

New Life Lutheran Church
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DISCIPLES OF JESUS,
GROWING DISCIPLES OF JESUS.



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,
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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

- 02.06: Janice Rudh
- 02.13: Lynn Brenden
- 02.14: Tanner Heier
- 02.15: Wyatt Curtis
- 02.15: Betty Magnusson
- 02.16: Trey Holland
- 02.16: Harold Larson
- 02.16: Amy Meyer
- 02.16: Gene Nord
- 02.18: Mary Jensen
- 02.21: Connor Majerus
- 02.22: Jennifer Honer
- 02.23: Kristen Hanson
- 02.26: Abby Barry
- 02.26: Cale Brandt

- 02.27: Cora Honer
- 02.27: Merlin Watterud
- 02.28: Shauna Schleeter



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.



02.15: Clifford & Marilyn Moen

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.



Table of Contents

Cover/Birthday/Anniversary.....Page 1
 Table of Contents/Service Groups/New Member Sunday/Valentine Bingo.....Page 2
 Letter from the Pastor.....Page 3
 January Council Minutes.....Page 4
 January Council Minutes Continued/Council Members.....Page 5
 Financial Information/Scripture Readers/Sound Operators/Scholarship Info.....Page 6
 Calendar.....Page 7



SERVICE GROUP LEADERS	
February	Jordan & Kellie Barry Harry & Deb Opsahl
March	Ruth Anderson Tom & Mary Jensen
April	Matt & Missy Amundson Chad & Heather Nelson

VALENTINE BINGO
 SOUP AND SANDWICHES
 SUNDAY FEB. 15 2025
 11 AM-1PM
 FUN PRIZES!
 ALL AGES WELCOME!!!!!!!
 BINGO WILL BEGIN ABOUT 12PPM!

B	I	N	G	O
4	16	33	55	73
16	31	43	49	67
1	19	FREE	58	72
9	27	44	58	64

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 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 NL Annual mtg	2 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	3	4 Quilted Footprints Private Group 5:30 pm Confirmation	5 Quilted Footprints Private Group 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class Noon Soup & Sandwich Bible Study	6 Quilted Footprints Private Group	7 Quilted Footprints Private Group
8 8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL	9 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	10	11 10:00 am Mission Quilters 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm NLLC Council Meeting	12 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class Noon Soup & Sandwich Bible Study	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day
15 8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL New Member Sunday (NL) 11:00 Valentine Bingo	16 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class 6:30 pm Lion's Club	17	18 5:15 pm Confirmation 6:45 pm Ash Wednesday Supper	19 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class Noon Soup & Sandwich Bible Study	20	21
22 8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL	23 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	24	25 5:15 pm Confirmation 6:45 pm Lenten Supper	26 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	28	28

**NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

December 2025

December Income	\$29,950.78
December Expenses	\$17,400.12
December Net Gain	\$12,550.66

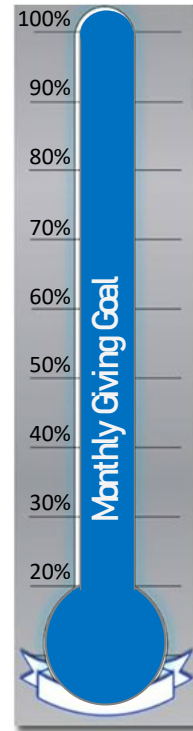
While we gained on our budget in December, we finished 2025 \$18,456.26 in the red.

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



December 2025 Giving Outlook

Week	Giving
December 7	\$6,458.78
December 14	\$2,962.00
December 21	\$4,689.00
December 24	\$3,419.00
December 28	\$457.00
December 31	\$5,200.00
E-Giving	\$4,005.00
Total:	\$27,190.78
Goal:	\$15,684.00
Difference:	\$11,506.78



SCRIPTURE READERS FOR JANUARY

- February 1st:
- February 8th:
- February 15th:
- February 22nd:



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

- February 1st: Jennifer Honer
- February 8th: John & Heather Reber
- February 15th & 18th: Stephanie Curtis
- February 22nd & 25th: Nate Ziegler

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.

SCHOLARSHIP Applications
APPLY NOW

New Life Lutheran Church Scholarships

Three scholarships are available for NLLC student members. **Arne S. Brenden Christian Education Scholarship** provides financial assistance to students of a Christian college or seminary, or who are pursuing a career in the ministry or Christian education. The **Thor Sorum Lutheran Seminary Scholarship** provides financial assistance to students at any Lutheran Seminary in the US. The **Hamar-Haas Scholarship** is available one time to any full-time post-secondary student who is a member of New Life Lutheran Church. All three scholarships require students to be enrolled in the subsequent term. **Deadline for application is Friday, May 1** and applicants will be notified by June 1. Application is available at the church office.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I begin with two stories about Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th President of the United States. The first is from Reader's Digest. The second is from a member of a church I served in Hawley, MN, a number of years ago.

