

The Witness

311 S. Cockrell Hill Road
Duncanville, TX 75116
nlic_secretary@sbcglobal.net

Bill Metting, Pastor
972-296-2035 (office)
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www.newlifeinchrist.org

Vacation Bible School 2007

Take a moment and Imagine...

- ...a child hearing about God's love for the first time.
- ...kids worshipping in powerful ways.
- ...children praying for each other.
- ...adults and teens modeling Jesus' love to children.
- ...the kids in our church sharing Christ with children around the world.
- ...children serving each other.

In just a few short weeks (07/08/07 – 07/12/07), our church will go wild with kids seeking fun and adventure at our Avalanche Ranch VBS! They'll be worshipping God through songs and prayer, making Bible Point crafts, and discovering life-changing Bible truths in fun and memorable ways.

We're praying this awesome VBS program will touch children's hearts and lives with God's love. Help kids in our community discover that:

- **God is real,**
- **God is with us,**
- **God is strong,**
- **God is awesome, and**
- **God is in charge.**

To have the best adventure possible, we need volunteers who can give some time, energy, and love to the kids who will attend. So let me share a few ideas about ways *you* might be able to use your gifts to make this program a success. Please check out the following list, and then pray about where God might use you:

Station Leaders: Use easy-to-follow leader manuals and prepare one twenty-minute session each day. Repeat that session...as you lead up to thirty children in....

- worship,
- crafts and missions,
- games,
- storytelling, or
- daily closing show,

Ranch Crew Leaders: Shepherd a group of up to seven elementary children through each day's activities...and there's no preparation! You simply facilitate discussions and enjoy the camp with the kids.

Still don't see something that interests you? We'd also love to have a...

- registration team,
- decorating team,
- photographer, and
- publicity coordinator

We believe that God will use this incredible program to reach many children with the message of his love, so please prayerfully consider your role in Avalanche Ranch VBS. Feel free to contact me by e-mail, phone, or in person if you have any questions. As we plan and prepare for Avalanche Ranch, our team would cherish your prayers. Pray that God would give us wisdom in planning. Pray for the right staff members to join our team. And pray that God would begin working in the hearts of the children who will come to Avalanche Ranch.

For more information about this new and exciting adventure; to volunteer, to register a child or to see an informational video, visit our **NEW VBS** website <http://www.nlicvbs.info>

Keith Clicque
VBS Coordinator
(469) 245-2203
nlicvbs@yahoo.com

Top 10 Reasons to Worship this Summer

by Pastor Chad W. Brekke (St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Chester Springs, Pa.)

Perhaps you've heard or said this yourself after Easter or Christmas: *"Too bad these folks don't come more than twice a year."* Our churches don't swell at those times of year due to an influx of Johnny Come Latelies. In reality, those "C&E" crowds are more indicative of a sluggish commitment to worship in general.

A similar myth is upon us: attendance drops in the summer because everyone is away on vacation. Please. So we adjust our worship schedules and ratchet down our already-meager expectations. Instead, let's raise expectations. In the spirit of a late night talk show, I offer 10 reasons to worship this summer.

Number 10: TO RENEW OUR SPIRITS. A new church is being built nearby ours, which has sat alone on a hilltop since 1878. People ask whether I'm concerned about the new competition. I tell them I'm more concerned about the new luxury-car dealer down the road. Their advertising tagline: *"Isn't it time you renewed your spirit?"* That scares me. Our old wooden pews are no match for heated leather seats, but I still believe here is where we gather to renew our spirits.

Number 9: WORSHIP IS OUR DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC. Even in exile, the Israelites gathered for worship. With all our busyness, faltering in our worship is as countercultural as ever and sends a message but the faith we hold near and dear.

Number 8: WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN WHAT WE VALUE. You may say, *"I have no children."* Yes you do. In the baptismal liturgy we say, *"We welcome you into the Lord's family, a child of the same heavenly Father."* These are our children and they learn by our example.

