

New Life Lutheran Church  
 PO Box 278  
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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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# 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

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3.01: Duke Steiner     | 3.18: Eugene Boyce      |
| 3.02: Faith Waldoch    | 3.19: Darlene Rose      |
| 3.04: Alister Francis  | 3.22: Jeremy Carlsrud   |
| 3.04: Chares Watterud  | 3.24: Sam Brusven       |
| 3.06: Macy Tillman     | 3.25: Kristen Heidecker |
| 3.08: Benjamin Brenden | 3.29: Kimberly Larson   |
| 3.08: Betty Froslie    | 3.30: Kacey Watterud    |
| 3.11: Gavin Larson     | 3.31: Shane Balken      |
| 3.11: Chad Nelson      | 3.31: Sara Shirley      |
| 3.11: Sandra Watterud  |                         |
| 3.13: Brian Buchholz   |                         |
| 3.15: Elli Meyer       |                         |
| 3.16: Karter Jensen    |                         |
| 3.17: Eric Larson      |                         |
| 3.17: Lori Tillman     |                         |



*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.*



- 3.12: Arnold & Kay Moen  
 3.16: Marvin & Joyce Peterson  
 3.31: Tom & Mary Jensen

*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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EIGHTH ANNUAL

# Swedish Meatballs made by Norwegians Supper

**Saturday, March 21, 2026  
from 5-8 pm**

New Life Lutheran Church in Rothsay, MN  
Freewill donation for supper

Swedish meatballs and real mashed potatoes served with gravy, lefse, corn, dinner rolls, and dessert

**New Life**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proceeds go to the ministry and mission of New Life Lutheran Church.

**MEATBALLS TO GO!**

No time to eat in? Stop by to pick up meals in a divided to-go container.

And pick up your favorite treats at the **BAKE SALE!**

### SERVICE GROUP LEADERS

**March**

Ruth Anderson  
Tom & Mary Jensen

**April**

Matt & Missy Amundson  
Chad & Heather Nelson

Thank you family & friends for attending my 90th birthday party. Also for all the cards, huge birthday wishes, gifts. It was a 'Fun Day'!

Special thanks to my family for hosting such a "Super 90th Party".

I don't know which I got more of flowers or hugs.

Thank you all, Avis Wiese

# MARCH 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	2 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	3 11:00 am Thrivent Event	4 5:15 pm Confirmation 5:45 pm Lenten Supper & Worship	5 Quilted Footprints Private Group 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	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 5:15 pm Confirmation 5:45 pm Lenten Supper & Worship 6:30 pm NLLC Council Meeting	12 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	13	14
15 8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL	16 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class 6:30 pm Lion's Club	17 <b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>	18 5:15 pm Confirmation 5:45 pm Lenten Supper & Worship	19 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	20	21 5:00 pm Meatball Supper
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 5:45 pm Lenten Supper & Worship	26 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	27	28
29 8:45 am LB Worship 9:00 am Coffee & fellowship at NL 10:00 am Worship at NL	30 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan Class	31	1 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Services at Little Bethany Church	2 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Services at Little Bethany Church	3 7:00 pm Good Friday Services at Rothsay Baptist Church	4

**NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**January 2025**

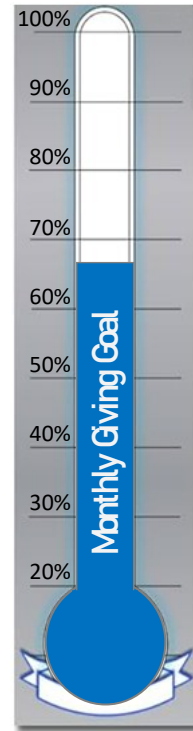
January Income \$10,373.00  
 January Expenses \$18,314.00  
 January Net Gain (\$7,941.00)

