

# *The Witness*

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## *Confirmation Journey Begins*

On Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, a number of our young people will begin their journey through the confirmation program at New Life in Christ Lutheran. The September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and is for all students and their parents or guardians. The initial meeting will outline the course of study that we will explore over the next two years and will lead us to their profession of faith in the Reaffirmation of Baptism service (Confirmation) on Sunday, May 27, 2007. At the initial meeting we will: decide on the day and time of classes, get introduced to our materials, discuss the expectations of the program, and answer any questions that parents and students may have about the program. It is extremely important that we remember that those who complete the program do not emerge and mature Christians but rather that the goal of the program is to help establish firm foundations upon which these young people will be able to build their lives and faith.

I give thanks for the dedicated people that we have who participate in sharing this journey of faith called "Confirmation" with these young people. The teaching staff for Confirmation includes: Betty Doller, Peter Eck, Parma Kersten, and Pastor Bill. Each of these people bring tremendous gifts and care to our program. Please take the time to thank them for making this commitment for the sake of those who still seek to "walk by faith".

## *Wednesday Adult Bible Study* *"Crossways"*

Beginning on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. our dedicated group of adult studiers will again begin a journey together. Over the last few years we have studied: I & II Peter, I & II & 3 John, Matthew, and Acts. However in 2005 we will embark upon a new and deeper journey into God's word as we leave behind the studies Pastor Bill has written and focus on an intense study of the Bible called "Crossways." The change means that the gathered group will begin a much more in depth study of the Word of God. The class meets from 9:30 until 11:00 each Wednesday.

You are invited to come and join us in the "Crossways" journey.

## *Celebrating with our Members*

### January Birthdays

Month/Day	Person
9/3	F., Erin
9/5	C., Earleen
9/6	A., Trey
9/8	B., James
9/9	L., Greg
9/11	G., Paul
9/14	D., John
9/15	S., Brian
9/16	D., Christopher
9/18	B., Andrea
9/19	A., Mandy
9/25	R., Renee
9/26	W., Veora
9/27	T., Tom
9/28	A., Rallin
9/29	D., Amanda
9/29	D., Stephanie

### January Baptisms

Month/Day	Person
9/1	C., Ian
9/1	H., Marty
9/6	D., Azella
9/6	R., Lucile
9/6	T., Joshua
9/8	B., Fern
9/16	D., Christopher
9/17	D., Neva
9/17	N., Megan
9/17	N., Trevor
9/21	C., Earleen
9/21	R., Travis
9/24	D., Melissa

### January Anniversaries

Month/Day	Person
9/16	Dennis and Sandy R.
9/22	Robert and Marian H.

## *Welcome to the NLIC Congregational Family*

We welcome the following people who became members of New Life in Christ Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 7, 2005:

Bob and Marian H.; Joe and Lynn E.; Ira H.; Ivory H.; Jeri S. & Dylan, Peyton, Logan; Laura B. & Rachelle Ware

## *Thoughts for the Journey*

### **Mercy - Forgiveness - Compassion - Love**

*"You should not let a single person in the world,  
whatever sin that person may have committed,  
come before your eyes and depart without having found mercy with you.*

*And should that person not ask for mercy from you,  
then you must ask it of him.*

*And were that person to come to you a thousand times,  
continue to love them so as to lead them back to the right path.*

*Always have compassion, for all of us have sinned."*

- St. Francis of Assisi

# Megahan Update

*One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power (Psalm 145:4)*

**Dear Pastor Bill and all friends at NLIC:**

Jo Ann, Peter and I want to take this brief moment to thank you for your loving support of us and Christ's ministry with the Bakalanga people of Botswana.

We are now settled into our apartment and have started language lessons and building relations with the translation team. The road ahead is still full of surprises and unknown difficulties, but we know that with your continued support and prayer, the Holy Spirit will empower and enable us, Christ will lead us and God will protect us until the day that His Word is in the language of the Bakalanga so that this generation of Bakalanga "shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power" (Psalm 145:4)

Wow! It's been a whirlwind since arriving. Hopefully we can finish getting our e-mail going soon and even send a few pictures (for some reason we can receive but not send. Our server is still working on it. So only our Yahoo account is still viable.)