Number 7: WE ARE CHOSEN. From our earliest days of hoping to be picked for a playground team, we know we long to be chosen, to belong. Credit card companies know this. I received this notice in the mail: *"Dear Mr. Brekke: The road to financial success has many milestones. ... you have reached one."* My preapproval status wasn't easily achieved, they told me, all the while assuring me their decisions was simple: *"We want you as a card member."* My friends at the new car dealership are going to be happy about this. Here's some good news: **"While we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8) You were preapproved before you did anything."**

Number 6: WE HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR A HOLY PURPOSE. **"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new"** (2 Corinthians 5:17). I enjoy watching my brother-in-law make pottery. He throws a lump of clay on his wheel and pulls it into a vase, bowl, or coffee mug – even a communion chalice. We, too, have been created out of the dust of the earth for a holy purpose. **"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us"** (2 Corinthians 4:7). In worship we draw near to that power, to be forgiven and renewed as God's people.

Number 5: WE HAVE A LIMITED TIME TO WORSHIP. Each of us has a certain number of opportunities to worship, to sing the songs of faith and eat the meal together. The Psalmist sings, **"I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long"** (Psalm 146:2).

Number 4: TO ENCOUNTER THE WORD. Martin Luther wrote, *"At whatever time God's word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day and the work are sanctified by it, not on account of the external work but on account of the word which makes us all saints."* In one lovely run-on sentence Luther sums up all of the ways we wrestle with the word of God every week in worship.

Number 3: WE WORSHIP BECAUSE WE CAN. A friend teaches biblical language studies in secret to Christian students in China who hope to be pastors and teachers of God's word. Those students spend 18 hours a time learning Hebrew or Greek. They put their lives in danger to gather around the same word of God we sometimes neglect because we got in late the night before or because the kids have a game on Sunday.

Number 2: WE COME FROM COMMUNITY. Worshiping even in the summer is a deal we make with each other, not to mention God. It's a community-of-faith commitment. The service you decide to skip may be the one at which you could offer comfort to someone next to you. Your mere presence reminds others they are not alone, that we are in this together.

Number 1: THE SABBATH IS A GIFT FROM GOD. Surrounded by other believers – young and old, health and sick, comfortable and scared – we hold out our hands and hear **"This is the body of Christ ..."** There is no time of the year when you want to pass up holy moments like those.

Celebrating with our Members

JULY Birthdays

Terry Hicock 7/1
Lucille Robbins 7/1
Ben Wing 7/2
Sherry Newell 7/6
Joseph Fitzgerald 7/10
Jose Espinoza 7/12
Carolyn Skeels 7/12
Mayelene Tweet 7/13
Mandy Eck 7/15
Velma Lingo 7/15
Daniel Mitchell 7/16
Xavier Espinoza 7/18
Alyssa Hill 7/18
Clark Cornwell 7/19
Carol Dietz 7/19
Millie Howe 7/19
Corinne Palermo 7/19
Jackie Askelson 7/23
Bob Green 7/26
Rocky Wing 7/26
Ashley Riffe 7/30
Marty Eck 7/31

JULY Baptisms

Jose Espinoza 7/1
Mayra Espinoza 7/1
Pat Gallatin 7/1
Leah Hedgepeth 7/1
Veora Waidler 7/1
Christian Aars 7/13
Amanda Dykman 7/19
Pam Beran 7/22
Michael Tharp 7/25
Bill Metting 7/25
Dana Alexander 7/30

JULY Anniversaries

Tom & Marion Teske 7/9
Ralph & Dina Roberts 7/10
William & Fern Butler 7/20
Joe & Lynn Elliott 7/20
Bill & Judy Strickland 7/21

Thoughts for the Journey - THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Rickey was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Instructions for Joining NLIC e-mail groups:

Instructions for adding e-mail addresses

Go to: www.newlifeinchrist.org

left side, click on Members Info.

left side, click on E-mail Lists

enter your e-mail address into the list to which you want to be added.

You can only add your e-mail address to one group at a time.

Instructions for removing an e-mail address from NLIC e-mail groups:

1) If you are "abandoning" an e-mail address, you don't have to do anything. Yahoo groups knows when an e-mail address becomes inactivated and will stop sending e-mail.

2) If you want e-mail from a group to stop coming to a specific e-mail address, log into that e-mail account and find any e-mail from that e-mail group. At the bottom of each e-mail are instructions to "remove" from list. You need to do this for each group from which you want to be "removed."