John Kenneth Galbraith, in his autobiography, *A Life in Our Times*, illustrates the devotion of Emily Gloria Wilson, his family's housekeeper: It had been a wearying day, and I asked Emily to hold all telephone calls while I had a nap. Shortly thereafter the phone rang. Lyndon Johnson was calling from the White House. "Get me Ken Galbraith. This is Lyndon Johnson." "He is sleeping, Mr. President. He said not to disturb him." "Well, wake him up. I want to talk to him." "No, Mr. President. I work for him, not you. When I called the President back, he could scarcely control his pleasure. "Tell that woman I want her here in the White House." [Houghton Mifflin in Reader's Digest, December, 1981]

Andy served as an Air Force One pilot for two years during the Lyndon Johnson administration. On one occasion Andy was preparing to fly President Johnson and his entourage back to Washington, DC, from a multi-day stay in Mexico City. The Secret Service was loading all of its equipment and personnel onto the plane when Andy told the head of the Secret Service that the plane was overweight and they would have to unload some and personnel to wait for a second plane to carry them back to Washington DC. The Agent refused. So, Andy refused to fly the plane with the excess weight aboard. The argument continued until finally the Secret Service Agent brought an agitated President Johnson forward to the cockpit to tell Andy to fly the plane. President Johnson, angered by the delay, told Andy in no uncertain terms, to get the plane up in the air. Andy, however refused, saying, "No sir, Mr. President. I'm in charge of this plane and your safety while on it. As I told the agent in charge of your security detail, the plane is overloaded, beyond the tolerance level. It is simply unsafe for me to fly this plane with that excess weight. For your safety and the safety of all aboard, I will not fly this plane until the extra weight is off-loaded and we are within tolerance. President Johnson then looked to the agent asking, "Is this true about the excess cargo?" "Yes Sir," he began, "but this plane can handle the extra weight. I don't want to have to leave my off-duty agents and their equipment and luggage behind." Johnson looked at Andy standing with his arms crossed resolutely. President Johnson turned back to the head of the Secret Service and said, "Listen to the pilot. He's in charge. Do it now, and let's get up into the air. We'll send the plane back to gather the rest of your crew." He then turned back to Andy saying, "Good Job, Major. Good Job."

I've heard a lot of stories about how gruff President Johnson could be, and how he wasn't afraid to throw his weight around. But, when truth was spoken to power, he listened and appreciated those who spoke up for what was right.

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. [Matthew 5:43-44]

Do we love, even our enemy? Does our church? Does our community? Does our nation? Do our leaders? Jesus didn't say this because it would be easy to do; he said it because it is the right thing, the godly thing to do. And this God, in Christ Jesus and his loving will, is our only hope, and the only hope for this world.

Have a blessed month of February!--full of love, full of peace-making, full of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

New Life Lutheran Church January 2026 Unapproved minutes

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 21st, 2026, Meeting

NLLC council met on January 21st at 6:30 pm. Members present: Heather Nelson, Jessica Nelson, Steph Olson, Marlowe Rasmusson, Pastor Randy Whitehead, Heather Reber, Jessi Lehn, Renae Froslic, Brad Schmidt, Joyce Peterson and Bruce Brenden.

1.0 Approval of agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Joyce Peterson, seconded by Steph Olson. Motion carried.

2.0 Approval of August Council minutes: Motion to approve the council minutes made by Jessi Lehn, seconded by Jess Nelson. Motion carried.

3.0 Treasurer's report August 2025: Motion to approve the financial statement made by Brad Schmidt, seconded by Joyce Peterson. Motion carried.

4.0 Ongoing business:

4.1 Summit Monitoring System: Motion to approve \$1725 to Fire Summit and add a budget line for \$575 in the 2027 budget was made by Jess Nelson, seconded by Joyce Peterson. Motion carried with one opposition.

4.2 Sidewalk Snow Removal: A few congregation members have been taking care of the sidewalks this winter. We will continue to do it this way through this winter season and visit it again in September to look at possibly hiring someone next winter.

4.3 Meatball Supper: The meatball supper will be on Saturday, March 21st, 2026. Steph Olson is coordinating the event again this year and has started working on the details.

5.0 New business:

5.1 Correspondence:

Mary Brandt submitted a written request to sell raffle tickets at the Meatball Supper for a quilt drawing. They will have signage up with their raffle to clarify where the money they make will be going.

Travis Shirley resigned from mowing the church yard and cemetery. We will start advertising this position in March. The council would like to meet with the Cemetery Board to establish duties prior to advertising the position.

5.2 Upcoming events:

January 22, 29, & February 5, 12, & 19 – Soup & Sandwich Bible Study

January 25 – Youth Open Gym at the REC Center
February 18th - Ash Wednesday

Lent Suppers:

February 18th: Pastor Randy & Mary Jo – Soup & Sandwich

February 25th: Care Committee - Hotdish

March 4th: Youth – Taco in a Bag

March 11th: Youth – Baked Potato Bar

March 18th: Moen Family – Mac & Cheese Bar

March 25th: Council – Meal TBD

5.3 New Copier: The new copier was delivered and is hard-wired to all the computers. It is working as it should.

5.4 Youth Committee Growth: The Youth Committee would like to include youth as members on the committee for their feedback and input.