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



**January 2025 Giving Outlook**

Week	Giving
January 4th	\$1,407.00
January 11th	\$2,285.00
January 18th*	\$0
*No church	
January 25th	\$4,535.00
E-Giving	\$1,815.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$10,042.00</b>
<b>Goal:</b>	<b>\$15,708.00</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>(\$5,306.00)</b>



**SCRIPTURE READERS FOR MARCH**

- March 1st: Becca Olson
- March 8th: Teagan Holland
- March 15th: Chris Buckingham
- March 22nd: Brooklyn Heier
- March 29th: Ivy Rurup



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](mailto:newlife@rtelnet.net).*



**SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS  
FOR MARCH**

- March 1st: Jessica Nelson
- March 8th: John & Heather Reber
- March 15th: Jennifer Honer
- March 22nd: Stephanie Olson
- March 29th: 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.

**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,

Charles Schulz, creator of Charlie Brown and the whole Peanuts gang, wasn't just a cartoonist trying to make people laugh. Often his cartoons carried powerful messages that made us pause and think. In one Sunday morning strip he conveyed through Charlie Brown the need we all have to be loved, while at the same time conveying through Lucy our inability or refusal to love each other. . .

Charlie Brown and Lucy are speaking to one another. Charlie says to Lucy, "All it would take to make me happy is to have someone say he likes me. Lucy replies, "Are you sure?" "Of course I'm sure," states Charlie.

Lucy counters, "You mean you'd be happy if someone merely said he or she likes you? Do you mean to tell me that someone has it within his or her power to make you happy merely by doing such a simple thing?"

"Yes!" says Charlie, "That's exactly what I mean!"

"Well," replied Lucy, "I don't think that's asking too much. I really don't."

Then the two are standing face to face, and Lucy asks one more time, "But you're sure now? All you want is to have someone say, 'I like you, Charlie Brown,' and then you'll be happy?"

"And then I'll be happy!" says Charlie.

In the final frame of the strip, Lucy turns and walks away, saying, "I can't do it!"

This seems to be our human plight. For whatever reason we humans, too often, can't seem to look one another in the face and say, "I like you; I accept you for whom you are. I may not understand where you are coming from, but I'd like to try." Imagine the problems we could solve, together, if we could just find the courage, the compassion, and the love (all gifts from God) to do this.

Instead, we turn to our "noteworthy" news feed, or our particular party, or our respective religion, or our chosen clan to bolster our resolve and self-righteousness. And, instead of friends and family, we see enemies and battles to be won. And the world continues to suffer. And our God continues to weep over the hard-heartedness of his wayward creation.

Friends, what Lucy couldn't or wouldn't do, God himself does. What Charlie Brown needs, God supplies. God looks each of us in the face and says with total integrity, "I don't just like you, I love you! I've created you, each of you. Nothing can separate you from my love." And God hasn't limited himself to words in conveying this message. He has stepped into this complicated world that too often has chosen darkness over the Light that God is. And, in this world he has literally given his life, on a cross, to show us that nothing can separate us from his love. The Gospel of John puts it this way: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." [John 3:16-17]

God didn't come into the world to save part of the world, but all of it—including you and me, our family and friends, and even those we consider enemies. All God asks in return is that we do our best to reflect his heart and share his love. We love God by loving one another. That starts with turning to one another and saying, "I like you; I accept you for whom you are. I may not understand where you are coming from, but I'd like to try."

May March find you full of love, overflowing with compassion, ready and willing to say, in word and deed, I can do this! Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Randy*

## New Life Lutheran Church February 2026 Unapproved minutes

In attendance: Renae Froslic, Faith Waldoch, Randy Whitehead, Lori Ryan, Jessi Lehn, Brad Schmidt, Stephanie Curtis, Heather Nelson, Jessica Nelson meeting began at 6:35pm

1.0 Approval of agenda- Motion made by Brad Schmidt, Seconded from Jessi Lehn

2.0 Approval of Minutes- Motion made by Steph Curtis, Second from Faith Waldoch

3.0 Treasurer's report January 2026: Workers comp insurance \$1,008 for the year, Building insurance is for 3 months which skews our income a bit, payroll taxes (quarterly) were also due and paid at the end of January. Not having church one Sunday also impacted, beginning the year in the negative. Motion made to approve the report by Jessi Lehn, and seconded by Steph Curtis

