

The Witness

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www.newlifeinchrist.org

2006-2007 Confirmation Classes ***Journey to Confirmation - May 27th 2007***

The 2006-2007 second year journey to confirmation for a number of our children at New Life in Christ, as well as their parents, and our teaching staff of: Peter Eck, Betty Doller, Parma Kersten, and Pastor Bill. The purpose of this first meeting is to reaffirm the purpose of the confirmation program which is to:

- (a) equip and prepare the young people in the program for their life with God,
- (b) build a firm foundation of faith with Biblical understanding and Biblical theology,
- (c) provide spiritual support for each individual's journey of faith and life.

At the initial meeting the teaching staff will be sharing the assignment sheets and reviewing the expectations of the confirmation program with both parents and students. Some of the expectations have changed and we want to make sure everyone knows about the changes that have taken place as we try to share our faith and encourage faith development in our confirmation students. Class sessions for the 2006 - 2007 Confirmation Program will be held on Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

As parents, students and teachers we will be on a journey together throughout the 2006-2007 Confirmation year. Our destination and goal is Confirmation day. Confirmation (Rite of Reaffirmation of Baptism) will take place on May 27th (Pentecost) 2007.

Marty Hill Goes to Seminary

The members of New Life in Christ are cordially invited to attend a special luncheon sponsored by Parish Life for Marty Hill. As many of you know, Marty has made a life altering change to dedicate his life to the Lord and is pursuing a theological degree from the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest.

Sunday, September 17th, following the service, Parish Life will provide a luncheon for the congregation with donations supporting Marty and his family. Your prayers and support are appreciated.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

Meals on Wheels

The Service Committee need drivers and/or assistants for Meals on Wheels. Please contact Pat Johnston at 214-946-6707 if you can help.

Thoughts for the Journey

The Christian Alphabet

(By Cindy Blackamore)

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame.

Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know.

Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking
Him for all the things

Love imparts to thee.
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power

Praise can do alone.
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship

To "thank" is a command.
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky

We'll run the race with gratitude
eXalting God most high.
Yes, there will be good times and yes some
will be bad, but
Zion waits in glory, where none are ever sad!

Choir News

by Barbara Palermo

Ladies and Gentlemen:

"American Idol"

"So You Think You Can Dance"

"America's Got Talent"

"Last Comic Standing"

Folks, even if you've never watched any of the above-mentioned shows, chances are you understand the premise: people compete against each other and are judged by celebrities and phone-in voters.

To avoid rampant competition, potential embarrassment and possible public humiliation, please come to choir at 7PM on Wednesday evenings beginning September 6th to find fellowship and join in building up the body of Christ. You don't have to be able to read music and I'm no Simon (Neil, Paul, Carly or & Schuster).

It has been suggested to me that my yearly pleas for new choir members will yet again fall on deaf ears, so please bring your deaf ears to choir and join us. I think you'll like us, and you'll help enhance our worship by joining your voice with ours.

Thank you!

Barbara Palermo

Thank You

Dear NLIC Friends,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and warm thoughts after my July 10th accident while attending graduate school at the University of Delaware this summer. My wrist and pelvis fractures are healing well and I am well on the way to a full recovery. I truly appreciate the support of my church family. God has blessed me in many ways during this experience.

Sincerely, *Sally Adamson*

Celebrating with our Members

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Erin Fitzgerald 9/3
Earleen Carter 9/5
Trey Alexander 9/6
James Blackburn 9/8
Greg Lain 9/9
Paul Grindstaff 9/11
Belen Eck 9/13
John Dietz 9/14
Brian Scott 9/15
Christopher Dietz 9/16
Andrea Bryan 9/18
Mandi Askelson 9/19
Renee Riffe 9/25
Veora Waidler 9/26
Tom Teske 9/27
Rallin Aars 9/28
Amanda Dykman 9/29
Stephanie Dykman 9/29