They have some funds that have accumulated and they would like to put that money into checking account, savings account and a CD to get the most out of the fund balance.

5.5 2026 Budget: Motion to approve the 2026 budget was made by Brad Schmidt, seconded by Steph Olson. Motion carried.

5.6 Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting will be on Sunday, February 1st, 2026.

Nominations: Bruce Brenden gave a report on where the nomination committee is for filling upcoming seats on committees and council for the 2026 year.

Reports for all committees and events are due and will be included in the Annual Meeting Packet.

6.0 Pastor's report:

- Thank you to John Reber for volunteering to lead worship on Sunday, December 28th, 2025, while Pastor Randy was on vacation. The service was cancelled due to the weather.

- 2 communion classes were done before Christmas. Four students received instruction and three of the four have received their first communion.

- Our weekly attendance averaged 68 people in 2025. Pre-covid, the worship attendance averaged over 100 persons per Sunday. Online attendees averaged 53 for 2025.

○ Average Weekly Numbers for past years:

- ✦ 2022 - 74 in-person attendees weekly/Online attendees not recorded

- ✦ 2023 - 70 in-person attendees weekly/49 online attendees

- ✦ 2024 – 70 in-person attendees weekly/39 online attendees

- ✦ 2025 - 68 in-person attendees weekly/53 online attendees

- ✦ Jen Honer has volunteered to focus on developing a Bubble Church and puppet ministry. In support of that, Pastor Randy has started drawing up plans for a mobile puppet ministry cabinet that would store the puppets, the quilts used as bubbles, and various accessories.

- ✦ Pastor Randy has started a noontime Bible Study on Thursdays, "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture." He is willing, if there is interest, to schedule this same Bible Study on an evening or on weekends to accommodate the younger crowd.

- ✦ A few dates coming up with events:

○ Saturday, March 21st – The Great NW MN Synod Get-Together in Bemidji

○ Saturday, May 30th – The NW MN Synod Gathering, which will be a "Virtual" Assembly. Delegates will need to be elected for this.

7.0 Youth Director's report:

- Christmas Party was held.

- 56'ers is going well.

- Youth attendance is steady.

Youth Event on Sunday, January 25th at the REC Center

8.0 Administrative Assistant's Report: No report

New Life Lutheran Church January 2026 Unapproved minutes

9.0 NLLC Foundation report: No report

10.0 Committee reports:

Worship & Music (Jessica):

The committee will continue to find readers for church services (Heather has February).

Puppet Ministry will run February through May and will be on the 2nd Sunday of each month, except for May. We will have it on the 1st Sunday in May if that is the last day of Sunday School.

Jennifer is going to get in touch with Elise & Mary Jo and work on creating a "Bubble" Church Service for families with small children. More details to come on this once she has been in contact with Elise and Mary Jo.

We are going to check with the Care & Concern committee to see if they are interested/willing to take over the planning/organizing for the Planting Workshop in June as we are trying to bring our committee back to focusing on worship and not as much on outside events.

Stephanie is willing to stay on Worship & Music for one more year. Heather will take the council position for Worship & Music. We are still looking to fill Jennifer's seat and have been in contact with the Nominating Committee on that.

Heather is going to find a version of Jesus Loves Me to have on hand for Baptisms that are held on contemporary Sundays, so we have accompaniment if we don't have a piano/organ player.

We discussed creating a "Task Force" to plan the Prairie Days Breakfast and the Harvest Festival meals. This would include organizing the meals, finding workers, etc. Jennifer has very specific notes that can be followed from previous years or used as a guide. It doesn't have to stay the same as it currently is.

Education (Steph Olson):

Stacey Hone will be filling the council seat for the Education Committee.

Community Care Committee (Joyce):

- They made 40 Christmas Bags.

- They brought the Food Bags to the food truck. They were well received!

- They will be doing Valentine BINGO along with Soup & Sandwiches and there will be prizes for BINGO.

- They are discussing the possibility of organizing the "Spring Planting" event at Thompson's Greenery in Barnesville that Jen Honer has planned in the past.

They are helping with coffee hour on Sunday, January 25th for New Member Recognition Sunday.

Church Property (Marlowe):

- The leak in the kitchen closet is still an issue.

- Marlowe is looking into adding a damper to the furnace for the bathrooms. They get warm when the furnace is trying to keep the other areas of the building at the set temperature.

- The furnace should be looked over for routine maintenance – this hasn't been done in some time. Filters have been changed regularly.

Stewardship (Steph Curtis):

- The stewardship committee mailed out the 2026 letter asking for pledges to be returned by 12/31/2025. The committee could not meet in January but will be meeting soon to see how successful the campaign was.

Steph is working with Thrivent Financial to host a guest speaker in late February or early March. The information will be on retirement planning, estate planning, and planned giving. Once a date is chosen, information will go in the weekly bulletin and newsletter.

11.0 Adjournment: Steph Curtis will do snacks for February. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 9:45 pm. The next meeting is on February 11th at 6:30 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Steph Olson and second by Brad Schmidt.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Reber

NLLC COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Stephanie Curtis, Stewardship Committee
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