

# The Witness

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[www.newlifeinchrist.org](http://www.newlifeinchrist.org)

## Lent 2007

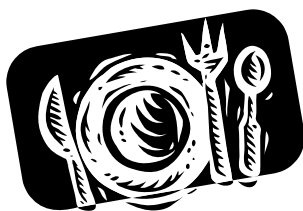
## "Life is about Choices"

The Lenten Season begins Ash Wednesday, February 21, 2007. As we listen to the Lenten Story in the weeks ahead, we will see that there were many choices that were made. During those last days of our Lord's life, He and the disciples made choices daily. We too make choices every day ... lots of choices. Our lives are really a selection of choices, from what we are going to get angry about or be hurt by, to how we will treat other people. Jesus has plenty to teach us about making good choices in our relationships with others, and the Lenten Season is a good time for us to set aside some time to reflect on our choices in life.

Jesus' message is not just that we should believe that God has a deep and lasting love for us. **His message is also about how to live and how to act.** As we listen to what Jesus says and watch what He does, we see that following Him isn't easy, because it will lead us to the cross. But living and acting in the truth of God's deep love for all of us will also lead us to the New Life of Easter. If we listen closely to Jesus during this Lenten Season, He will speak to our hearts and teach us how to make good choices, even if no one else notices a change in our lives.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Meal</i>
February 21, 2007	Do I choose to Covet?	Luke 22:24-27	No meal
February 28, 2007	Will I choose to Betray my Friend?	Mark 14:43-50	Evangelism
March 7, 2007	Will I choose to sleep/stay awake?	Mark 14:32-42	Service
March 14, 2007	Will I Choose to Deny my Friend?	Luke 22:54-62	Parish Life
March 21, 2007	Will I choose to Run Away?	Mark 14:50-52	Stew/Finance
March 28, 2007	Will I choose to Crucify Him?	Matthew 27:15-23	Education
April 4, 2007	Jesus chooses a towel and Basin	John 13:1-11	No meal
April 5, 2007	Truly This Was the Son of God	Matthew 27:51-54	No meal

Our Lenten Services are held each Wednesday evening beginning at 7:15 PM, services from February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup> will be preceded by Lenten Suppers that begin at 6:30. The Soup for the suppers will be provided by our NLIC committees. These services will be informal, so come dressed casually as we stand beneath the Cross on which he died.



## SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS

We would like to thank all of you who so generously provided food for the Mt. Olive Food Bank during the holiday season. Due to the severe need we are going to continue to support Mt. Olive. We would again ask you to bring can goods, pasta, and other nonperishable items to be taken each week to Mt. Olive. They continue to feed over 400 people each week. Please help us to help those who are in need.

## *Caring Churches*

A church newsletter mentioned a man who visited eighteen different churches on successive Sundays. He was trying to find out what the churches were really like. He said, "I sat near the front. After the service, I walked slowly to the rear, then returned to the front and went back to the foyer using another aisle. I smiled and was neatly dressed. I asked one person to direct me to a specific place: a fellowship hall, pastor's study, etc. I remained for coffee if served. I used a scale to rate the reception I received. I awarded points on the following basis:

- 10 for a smile from a worshiper
- 10 for a greeting from someone sitting nearby
- 100 for an exchange of names
- 200 for an invitation to have coffee
- 200 for an invitation to return
- 1000 for an introduction to another worshiper
- 2000 for an invitation to meet the pastor

On this scale, eleven of the eighteen churches earned fewer than 100 points. Five actually received less than 20.

The conclusion: *"The doctrine may be biblical, the singing inspirational, the sermon uplifting, but when a visitor finds nobody who cares whether he's here, he is not likely to come back."*

## *With Marty Hill at Seminary*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this I am in my 13th day of studies in Mexico. I was astounded on my flight into Mexico City on the enormous size of the city. The view from the sky was amazing. The city is surrounded by mountains and is located in the encompassed valley below. I was told that the conquering Spaniards believed it to be the most beautiful land that they had ever seen. However, time has not been kind to the city itself, as it is extremely crowded and polluted. While in Mexico City, I visited the "Zocalo" or city square. It is second in size only to the Red Square in Moscow. Within the Zocalo is the city cathedral. It is a Catholic cathedral with breathtaking architecture inside. It is approximately 100 feet high inside with walls adorned in gold. The walls also contain murals and statues of the saints, the Virgin of Guadalupe, and of Jesus. I was deeply touched as I prayed and meditated in such a beautiful house of worship. However, I was struck by there only being crucifixes and statues of the suffering Christ within. I can understand the use of these symbols during Lent, as we journey to the cross with Jesus, but is Christ not our risen saviour? Thanks be to God he is! As I write I am in Cuernavaca studying at an intensive Spanish school called Cetlalic. I study grammatical and conversational Spanish from 9-2 every weekday. The rest of my time is either spent on immersion field trips or with my homestay family. The family consists of three children with the father being a taxi driver and the mother who runs a toy shop out of the home (she doesn't have much of an inventory!). My meals consist of fruit in the morning, a goat cheese sandwich for lunch (sometimes with meat), and rather bland noodles with a chicken leg or thigh for my heavy meal of the day. Friends, believe me when I say we are blessed by the abundance of food and commodities in our country. My homestay family is seen as a middle class family here in Mexico. Middle class basically means having a roof over your head that doesn't leak, a flushing toilet, running water, a refrigerator, a stove, and enough food to not go hungry. Many of the "oraciones" (prayers) of the people focus on "pan cada día" (daily bread). Daily sustenance is truly a struggle for the majority of the population of Mexico. I have about a week left in Cuernavaca before returning to the Lutheran center in Mexico City. Upon returning to Mexico City I will visit the shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Upon completion of that, I get to return home! Thank you all again for your continued prayers and thoughts.

In His service, Marty Hill

# *Thoughts for the Journey - HOW TO STAY IN LOVE*

After careful consideration and endless debate **The Perfect Man has finally been named:**

*"Mr. Potato Head."* He's tan. He's cute. He knows the importance of accessorizing. And if he looks at another girl, you can rearrange his face.

Jean Kerr quipped, *"Personally, I think if a woman hasn't met the right man by the time she's 24, she may be lucky."* We become cynical about love, don't we? We're tempted to believe that real love is a myth, a long-term relationship is a marathon and romance is for kids.

One person said, *"Marriage changes passion...suddenly you're in bed with a relative."* But does marriage have to kill romance? Is marriage really nothing but a long banquet at which the dessert is served first?

**I believe in love and romance.** I believe it is something that can last forever, if it is carefully cultivated. Here are some tips for keeping romance alive and for staying in love:

**F FIND** time to date. Time to be alone and tell each other of your love. You spent time alone at first...why did you quit? My wife and I get away alone every week. Just to refocus on each other. And to fall in love again.

**U UNDERSTAND** what delights the other and make it happen. *"The romance is over,"* says Marlys Huffman, *"when you see a rosebush and start looking for aphids instead of picking a bouquet."* Does she like to be surprised by flowers? Does he have a favorite dish or activity? Does she enjoy spontaneous affection? Know what brings pleasure to your partner -- and delight him/her!

**N NEVER** forget why you got together in the first place. When you focus first on his faults you're not thinking about his strengths. When you're busy pointing out her imperfections, you're not enjoying those qualities that attracted you to her initially. Choose to appreciate that which first drew you together and your romance will grow.

**The first letter of these three tips spells the word FUN.** Have fun together. Laugh. Go on outings. Plan time to enjoy one another. Remember, *"the family the PLAYS together also STAYS together"!*

A woman from Charleston, South Carolina was overheard to remark that it was her 53rd wedding anniversary. When asked if she planned a special celebration, she smiled and said softly, *"When you have a nice man, it really doesn't matter."* I suspect they learned the secrets of staying in love.

Just in case you're not presently with Mr. or Miss Exactly Right, there ARE some things you can do to bring romance back into your life. And though your relationship may never be perfect, it CAN be perfectly wonderful.

## *Thank you*

Dear New Life in Christ,

Thank you for supporting our Angel Tree program at Christmas. Because of your kindness many children experienced the magic of Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! Thank you again and may God bless each of you this year. Sincerely, Anita Davis (Duncanville Outreach)

## *Thank You*

We are very grateful for everyone here at New Life who has been praying for Joe Lingo during his extensive surgery and struggle with restored health. A great big thank you, for you ongoing support and generous love.

Sincerely,  
Velma and Joe Lingo

## Richard Nelson to Address Assembly

One of the synod's own – the Rev. Dr. Richard Nelson, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at SMU's Perkins School of Theology and a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Dallas – will present several Bible studies at this year's Synod Assembly. Focusing on the assembly theme, *Called to DiscipleLife*, Dr. Nelson will look at the ways the People of God have experienced their *callings* from of old. The studies will set the tone for a number of other activities during the three day event – April 27-29 at the Sheraton Grand in Dallas – and, in fact, for the next six years of assemblies. The 2006 Synod Assembly is the first of six that will explore the meaning and experience of living the DiscipleLife. Dr. Nelson is the author of seven books and numerous articles on Biblical themes. His insight and expertise are well-known and appreciated. Make plans to participate in the assembly either as a Voting Member or as a visitor. Registration information is arriving in congregations this month and will be posted online at [www.NTNL.org](http://www.NTNL.org).

**A Texas Luau** is planned as a way to say thanks to all who have given and gathered gifts in the synod in 2006 on behalf of Briarwood Retreat Ministries, Lutheran Campus Ministry, and the Mission Endowment Fund. The event is a part of *Growing and Sowing Gift-Gatherers*, a project funded by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Join the celebration of appreciation at Briarwood, March 24, 4-7 p.m.

### **The ELW – New Cranberry**

The new red book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is beginning to appear in pews around the synod. It is indeed a lot more than just a new hymnal for the ELCA. It contains a liturgy for the remembrance of baptism that can begin your Sunday worship time. It has all 150 psalms, 87 liturgical songs, 654 hymns, a daily lectionary and Luther's *Small Catechism*. Graphic art abounds. Services for healing, baptism, marriage, burial and prayer are given, along with special services for Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week. There are ten full communion liturgies, including LBW settings 1 and 2. It's the best of the old and the new. And, oh yes, it's not technically "red," but "new cranberry."

**Ten College Students** attended December's Invitation to Service event to learn about church vocations, seminary studies, and the discernment process. Eight of the ten are former Briarwood Camp summer staff – another sign of the significance of Briarwood and the camping ministry program in the life of the whole church.

**GoodSearch.com** An alternative to internet searches using Google or Yahoo, GoodSearch gives one cent per search to the charity of your choice. When you sign on with GoodSearch you may select your charity – for example, "MOSAIC – Supporting People with Disabilities" – to designate your gift.

### **FYI... February Emphasis: NT-NL's 2007 Theme: Called to DiscipleLife**

- ▶ Spouses of Clergy and Associates in Ministry are invited to a retreat planned for Briarwood February 23-25. Carolyn Knudson presents on the topic, *Some Days You're the Pigeon, Some Days You're the Statue*. Info contact [Hattie.Hammer@att.net](mailto:Hattie.Hammer@att.net), 972.296.3703.
- ▶ Pastors, Youth Ministers, Education directors, Sunday School teachers and others will be interested in the Lutheran Educator's Day event, March 10 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) at Texas Lutheran University on how we got the Bible and how we can teach it. Info contact Sister Carolyn Hellerich ([CHellerich@tlu.edu](mailto:CHellerich@tlu.edu); 830.372.8160).
- ▶ MOSAIC currently has an opening in a men's ICF-MR group home located in Carrollton, TX. This home is wheelchair accessible. Day Services are provided through Mosaic's Vocational Center also located in Carrollton. For more information and to schedule a tour please contact Jane Shedd, Quality Assurance Coordinator for the ICF-MR program at 972.866.9989 x319
- ▶ Wheat Ridge Ministries, in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), is offering grants to Lutheran churches to develop new programs and services for immigrants and refugees. Info contact [www.LIRS.org](http://www.LIRS.org).
- ▶ Learn about our synod's ministries, events, news and resources at [www.NTNL.org](http://www.NTNL.org).

## *Celebrating with our Members*

### *FEBRUARY Birthdays*

2/5 William Butler  
2/6 Caryn Westergaard  
2/6 Carrots Wroten  
2/7 Nancy Coleman  
2/11 Elwood Tweet  
2/11 Peyton Smith  
2/12 Travis Riffe  
2/15 Robert Holcomb  
2/16 Daniel Draper  
2/17 Jonathan Metting (Oh Lord, look who is 21)  
2/18 Judy Rosebrock  
2/20 Patrice Pruitt-Story  
2/29 Anna Scott

### *FEBRUARY Baptisms*

2/1 Carolyn Skeels  
2/5 Barbara Palermo  
2/10 William Butler  
2/12 Kristian Hedgepeth  
2/14 Jerry Palermo  
2/23 Ashley Riffe  
2/26 Andrew Doller  
2/26 Chris Wing

### *FEBRUARY Anniversaries*

2/12 Elwood & Mayelene Tweet

## *Invitation*

Dear Friends, Members, and Guests of New Life in Christ Lutheran Church,

You are cordially invited to attend  
*The Wedding Shower*  
for Melissa Justice and Keith Clicque  
on Saturday February 3, 2007  
at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall  
at New Life in Christ Lutheran Church,  
311 S. Cockrell Hill Road,  
Duncanville, Texas 75116

This Shower is being given by the Parish Life Committee  
Melissa and Keith are registered at: **Bed, Bath & Beyond** and at **Target**.

## *Congratulations to Jonathan Metting*

The Column Awards organization honors excellence in theater within the Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex. Currently the Column Awards is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year of honoring excellence in theater and will be presenting their awards at the Column Awards Gala on Monday, February 26, 2007 at the Courtyard Theatre in Plano at 7:00 p.m. This year over one hundred theatre companies are deemed eligible, while over three hundred productions are in consideration for this year's honors.

Congratulations Jonathan for your nomination as best actor in a musical for your work as Huck in the Garland Theatre Production of "Big River". Congratulations on a great job and good luck in winning the Column award.

# WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a forty-day liturgical season that initiates the most sacred part of the Christian year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on the [Great Vigil of Easter](#). Sundays are not included in the forty-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of our Lord's resurrection. During Lent, Christians meditate with awe and thanksgiving on the great paschal mystery -- the salvation God won for us sinners by the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## WHAT DOES THE WORD "LENT" MEAN?

The word Lent is apparently derived from the Old English *lencten*, which means "lengthen." It refers to the lengthening of the daylight hours that occurs in the northern hemisphere as spring approaches. It is in this period of transition from late winter to early spring that the season of Lent falls.

## WHY DOES LENT LAST FORTY DAYS?

The duration of the season of Lent is based on the ancient church custom of requiring catechumens to undergo a forty-day period doctrinal instruction and fasting before being baptized on the evening before [Easter](#). This probationary period was called the quarantine (from the Latin word for forty). The number forty occurs frequently in both testaments of the Bible. It signifies the time that is required for discipline, testing, and separation prior to achieving a goal or new beginning. For example, we read in the Old Testament that it rained forty days and nights during the Great Flood (see [Genesis 7:12](#)), Moses communed with God on Mount Sinai for forty days before receiving the Ten Commandments (see [Exodus 24:18](#)), the people of Israel were forced to wander in the wilderness for forty years ([Numbers 14:33-34](#)), Elijah journeyed for forty days before he reached the cave at Horeb and had a vision of God ([1 Kings 19:8-9](#)), and the inhabitants of Nineveh fasted and repented for forty days in response to the preaching of Jonah (see [Jonah 3:4-5](#)). The outstanding instances of the number forty in the New Testament are the account of Christ's ordeal in the desert fasting, praying, and being tempted by the devil (see [Matthew 4:1-11](#), [Mark 1:12-13](#), and [Luke 4:1-13](#)) and His various appearances to the apostles and others between His resurrection and ascension during which He strengthened their faith and prepared them for the coming of the Holy Spirit (see [Acts 1:3](#)).