Today, Sunday, 24 July, 2005, we left home at 9:00 am to go to worship. Since we were going to a village where we knew Peter would be 'bored', we dropped him off at some friends. Then we stopped to put fuel in the car. The young attendant (only full service stations here) begged for a Bible and was very disappointed when she found out that we were still in process. We went a few kilometers and got stopped at a police roadblock to check for driver's license. We showed him ours and went on another hour to the church - New Morian Apostolic Church in Zion, Jesus is the Light. We took our shoes off before entering. The married women sat in a row along the east side of the church, and were dressed in white smock trimmed in blue and blue skirts and had white 'turbans' covering their hair. The unmarried women and girls sat in the middle, facing the 'altar'. They wore white smocks trimmed in blue and long white skirts. They wore head-scarves that covered their hair and went about half-way down the back. The boys, men (young and old) sat along the west wall and in front. They wore white smocks trimmed in blue and white trousers. Each one had a staff, with which they beat-time when we sang. The Arch bishop, head pastor and I sat in front. The service started at 11:00 and finished at 3:30. They stood for the entire first hour. We prayed, bowing to the east. Each person confessed openly and individually. Each person also gave a short 'prophecy' concerning the passage for the day, and then the Arch bishop gave a lengthy lesson. I was given the honor to lay my hands on those who wanted a blessing. We removed the chairs from the middle and they came in pairs to kneel before me as I blessed them. As I blessed them, the others danced about us in a circle and sang. At the end, they had an offering. They gave us about 50% of it (about \$6.50), because a guest cannot go away empty handed, and they also wanted to support the ministry - they want a Bible in their own language. We went home and finally got 'brunch' at 4:30 (we hadn't eaten breakfast or lunch). We ate at a Wimpy's (similar to McDonalds). Well, for all of our friends at NLIC, Pastor Bill's sermons aren't that long after all.

This little scenario illustrates also how much the people want and need a Bible to guide them in faith and worship. They don't know the freedom of grace and worship, still holding to the law and tradition. Thanks for your prayers and support. Thanks for the almost 3 years of friendship and for being a 'home-away-from home' for us. We pray for your continued prayers and support as we struggle with learning the language and work to translate the scripture, and we look forward to visiting (our house is always open over here, so come for a visit ☺) when we come to the States in a few years. Either through snail-mail or e-mail, we'll get you pictures of the work, and of Peter and his cats and maybe even in his school uniform of grey trousers, white shirt and school tie and navy blue sweater or sport jacket. For his birthday I even managed to buy a DVD player and monitor so that he could keep up with the movies. Peter and Jo say, "hi". Give our greetings to all.

In Christ, Michael

Michael & Jo Ann Megahan c/o KBTP P. O. Box 1121 Francistown Botswana

**Prayers and concerns:** (Keep these in your prayer. We remember all of you in our prayers.)

1. House--we finally got a nice house--three bedrooms and a separate guest room or office, very large yard (what can you plant in the desert?) and large living, dining, kitchen, pantry and washroom. (Down side is only one bathroom.)
  - a. Security has become a problem in the area for several reasons, so please pray for our security.
  - b. The landlord of our current contract is demanding extra rent for breaking contract. He is charging us 3 times what the contract says, but a lawyer would cost as much to stop him. He did say that if we could get another renter to take our contract that he wouldn't charge any damages, so please pray for a person who can take over our contract within the next 3 weeks.
2. Car--some of you might know that we got a 'slap' in the wrist by the economy. While our funds were being transferred, there was devaluation and a sharp increase in prices. When the bank got our money they gave us the old rate and before we could go to the car dealer the devaluation and price hike left us \$3,000 short. Please pray about this as we are still holding our money and using the project car, which is old and we are having to use maintenance budget to keep it going (another reason why we are taking the train to Gaborone). Our 'project manager' from LBT (Jim Laesch) is coming to be with the team the first week in September and we hope to have an idea about what to do when he comes.

# *Thank you from Synod Mission Endowment Directors*

*To: New Life in Christ Lutheran Church*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Mission Endowment Fund-NTNL Synod, I want to express our sincere appreciation to you for allowing us the use of your facilities on August 6<sup>th</sup> for our meeting. Due to changing the date of our meeting, we were unable to use the Synod office. A special thanks to Pastor Bill, Belen Eck, the youth of NLIC and their leaders, Pam and Ray Beran for providing help with setting up, opening and closing the church and providing our lunch. We hope that the free will offering the board took will help the youth in their venture to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2006.

Please know that the board continue to uphold you in their prayers as you grow and sow disciples of Jesus especially as you are beginning your new ministry of outreach with your preschool program.

Peace Always, Hattie M. Hammer, Executive Director

## *Coffee Servers*

Dear Friends

Thank you for your response to be a coffee server. Listed below is the schedule for October, November and December 2005. Please look this over and if there is a conflict arrange a switch. Let the office know preferably a week in advance so that the bulletin may be updated accordingly.

The Coffee servers need to be at church and have the coffee ready by 9:45 AM. Coffee servers are responsible for preparing the coffee and cleaning up after the 10 AM service. It is suggested that the coffee server bring some type of snack...i.e. cookies, donuts. Please, do not leave any leftovers at the church.

If you have any questions feel free to contact anyone on the Parish Life Committee.

Thanks and Kindest Regards

Marion T.

Pat R.

Patrice P.

Pam B.

Jackie A.

Oct 2 Anita H.  
9 Mayra Oza E.  
16 Andrea B.  
23 Betty D.

Nov 6 Dana A,  
13 Valerie K,  
20 Catherine & Barbara B,  
27 Sandi S.

Dec 4 Barbara A.  
11 Azella D.  
18 Jackie and Mandi A.  
25 Judy R.

Xtra:  
Carrots Wrotten  
Leah H.  
Sandy R.  
Carol D.

## *FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

If I were to tell you that you could help bring enrichment and beauty to over 50 people simply by giving me one hour of your week, would you do it?

If I were to tell you that one hour of your week can give you fellowship, an increased vocabulary, and fun, would you give me one hour?

If I were to tell you that singing in the choir would double your paycheck, help you lose 8 pounds, and make you immune to the West Nile Virus, would you join?

If I were to tell you that joining the choir would make me extremely happy, would you join?

Three out of four paragraphs confirm that singing in the choir will be good for the congregation, for you and for me, so please come join me on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Thank you

Barbara Palermo

# *Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend*

*A Weekend Of Discovery... ... A Life Time Of Love!*

**October 21-23, 2005**

**(Tentative future Weekends: Spring 2006)**

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are for husbands & wives who are in love and want to make that love even stronger. The Weekend is an opportunity for husbands & wives to get away from the every day hassles. It is a time to focus on their lives together. The Weekend improves communication between husbands and wives. Three Lutheran lay couples and a Lutheran clergy couple lead the Weekend. They help the husbands & wives become more sensitive to the needs of each other. The Weekend is a rich experience that touches those married 5 years or long enough to be grandparents. It is a very private experience. Husbands & wives practice the communication skills in the privacy of their own rooms. The Weekend is not group oriented. There are no group discussions. It is for any couple that is in love and wants to continue living together in the vows they made on their wedding day.

Marriage Encounter is the world's largest pro-marriage organization. Over 2 million couples have attended weekends in over 65 countries. Over 80,000 couples have attended Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends. Over 2000 Lutheran clergy couples have attended.

The Weekend is not just an educational event. Couples will hear about the life experiences of the couples leading the weekend. After each presentation couples will reflect on how the topic has been part of their lives. After individual reflection, couples return to the privacy of their hotel rooms to communicate together. What makes the weekend a powerful experience is the openness of the presentations and the universality of the topics. This environment encourages couples to be lovingly open with each other. During the course of the weekend the husbands & wives practice using techniques for individual reflection and couple communications. Because there are no group discussions, each couple starts communicating at the level they are currently comfortable and works to become more open. The weekend is a very personal and private experience.

The Weekend begins on Friday at 7:30 pm and ends on Sunday evening at about 5 pm. The application fee is \$45. During the Weekend there is an opportunity to make an anonymous contribution to cover the Weekend expenses. Applications after 30 days prior to the weekend are as space is available. For more information talk to Pastor, call Herb & Betty Doller (972-780-0920, [HerbDoller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:HerbDoller@sbcglobal.net), [info@LME-dfw.org](mailto:info@LME-dfw.org)) or Allen & Jeannine Gray (817-246-9560). To apply call Mike & Suzanne Heffner (469-441-9874, [Application@lme-dfw.org](mailto:Application@lme-dfw.org)). More info at: <http://www.LME-dfw.org>.

***Bon Appetit***

Please join us for our next get-together at The Oasis @Joe Pool Lake on Saturday, 10 Sep 05. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

# *New Life In Christ Lutheran Church -Office Information*

## *Office Hours*

Pastor Bill Metting            Tuesday thru Friday, normal hours from 8:30 am until 12:00 (noon).  
Secretary Andrea Bryan      Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday normal hours from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

## *Procedures and Deadlines*

- Notifications:    Andrea will send out notifications to Worship assistants on a monthly basis and then each week on Tuesday will either mail or email the list of Worship assistants to volunteers. If changes are to be made to the schedule, please notify the office by noon on Wednesday.
- Bulletin:            Andrea works on the bulletin on Tuesday and Wednesday. At noon on Wednesday she finalizes the bulletin so that it can be run that afternoon.  
*Please be aware of our schedules and deadlines.*
- Newsletter:        Articles are due in the church office the third Sunday of every month. Articles may be e-mailed to [nlic\\_secretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nlic_secretary@sbcglobal.net) or hard copies placed on the secretary's desk. The Secretary puts the newsletter together the last week so that our volunteer staff can put the newsletter together and have it ready to be picked up that last Sunday of the month.