SEPTEMBER Baptisms

Ian Carr 9/1
Marty Hill 9/1
Azella Dykman 9/6
Lucile Robbins 9/6
Joshua Thomas 9/6
Fern Butler 9/8
Christopher Dietz 9/16
Neva Dykman 9/17
Trevor New 9/17
Logan Smith 9/18
Earleen Carter 9/21
Travis Riffe 9/21
Melissa Dykman 9/24

SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

Dennis & Sandy Roiger 9/16

YOUTH NEWS

OLD NEWS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was as great success with an average of 50 people attending each night! Many of the participants were from outside of our church family and were returnees from the past 2 years, it was really fun to get reacquainted with these families!. We had an on going competition involving weighing of the offering each night. Our final weight collected was 38 pounds of change, totaling \$198 !!! Who says a penny isn't worth anything! A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO - Sandi Scott for organizing and pulling off this years FOCUS on GOD VBS, (with a little brain storming assistance from Cindy Carey). Jackie Askelson for once again planning and taking care of the great food, Herb Doller for taking all the pictures. Valerie and Robert Kelly, Betty Dollar, Melissa Justice, Jeri Smith, Judy Rosebrock, Cindy Carey, Jennifer and Marty Hill and Brian Scott for teaching. We certainly want to thank Marty and Jennifer for the musical contributions and all the actors who helped out with our Dinner Theater on Thursday! LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THANK YOU TO ELIZA, JENNIFER, MANDI AND KYLE FOR MOWING AND HELPING OUT WHERE EVER THEY WERE NEEDED THRU OUT VBS!. AND---- Thank you to all of our members who attended and supported our VBS, it is so important to have members of our church meeting the people who come to visit our church during this time, Thank you again!

SENIOR HIGH NATIONAL GATHERING was attended by Mandi Askelson, Jennifer Carey and Kyle Scott with guidance from Nikki and Jackie Askelson and Sandy Scott. A good time was had by all and once again a VERY BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE AT NLIC FOR SUPPORTING THIS INSPIRATIONAL GATHERING FOR OUR YOUTH!

AN ALL YOUTH SWIM PARTY was held at the Carey's and was well attended - this time even the adults got into the pool to cool off!

NEW NEWS -

RALLY DAY will be held September 10th at 9:15 to kick off the fall Sunday School Program. We will be having brunch, the best liked game from VBS - SARDINES and prizes! Come join the fun!

“Time really does fly”

It's hard to believe, but it's almost time for our annual Progressive Dinner to be held December 2nd. We are looking ahead for people willing to provide one of the following in their home – appetizer, salad or main dish. At this time we plan to have dessert and the Wright Game at the church. If you are interested, please contact Pat Rhody at 972-296-2442. Thank you from your Parish Life Committee.

Quilters Wanted

It's time to regroup. Come one. Come all who would like to help assemble the quilts. Come for lots of fellowship, fun and some pinning of quilts. The first day is September 7 at 9:00 am.

Church Council Report

Review of highlights from August 8th meeting by secretary Laura Blackburn

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Kersten who asked pastor to lead the council in study and prayer.
2. Both the minutes of the July 11th meeting & the treasurer's report were received & approved.
3. Reports:

Pastor Bill reported on:

- next round of meetings with chairpersons and council reps.
- provided the council with a four month calendar of events.

Education and Youth (Chris Bartlett)

- a discussion was had about an email the council had received from Cindy Carey concerning Vacation Bible School take down. Valerie will draft a response to Cindy's email and Chris is to share the response with the Education and Youth committee.

Evangelism (Ralph Roberts)

- the council had received an email from Michael Aars who due to a change in Allison's job status was going to resign as chairman of the committee, but not off the committee. Ralph Roberts is looking for both members for the committee and a new chairperson.

Parish Life (Jerry Kersten)

- a report from the Parish Life committee was reviewed and accepted.

Property (Greg Lain)

- reported that a light fixture in the hall had fallen. It is being repaired and the stability of other light fixtures will be checked.

Natural Church Development (Phil Ward)

- a written report and discussion took place concerning the directions of the Church Health Team. New members of the CHT are Belen Eck, Melissa Justice, and Ruby Wade.