## WHAT IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Ash Wednesday (from the Latin *Dies Cinerum*, meaning "Day of Ashes") is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians focus intensely on their utter and complete sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to earn their salvation. Ashes are referred to many times in the Old Testament as a sign of sorrow, mourning, repentance, and mortality (see [2 Samuel 13:19](#); [Esther 4:1-3](#); [Job 42:6](#); and [Jeremiah 6:26](#)). Many churches use ashes during Ash Wednesday worship as part of a rite called the [Imposition of Ashes](#). According to this ancient custom, ashes (traditionally made by burning palm fronds used on [Palm Sunday](#) of the previous year) are mixed with a small amount of olive oil and applied to the forehead of each worshipper. This mark, in the sign of a cross, can be a powerful reminder of our depraved and sinful nature and total dependence on God for forgiveness and salvation.

## WHAT IS THE SEASON OF LENT REALLY ABOUT?

For many Christians, the season of Lent typically includes some kind of fasting. These fasts usually take the form of abstaining from all food throughout a given 24-hour period or certain kinds of food for the duration of the forty-day season. In place of or in addition to a food fast, Christians sometimes commit to give up a pleasurable activity or dedicate themselves to almsgiving. Focus on prayer and devotions are also especially emphasized during Lent. But even though our Lord recommends and comments on the Lenten disciplines of fasting, helping the needy, and prayer in His Sermon on the Mount (see [Matthew 6:1-18](#)), these practices can easily become legalistic rituals that are centered inwardly on the self rather than outwardly on Christ. If Christians choose to give up something or increase charitable giving during Lent as a way to proclaim the salvation Christ has won for all by His suffering and death, then such activities are God-pleasing sacrifices and are to be encouraged. However, it is essential to remember that nothing we do through self-denial, good works, or prayer can ever earn God's forgiveness or repay Him for what He accomplished for us. Lent is not about our giving up something to please God. Lent is about what Christ gave up to pay the penalty for the sins of the world -- His holy and innocent life.





# NLIC Staff, Council, and Committees

<b>Pastor</b>	Bill Metting	<a href="mailto:bmetting@sbcglobal.net">bmetting@sbcglobal.net</a>	972-298-2364
<b>Secretary Editor</b>	Jonathan Metting Betty Doller	<a href="mailto:nlic_secretary@sbcglobal.net">nlic_secretary@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="mailto:nlic_editor@sbcglobal.net">nlic_editor@sbcglobal.net</a>	

## Council Executive committee

Position	name	email	home	work
<b>President</b>	Jerry Kersten	Parma1229@earthlink.net	972-780-5978	
<b>Vice President</b>	Phil Ward	wpwebw@sbcglobal.net	972-298-0831	
<b>Secretary</b>	Laura Blackburn	nlurph@swbell.net	682-518-5196	
<b>Treasurer</b>	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
Jean Lehre	972-272-3320
Carrots Wroten	972-296-9380

## NLIC Committees

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

# New Life In Christ Lutheran Church -Office Information

## Office Hours

Pastor Bill Metting  
Jonathan Metting

Tuesday thru Friday, normal hours from 8:30 am until 12:00 (noon).  
Hours as needed

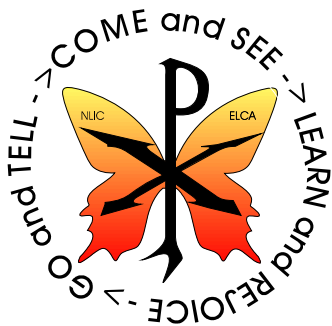
## Procedures and Deadlines

- 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](mailto: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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## February 2007

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