4.0 Ongoing business:

4.1 Summit Monitoring System: There is still confusion about exactly what we may need to resolve the issue. Our contract states we must do the updates to match their system requirements. This cost will be roughly \$1,500 to do the initial upgrades and a yearly \$500 charge going forward. The council voted last month to move forward with this but wanted to be good stewards and asked some clarifying questions. Those have been answered and Heather will move forward with the company.

4.2 Meatball Supper: We have flyers made by Julie Brenden (thank you!) that will be disbursed to local business and gas stations, there are some hung at the church and we will mail or email to some surrounding churches as we have in past years. Clipboards containing sign ups for volunteers and donations to be sent around during worship and to sit out for people to write their names as they feel called. Steph will coordinate with group leaders to nail down specifics and will make announcements in church on Sunday.

5.0 New business:

5.1 Correspondence

5.2 Upcoming events:

-February 12th & 19th: Soup & Sandwich Bible Study

-February 15th: Valentine Bingo/Soup & Sandwich

-February 18th: Ash Wednesday

-February 25th: Lenten Supper

-March 3rd: Thrivent Event

-March 21st: Meatball Supper

5.3 Welcome new members: Council members will be reading a short bio of each family while pictures they submitted are on the screen in worship.

5.4 Redundant signing program to prevent embezzling: Discussion was held regarding the safe guards currently in place regarding the financials. The council is confident in current practices.

6.0 Pastor's report (summary): A new (six session) Bible

Study was started on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Bible study is entitled "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture." We have two more sessions remaining, on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. I would like to try the same study but target a younger crowd sometime in this Spring, following the end of the basketball season. The video study was published back in 2011, but it is like Brueggemann had a crystal ball to see into the future and our current state. It is a very powerful, enlightening, and thought provoking study of the prophets and our current culture.

We did have funerals for two of our members in January. Both were on Saturdays. Elaine Amundson's funeral was on Jan. 17, here at New Life. Gary Wigdahl's funeral was on Jan. 24, at Olson Funeral Home, in Fergus Falls.

We have wrapped up our formal confirmation instruction for this school year. From now through the Lenten season our confirmation students will be preparing and presenting skits for our Wednesday evening combined Dinner/Worship services. They begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and run through Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Dinner/Worship are expected to run about 45 minutes each Wed. evening. The theme for the whole series is "The Story of Joseph" from the Book of Genesis.

The Ash Wednesday service meal will be a soup and sandwich meal prepared by my wife, Mary Jo, and myself.

Looking/Planning ahead: Palm Sunday is on March 29. Maundy Thursday is scheduled for April 2, at Little Bethany. Good Friday is scheduled for April 3, at Rothsay Baptist Church. We provide the preacher. Easter is April 5. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for April 12. I'm thinking of taking vacation April 17—23. We would need coverage on April 19. Sunday School is scheduled to end on May 4. May 11 is Mothers' Day. New Life is Scheduled to host Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 17 or Wednesday, May 20. Rothsay Baptist Church expected to provide the preacher. We provide special music, flower bouquet, and goodies for after. New Life is scheduled to host and provide everything at the Community Summer Worship service during Cluck Day Weekend. This includes the preacher, music, and goodies for before/after.

7.0 Youth Director's report: Youth group in January was incredibly fun, had 5 youth for open gym at the Rec. Many have mentioned a trip to Detroit mountain so Jess is looking into that for the end of February. Sunday school is picking back up again. Looking forward we are serving a couple of Lenten meals (sign ups to come!) there will also be a crew helping at the meatball supper, I've also heard whispers of a wanted lock-in. The youth committee will meet this coming Sunday as well.