4. New business

The council received information concerning the importance of performing background checks on all volunteers who work with children and youth. The council will discuss the level of checks that we will use to do the background checks of volunteers and paid staff. This need exists because frequently middle to smaller churches are desperate for helpers and frequently become the target of those who want to abuse because their help is readily accepted.

5. Old business

Discussed the need for a fund-raising drive in order to finance the repair of the soffit and fascia around the church.

6. The Meeting concluded with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

News Briefing

Congregational Newsletter Insert - Please forward to all interested

September 2006

Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus

Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA

Grace Matters – The ELCA's Radio Ministry

Grace Matters is the weekly 30-minute radio program of the ELCA. The program is hosted by the Rev. Peter Marty from Davenport, Iowa. He interviews guests and offers reflections on contemporary topics. His guests are ordinary people who are involved in interesting or even extraordinary projects and events. His reflections bring the scriptures to bear on the meaning to be found within each guest's experience. *Grace Matters* was formerly known as *Lutheran Vespers*, which began in 1947. Pastor Marty is now the sixth speaker for the program. The program is broadcast on 175 radio stations worldwide. It can also be purchased on a CD. More recently it has also become available via podcasting, in which the listener downloads the program for free from the internet. The file can then be played on an iPod, MP3 player or computer. In 2006 the NT-NL Synod Assembly passed a resolution urging all congregations to discover and support this valuable ministry of the ELCA.

Grace Matters is available from radio stations across Texas and Louisiana – but not, currently, along the Waco-DFW corridor. If you are interested in helping to bring the programming to local stations, you can join the effort by contacting Pastor Stan.Meyer@ntnl.org (214.637.6865). For a listing of stations and the time that they broadcast *Grace Matters*, go to www.GraceMatters.org.

Become a ONE Lutheran !

The ELCA's *ONE Campaign* is a new effort to rally Americans to the cause of ending poverty in our world and achieving the *Millennium Development Goals*. The campaign (a joint effort of many anti-hunger programs) seeks to urge the U.S. Congress to direct an additional 1% of the U.S. budget to development aid, targeting the key elements in the cycle of poverty: medicines, infrastructure and education. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to learn more and join the Campaign by signing the declaration at www.ELCA.org/advocacy.

Leadership Development

Don't forget to sign up for **Spread the Spirit's Fire!** This workshop is designed to help congregational leaders grow in their skills and insight. Seven workshops will be offered: stewardship, worship, Natural Church Development, teaching confirmation, rotational Sunday School, hospitality evangelism, and mission interpreters. The cost of the day is \$20 per person; this includes all materials and lunch. Free childcare will be available upon request at the time of registration. **Spread the Spirit's Fire!** is repeated in six locations around the synod -- Aug. 26: Good Shepherd, Marshall; Sept. 9: St. Matthew, Waco; Sept. 23: Preston Meadow, Plano; Oct. 14: Grace, Abilene; Oct. 21: Shepherd King, Lubbock; Oct. 28: Grace, Fort Worth. Register three weeks prior to your chosen location. Brochure at: www.NTNL.org/news_events.htm.

