committee - We should add that the council president will contact the nominating committee in September each year with a list of open seats for the upcoming election year.
- Dates to mark your calendars:
 - Saturday, March 21st - The Great NW MN Synod Get-Together in Bemidji
 - Saturday, May 30th - The NW MN Synod Gathering. It will be a “Virtual” Assembly. We will need to elect delegates to that assembly.

7.0 Youth Director’s report:

- Successful Pie Auction - all pies sold and made almost \$2,000.
- The 56ers group meets from 5:00-6:00 pm because basketball starts. The next get together is December 17th.
- Youth Group Christmas Party - Jess is sending invites through the mail to the youth. There will be a saran wrapped gift ball, gift exchange, games, etc.
- January - Youth group open gym at the REC. Date to be determined.

8.0 Administrative Assistant’s Report:

Lori is working on updating the list for those that have a key for the church.

9.0 NLLC Foundation report:

No report

10.0 Committee reports:

Worship & Music (Jessica):

- Jennifer Honer lined up families to be readers and to light the advent candles each week.
- Harvest Festival was a success. Jennifer Honer led this event and coordinated all the food and helpers. Hayrides were given and there were activities for the kids to do at the meal.
- Poinsettias were ordered for Christmas Season - 31 ordered this year. They were delivered on 12/12/25
- The Christmas Choir started rehearsing on 12/7 and will perform on 12/21 and 12/24.

New Life Lutheran Church
December 2025 Unapproved minutes

- The stained-glass cross for the worship carriage is completed and will be used after the Christmas season. The fish will be finished soon. Both items were given in memory of Arlen Haugrud.
 - New refillable advent candles were ordered in memory of Arlene & Arvid Haugrud.
 - There was a dedication for both the new carriage items and the advent candles at church on 12/14/25
 - Thanksgiving Eve service was on Sunday, Nov. 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Rothsay Baptist Church
 - The Pine Pot class was successful again this year with 15 people attending.
 - Church was decorated on Monday, December 1st for Christmas
 - We have a list of those willing to be readers and will continue to fill that each month - the list has made it much easier to fill each week.
- Elise Whitehead wrote up a script for the Puppet Ministry for Sunday, December 14th. Confirmation students helped with the puppets - the kids that watch enjoy this a lot!

Education (Steph Olson):

- Christmas Program practice was held on 12/6
- Christmas Program was held on 12/7 - the kids did GREAT! We are very proud of all the kids and the effort they put into making the program a success.
- Huge thank you to Joyce for taking the extra time to meet with the Sunday School kids to prepare for the program. Also for working with the littles on their two ‘solo’ songs in the program (Jesus Love Me and This Little Light of Mine)
- Thanks to Heather R for the assistance with micro-phones, the Langfeld family for their decorating and behind the scenes work as well as to all the Sunday School Teachers - we couldn’t hold such special events without all of you!
- Sunday School will resume 1/11/26
- Please remember to check the Remind App for our Sunday School Calendar!
- New Life Sunday School Class Code: @kf8c48f

Youth (Brad Schmidt):

Looking at ideas for the older youth ~ possibly an ice fishing event

Community Care Committee (Joyce):

They are working on Christmas bags and meal bags. The meal bags will be given to the food truck that comes to Rothsay once a month to be dispersed. They are also looking at doing another event like BUNCO. They will also help with New Membership Sunday in January (date of New Membership Sunday to be determined).

Church Property (Marlowe):

Shovels that have steel edges on them and they are getting worn down. He can get replacement pieces for less than

\$10. Water is still leaking in the closet in the kitchen. This will be looked at in the near future as soon as the plumber can get here. John Reber will keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Stewardship (Steph Curtis):

- The 2026 Commitment letter was mailed to 136 households. Pledges are asked to be returned by December 31st, 2025. They can mail them in or put them in the locked box on the table by the narthex
 - Due to the budget shortfall this year, the committee discussed holding another congregational meeting in January to bring more awareness to the current financial situation. They are optimistic that December will be a strong giving month and hope that we don’t need to borrow funds from the Foundation.
 - Other ideas for awareness discussed were:
 - Putting weekly giving amounts in the church bulletin
 - Displaying a “Goal” poster as pledges come in (thermometer or New Life Tree)
 - Asking for some time at the Annual Meeting to discuss giving and how to reach those that currently are not active
 - Other Business: They have contacted Thrivent Financial to hold an informational meeting with members regarding retirement planning, planned giving, and estate planning. They are looking at dates in January or February.
- The committee is exploring educational options for a Stewardship class for congregation members to host late winter or early spring. More information to come on this.

11.0 Adjournment: Stephanie Curtis will do snacks for January. The next meeting is on January 14th at 6:30 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Steph Olson and second by Jessica Nelson. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Reber