If you have problems, contact Herb Doller (HerbDoller@sbcglobal.net or 972-780-0920)

YOUTH NEWS BLAST

Congratulations to all the New Life in Christ graduates, you will be in our prayers as you start your new adventures in life,

All the youth blasted into summer with a swim party at the Careys on June 10th, one of the few sunny Sundays we have had this summer!

The Education/Youth committee would like to thank the following people for their dedication to sharing the Word of the Lord by teaching in our Sunday School program this past school year, Judy Rosebrock, Jennifer and Mary Hill, Missy Clicque, Arthurine Wade, Jackie Askelson, Sandi Scott, Cindy Carey, Betty Doller, Peter Eck, Parma Kersten, Rallin Aars and Pastor Bill. We are looking forward to the resumption of Sunday School and Children's Church at the end of summer.



News Briefing

A DiscipleLife Synod: Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus *2007 - Campus Ministry's Centennial*

Life on campus is not like life elsewhere. The campus is a mix of strangers, new ideas, uncertainties, deadlines, expectations, hopes and fears all rolled up in a weighty sense that the future is on the line. Yet out of such a mix young adults emerge who are full of maturity, direction and conviction – shaped by the people who met them on campus and helped them become their future selves. Campus Ministry wants to be (and needs to be) a part of the shaping, clarifying and maturing that students experience. Campus Ministry began 100 years ago when Pastor Howard Gold was called to be the campus pastor at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. We continue in that tradition of care and compassion by remembering students year-round and by alerting Campus Ministry programs of their presence on campus. Learn ways to do both at www.NTNL.org/cmmenu.htm.

“The NT-NL Synod will Sow Disciples of Jesus by Cultivating a Culture of Congregational Growth and Renewal.”

(Synod Assembly, 2007) The synod has pledged itself to an all-out effort to revitalize its sense of mission both inside and outside existing congregations. Training is available to lay and ordained leaders for sharpening missional skills and focus; programs are available to help congregations study and act on their sense of calling and direction; and, working together, we can launch 12 new mission starts by 2012 (two are getting started in Alvarado and Richardson). Support our DiscipleLife efforts; info contact www.NTNL.org/gmcmenu.asp.

Support our New Mission Starts

Two Mission Developers are working to organize new congregations in the Fort Worth area: **Pastor Ken Hovland** (Spirit of Grace, Saginaw) and **Pastor Douglas Schoelles** (Church of the Resurrection, Roanoke). Encourage those who are moving into these areas to visit these congregations, and offer your own prayers and monetary support.

Second Annual Stewardship Academy

“Stewardship is everything that happens after you say, ‘I believe.’” It’s about priorities, vision and faith. This academy offers training in how to get things into a right perspective. Graduates of the three-weekend training (Oct., Feb., Apr.) become Steward Leaders in their congregations. Info contact www.NTNL.org/news_events.asp.

“*Daily Discipleship*” is a free online lectionary Bible study designed for personal or small group use. It explores the meaning of *DiscipleLife* as expressed in the readings for each Sunday. The Bible study materials are downloadable. Info contact www.ELCA.org/Evangelism/DailyDiscipleship.

Lutheran Hymn Festival: The Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas is the site of this seventh annual festival, featuring Mr. Robert Hobby (Fort Wayne, IN) as guest organist, a mass choir from area congregations, and the Children’s Chorus of Greater Dallas. The theme for the September 23 event is *Holy God We Praise Your Name*. Info contact www.LutheranHymnFestival.org; 817.530.2500.

FYI...