FYI... September Calendar of Emphasis: NT-NL's Focus on DiscipleLife

- ❖ It's back to school. As you think about your congregation's educational program for youngsters, don't forget that your ministry to the **young adults** away at college is also important. Stay in contact with them and encourage them to join Campus Ministry activities. You can use the referral service at www.NTNL.org/cmrefer.htm to alert the Campus Ministry program at their school about them.
- ❖ A free online guide to **resources for congregations** can be found at www.CongregationalResources.org. The site is provided by two organizations known for expertise and depth: the Alban Institute and the Lilly Endowment.
- ❖ The ELCA's **Mission Investment Fund** has pledged to sponsor a major event at the next **Women of the ELCA** Triennial Gathering in Salt Lake City if 1,000 W-ELCA members open new individual accounts in the next year. Info contact Carol.Spencer@elca.org.
- ❖ **Habitat for Humanity** and **Thrivent Financial** plan to build four more homes in the Oak Cliff area this fall. Volunteers are needed for each Saturday from August 26 to October 21. Register by contacting Virginia (VLasala@Dallas-Habitat.org; 214.678.2311).
- ❖ Congratulations to **Lauren Dow** (formerly from Advent, Arlington) for being awarded one of five full-tuition seminary scholarships from the ELCA's *Fund for Leaders in Mission*. The scholarships support students of the highest caliber and talent.
- ❖ The NT-NL Synod cooperates in an initiative called **Cherish Our Children** which seeks to educate parents on issues of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Info contact www.AdultsSavingKids.org and www.elca.org/SocialStatements/SexualExploitation.
- ❖ Congregations with programs directed at hunger and poverty will want to review the ELCA's 2007 **Domestic Hunger Grants** process. Info contact www.ELCA.org/GrantingHope.

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT (NCD) NEWS

From CHURCH HEALTH TEAM

Natural Church Development is a **Paradigm** (model) – a way of thinking about church growth. Growth should be about **health** not **quantity** (numbers). The church is like a living organism, if the organism is healthy and if nurtured, it will grow naturally.

The Health Team was formed originally in May and was comprised of Ral Aars, Phil Ward, Jim Blackburn, Jerry Palermo and of course Pastor Bill. We were assigned two coaches to help us with the **process**. Yes, it is a **process** not a program. It will require a long term commitment.

Our coaches are Pastor Steven Kanouse, EOCM (Evangelical Outreach Congregational Ministry) for the NTNL Synod, and Pastor Nancy Fisher, assistant to the Bishop on the NTNL Synod.

The Health Team has met several times. We have studied three books about Natural Church Development. We have discussed this new **process** that should cause a church to grow naturally. We have prayed together and individually about the new concept. We have recently added three new members to the Health Team to make it stronger. They are Belen Eck, Melissa Justice and Ruby Wade. At this printing we are ready to move forward with action steps.

From now through mid-October we are going to determine where we are. In other words: *“how can we determine where to go if we don't know where we are?”* I know most of you will remember when we worked on the Sanctuary. We first asked the congregation what should we do about the Sanctuary? You replied and prioritized that we should (1) put in stained glass windows, (2) put in more lighting, (3) put in pews and (4) re-carpet the floor. As a result of the congregation telling the council what they wanted and the council agreeing, the congregation promptly supported these projects by contributing about \$32,000 to accomplish them.

That is where we are with Natural Church Development. We will use a little different process to determine where we are, but we will determine that fact. We will use a **SWOT ANALYSES** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) in the context of a FOCUS group. **The Focus groups and the SWOT analyses will be extremely important in the Natural Church Development Process. It will tell us the areas where we should concentrate our efforts. All confirmed members of the congregation will have an opportunity to participate in this process. The Health Team asks everyone to spend quiet time thinking about New Life, where our strengths are, where our weaknesses are, what our opportunities are, and what threats will emerge as we do things in a different way. We also ask that you pray about these same matters.**

Below are some important dates for these **SWOT ANALYSES**:

1. September 6th – Wednesday Adult Bible Study to do the **SWOT**.
2. September 12th – Church Council, regular meeting, to do the **SWOT**.
3. September 17th – Presentation in Worship Service with information preparing the congregation to do the **SWOT**.
4. September 17th – Health Team to do the **SWOT**.
5. September 24th – Congregation to do the **SWOT**.
6. October 1st – Repeat for the congregation. For those not at September 24th service.