8.0 Administrative Assistant's report: Thank you letter to custodians went out. Sign to be set to run only from 6am-11pm instead of all night. LB homes has extra office furniture for anyone who is in need, contact Lori. Asking to be sure terms are all correct for council and committee members to ensure records are complete and accurate.

9.0 NLLC Foundation report: Committee will be represented by Steph Curtis as their liaison. Ensuring any information needing to be passed will be communicated.

10.0 Committee reports:

\*Worship & Music (Heather Reber): Jess will find readers for the month of March. Heather will touch base with the Care Committee to see if they are willing to take on the "Planting Workshop" in June at Thompson Greenery. New Member Sunday will be on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## New Life Lutheran Church February 2026 Unapproved minutes

Heather emailed the new members a "Get to Know You" questionnaire for them to fill out and asked for a family picture. We would like to put their picture up on the screen and then have council member(s) share their information.

Lent services – Following the same format as last year with supper and service happening together in the Fellowship Hall.

Palm Sunday – Sunday School kids will sing and will come in with Palm Branches (SS Committee will take care of ordering the Palm Branches through Lori).

Easter Garden – Stephanie Curtis is taking the lead on this – Sign-up sheet will be available, and information will be in the weekly bulletins as well as go out in the March newsletter.

Heather will coordinate brass for the Easter Service.

Jennifer found a performance that Jess and Heather are going to help pull together for Easter Sunday that tells the story of Jesus' life. This will be the sermon on Easter, and we will be looking for volunteers to make this successful (both kids & adults will be needed in the performance).

Heather will work on finding special music for Confirmation Sunday, which is the week after Easter Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in April which is also Contemporary Service).

Carriage Item – We are interested in getting this for the Worship Carriage for January & February. It's \$69.99 on Amazon – would this be something Foundation would help purchase?

\*Education (Stacey Hone): none

\*Youth (Brad Schmidt): Meeting Sunday to talk about upcoming service events and go over the calendar for the year.

\*Community Care Committee (Faith Waldoch): Bingo this coming Sunday. We will be serving a Lenten dinner. Focus will soon turn back to birthday bags as they have been much needed and appreciated in the community. Looking for feedback on ideas to add for future events or needs.

\*Church Property (Marlowe Rasmusson): none

\*Stewardship (Steph Curtis): The Stewardship committee has finalized plans to hold a live streamed event on March 3 beginning at 11:30 a.m. The focus of this event is "Thriving in Your Golden Years." Facebook posts with online registration are being shared, along with bulletin and in-person announcements in church. Anyone is welcome to come. A catered meal will be served by the Rothsay Truckstop and is all paid for by Thrivent.

The committee will be meeting soon to review pledge numbers and draft a plan to bring awareness to the current budget shortfall and ways we can promote giving. Please sign up to attend the "Thriving in your golden years event", this will include a national speaker and a free catered meal for those who sign up.

11.0 Adjournment: Heather Nelson will provide snacks next month. Next month the council will meet March 11<sup>th</sup> following the Lenten Service (about 6:30). The meeting ended with the Lords Prayer at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jessica Nelson



- New Life youth group to go tubing at Detroit Mountain on March 1st from 12:30-2:30. \$5 for youth grades 5-13 and \$10 for siblings and family.
- Youth will be serving Lenten dinners on the 4th (taco bar) and 11th of March (backed potato bar)! Sign up to bring toppings or to help serve on Jessica's door or with the sign up genius.
- Youth will be manning the dishwasher at the meatball dinner on March 21st. Please use the clipboard outside the sanctuary to sign up for a time slot, we need to keep those dishes moving!
- Serving at Ronald McDonald house on March 22nd from 3:30-5:30, room for up to 5 people. Priority given to youth in grades 7-12, contact Jess if interested.
- There will be an Easter Play as part of worship, Jen Honer and others are helping to put together. Please let Jen or Jess know ASAP if you're willing to play a part, there is room for ALL AGES!

### NLLC COUNCIL MEMBERS

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