July Emphasis: ELCA’s Vision for Mission

v The offering from the 2007 Synod Assembly worship services was nearly \$12,500 – divided between the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund (celebrating its 15th anniversary) and the Texas-Louisiana Seminary Appeal.

v Graduating senior **Michelle Milini** (New Hope, Keller) received the *Servant Leadership Service Award* for outstanding volunteerism from Texas Lutheran University. High school junior **Joshua Beers** (St. Paul, Crawford) was named an Eagle Scout, the highest award of the Boy Scouts of America.

v **New Life in Christ, Duncanville**, has supported ELCA missionaries Tom and Mary Holman who have worked for years to translate the New Testament in Ghana. That project was completed and dedicated in the spring of this year.

v Start planning (it’s not too early): the **2009 ELCA Youth Gathering** event will be in New Orleans July 22-26 under the theme *Jesus, Justice and Jazz*. Info contact www.ELCA.org/Youth/Announcement.html.

v A **Men’s Ministry Summit** takes place in Chicago on August 3-5 just prior to the opening of the Churchwide Assembly. The theme, *Building for the Future*, will be addressed by a long list of national leaders. Info contact www.ELCA.org/LMM.

OPERATION HERO MILES

What are hero miles? While paging through Terry's last issue of the VFW magazine he came across an article that touched both our hearts and we wanted to share it with you.

The hero miles program administered by the Fisher House Foundation is an airline miles program that provides donated frequent flyer miles to get the families of troops wounded in combat to their bedside with minimal, if any, cost and has two eligible types of recipients:

- 1) Service members recovering in a medical center with an approved leave of five or more days, only if they are not eligible for government-funded airfare; and
- 2) Qualifying GIs receive tickets to give to family members to fly to the medical center.

The program has provided more than 6,500 roundtrip tickets worth more than \$8 million to servicemen and their families. The donated mileage is accumulated a few thousand miles at a time. A spokesman for the Fisher House is quoted as saying, "When enough people donate small amounts, it becomes a large amount."

While we all don't have frequent flyer miles, a lot of us do and have a few or many thousands of miles that could be put to better use, than just to accumulate for the future. We can help our troops and their families NOW!

For more information about *Operation Hero Miles*, visit <http://www.fisherhouse.org>. Feel free to call Terry or myself if you have any questions at 972-775-3516.

The following pages list participating airlines and information on "How to Donate"

Anita Hicock
Proud USMC Wife

Hero Miles - How to Donate Miles

With your support, we have provided nearly 10,000 tickets to Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom hospitalized service members and their families, worth more than \$12 million (average savings per ticket is currently about \$1,300).

AirTran Airways

[Donate A+ Rewards credits online](#) (requires login and password). Select the "request rewards" link and enter the number of A+ Rewards credits to donate under "Fisher House Hero Miles."

OR Call 1-888-3-APLUS-8

Alaska Airlines

Call Mileage Plan @ 1-800-654-5669

Have account information available

OR [Donate miles online](#)

American Airlines

Email full name, AAdvantage Account Number, Number of Miles to donate, phone number, and email address to HeroMiles@aa.com

OR Send a fax to 817-963-7882 using the form found at aa.com/heromiles

[Learn more](#)

Continental Airlines

[Donate miles online](#) (requires account number and PIN)

OR Contact OnePass Service Center at 713-952-1630

OR Written Request - requires account number and PIN, if no PIN include copy of Driver's license or passport

Delta Airlines

Call Delta SkyMiles 1-800-325-3999

Have account information available

OR go to [Delta Donation Website](#)

Use the "Donate by e-mail" link to delta.bids@delta.com

Fill in form with SkyMiles number, name, and phone

REMEMBER to include in the body of the email you would like miles transferred to Fisher House Foundation

Specify the number of miles to donate - Then SEND

Frontier Airlines

Call EasyReturns desk at 866-263-2759

Have account information available

[Learn more here](#)

Midwest Airlines

[Donate miles online](#)

Fill in simple form - then SUBMIT

Northwest Airlines

Call 1-800-327-2881

Have WorldPerks Acct # and Pin available

OR [Donate miles online](#)

United Airlines

Call 1-800-421-4655

Have account information available

[Learn more here](#)

US Airways (now merged with America West Airlines)

[Donate Miles online](#)

Be sure to fill in the bubble beside "Fisher House Foundation-Hero Miles"

Complete the rest of the form - then SUBMIT

Directions for Donating Credit Card Frequent Flyer Points

- Call your credit card company to determine which airlines they allow you to convert points to miles with
- Compare credit card list with Fisher House "Hero Miles" airline partners currently accepting mileage donations, convert points to miles through credit card company
- You must have a Mileage Account with whichever airline you are going to donate the miles to
- If you need to set up a new account with one of the airlines it can be done directly through their toll free number
- Each airline partner has a specific process to donate miles - information is available above

Tax Deduction Information

The Internal Revenue Service does not recognize donations of frequent flyer miles as tax a deduction since taxes were not collected from individuals when they earned the miles. For further information, we suggest that you consult IRS Publication 526 and/or your personal tax advisor.

Confirmation of Donations

To protect donor privacy, mileage donation information received by Fisher House "Hero Miles" includes only number of miles donated and date donated. Written confirmation is issued by each airline in the form of an updated periodic account statement that will reflect new mileage balance after donation.

Thank you for your kind gift of miles for our "Hero Miles" program. Support like yours allows us to continue caring for our wounded Heroes and their families.</EM

Veora Waidler

We regret to have you remove Veora from your mailing list. She passed away on May 19, 2007 at 93 years of age. She lived a very long and wonderfully traveled life. And did go quickly and very peacefully. Veora is survived by her children daughter Barbara & Eldon Gorton, and son Jack & Evelyn Antrup, Five Grand children and thirteen Great Grandchildren and a wonderful fifteen great-great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Please pass along to your congregation this news and thank them for their notes during the past years that she has lived in Hico. I know she enjoyed The Witness and any letters she received.

We had a Celebration on the 25th of May in Hico and in Evart, Michigan on the 5th of June where she lay in rest.

Thank You, and God Bless all of You
Petra Mowrey
Hico, TX Veora's Great Granddaughter...

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 | Phil Ward | wpwebw@sbcglobal.net | 972-298-0831 | |
| Vice President | Azella Dykman | adykman@comcast.net | 972-296-7035 | |
| Secretary | Valerie Kelley | richila@swbell.net | 972-780-9098 | |
| Treasurer | Bill Strickland | strickland007@sbcglobal.net | 972-296-5353 | |

Church Council

| Person | email | home | work |
|----------------|--|--------------|------|
| Chris Bartlett | chrisab1981@aol.com | 972-298-0831 | |
| Nancy Coleman | nancycoleman@sbcglobal.net | 972-572-2181 | |
| Jerry Kersten | parma1229@yahoo.com | 972-780-5978 | |
| Ralph Roberts | n/a | 972-298-2449 | |
| Chuck Skeels | tigerkitty25@sbcglobal.net | 972-299-5772 | |

Council Liaisons:

| Committee | Council Liaison |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Education / Youth | Chris Bartlett and Azella Dykman |
| Evangelism | Ralph Roberts |
| Parish Life | Jerry Kersten |
| Property | Chuck Skeels |
| Service | Nancy Coleman |
| Stewardship / Finance | Bill Strickland |
| 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

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Education and Youth | Chair | Sandi Scott (972-723-1817) & Cindy Carey (972-723-1817); Liaison: Chris Bartlett-Azella Dykman |
| | Members | 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 | Sue Polinski, Pam Beran, Patrice Pruitt, Jackie Askelson, Leah Hedgepeth, Ruby Wade, Arthurine Wade |
| Property | Chair | Olen Story (817-545-3858); Liaison: Chuck Skeels |
| | Members | Jim Gallatin, John Johnston, Ray Beran, Dennis Roiger, |
| Service | Chair | Pat Johnston (214-946-6707) & Linda Metting (972-298-2364) Liaison: Nancy Coleman |
| | Members | Jean Lehre, Sandy Roiger, Carrots Wroten |
| Stewardship & Finance | Chair | Jim Blackburn (972-283-1722) Liaison: Bill Strickland |
| | 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, Linda Metting, Anita Hicock |
| Church | | Ral Aars, Jim Blackburn, Jerry Palermo, Phil Ward |
| Health Team | | 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

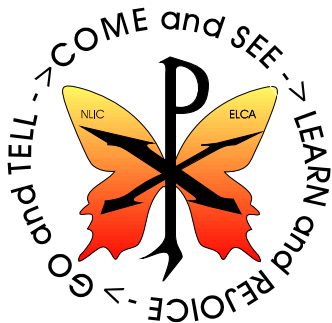
Procedures and Deadlines

- 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



July 2007

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