NLIC Staff, Council, and Committees

Pastor	Bill Metting	bmetting@sbcglobal.net	972-298-2364
Secretary Editor	Jonathan Metting Betty Doller	nlic_secretary@sbcglobal.net nlic_editor@sbcglobal.net	

Council Executive committee

Position	name	email	home	work
President	Jerry Kersten	Parma1229@earthlink.net	972-780-5978	
Vice President	Phil Ward	wpwebw@sbcglobal.net	972-298-0831	
Secretary	Laura Blackburn	nlurph@swbell.net	682-518-5196	
Treasurer	Jim Blackburn	duncanvillesooner@sbcglobal.net	972-283-1722	

Church Council

Person	email	home	work
Chris Bartlett	chrisab1981@aol.com	972-298-0831	
Azella Dykman	adykman@comcast.net	972-296-7035	214-253-2818
Valerie Kelley	richila@swbell.net	972-780-9098	
Greg Lain	glain972@sbcglobal.net	972-230-3824	817-467-9977
Ralph Roberts	n/a	972-298-2449	

Council Liaisons:

Committee	Council Liaison
Education / Youth	Chris Bartlett
Evangelism	Ralph Roberts
Parish Life	Jerry Kersten
Property	Greg Lain
Service	Azella Dykman
Stewardship / Finance	Jim Blackburn
Worship / Music	Valerie Kelley
Natural Church Development	Phil Ward

NLIC Shepherds

Carol Dietz	972-283-1835
Pat Johnston	214-946-6707
Jerry and Parma Kersten	972-780-5978
Sue Polinski	972-617-6194
Jim and Lucile Robbins	972-217-1657
Sandy Roiger	972-223-4086
Bill and Judy Strickland	972-296-5353
Tom and Marion Teske	972-937-7547
Carrots Wroten	972-296-9380

NLIC Committees

Education and Youth	Chair	Sandi Scott (972-723-1817) & Cindy Carey (972-723-1817); Liaison: Chris Bartlett
	Members	Christine Lain, Cindy Carey, Jackie Askelson, Judy Rosebrock, Melissa Justice, Michelle Dietz, Jennifer Hill, Ruby Wade and the NLIC youth
Evangelism	Chair	Liaison: Ralph Roberts
	Members	Jerry Kersten, Judy Strickland, Jack Bartlett, Betty Doller, Herb Doller, Phil Ward, Michael Aars
Parish Life	Chair	Pat Gallatin-Rhody (972-296-2442); Liaison: Jerry Kersten
	Members	Marion Teske, Pam Beran, Patrice Pruitt, Jackie Askelson, Leah Hedgepeth, Ruby Wade, Arthurine Wade
Property	Chair	Bill Strickland (972-296-5353); Liaison: Greg Lain
	Members	Jim Gallatin, John and Pat Johnston, Jack Ruebman, Dennis Roiger, Elwood Tweet
Service	Chair	Pat Johnston (214-946-6707) & Linda Metting (972-298-2364) Liaison: Azella Dykman
	Members	Jean Lehre, Sandy Roiger, Carrots Wroten
Stewardship & Finance	Chair	Jim Blackburn (972-283-1722) Liaison: Jim Blackburn
	Members	Jack Bartlett, Ralph Roberts, Christ Bartlett, Dennis Roiger, Bill Strickland
Worship & Music	Chair	Parma Kersten (972-780-5978); Liaison: Valerie Kelley
	Members	Barbara Palermo, Barbara Aars, Belen Eck, Lucile Robbins
Church Health Team		Ral Aars, Jim Blackburn, Jerry Palermo, Phil Ward
		Belen Eck, Melissa Justice, Ruby Wade

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).
Jonathan Metting	Hours as needed

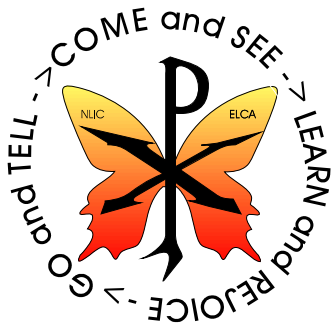
Procedures and Deadlines

- Notifications:** Jonathan 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:** Jonathan works on the bulletin on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday he finalizes the bulletin by 10:00 and runs the bulletin so that it can be folded on Friday.
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_editor@sbcglobal.net or hard copies placed on the secretary's desk. Betty Doller our new newsletter editor will put the publication 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.

The Witness

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New Life in Christ Lutheran Church
311 S. Cockrell Hill Road
Duncanville, Texas 75116



September 2006

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion