



LIFE LINE

New Life Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2018

“I Love My Church” Work Day Saturday, September 8 beginning at 8:30 am

We proudly come together to maintain our building and grounds. This is all our “house.” Let’s continue to make this a welcoming space not only for our congregation but the community we willingly share it with. There will be a variety of projects like weeding, transplanting, mulching, painting, small repair projects, organizing storage, cleaning and much more. All ages can help. Come when you come, stay as long as you can, refreshments provided. Many hands will make light work. And it’s a great way to build relationships as you work side by side.

Tutoring Ministry Begins Tuesday, October 2 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm and Wednesday, October 3 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm

The school year has started. With that comes homework. With that comes the need for extra help for students in the way of tutors. That’s where you come in! This past year we served 22 students, which is great. But we had a wait list of students because we didn’t have enough tutors. Our goal for this next school year is to have 35 students in our program!! Help us make this become a real Outcome!!

We invite all members of our congregation—from High School youth to Retirees to join our ministry. You do not have to be a teacher or an educator to be a tutor. Just a willingness to meet regularly with a student (2nd grade-8th grade) once a week for an hour. It does make a difference and does provide all with a sense of helping our Bolingbrook youth! If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact: Steve Ritz, Norma Sabine, Josh Schmidt, Jerry Streeky, Jennifer Calloni, Cheryl Deardorff, Diane Herrmann, or Joe Giganti.

This is an invaluable program for our community that we have been providing for over 20 years. We have been proud of the variety and diversity of students which this program has served in our community. In recent years we have been able, through the wonderful talents of our volunteers, to serve several special needs students who have enjoyed the mentoring and relationship building which this program provides.

Many of our students have/had siblings in the program. Some of the students are members of New Life. Many are from referrals from the schools, social workers and teachers in our community.

One of the many gifts which this program provides is a strong mentoring relationship between students and Tutors. This past year we had several students who invited their tutors to the end of the year school celebrations because they felt so connected to their tutors. We have students who have received a strong foundation and have done extremely well in high school. Some of our former students have received college scholarships. Several have come back to tell us how important this program was to them during their school years.

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God's Work. Our Hands—Celebration of Service

Volunteers: We had over 61 households participate in God's Work Our Hands. This was through donating items and/or using their hands on one of the many projects over the weekend!

Time: Each project varied in terms of individual time commitments but wanted to let you know that we provided approximately 21 hours of direct hands on work over the weekend. Now multiply that by the number of volunteers! This does not include the time people spent shopping for the items that were donated.

Donations: Each birthday kit contained 9 items and all the slots were filled. Each goodie basket contained 14 items and the majority of slots were filled.

Blessings to the Community:

- 15 families will receive a birthday kit from the food pantry to help celebrate a birthday in a fun and special way.
- The police station and all 5 fire stations received a total 30 baskets to cover all the shifts. These baskets were filled with items to express our appreciation for those who serve and protect us.
- Food pantries and feeding sites will benefit from the 2448 cans of vegetables that was packed for shipping at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. That provides 3672 pounds of food for hungry neighbors in Northern Illinois.
- The car wash served numerous vehicles, including repeat customer from last year! And through the free will offering, we received donations of \$161.16 which will benefit the DuPage Township Food Pantry.
- The Knights of Columbus park has 3 HUGE bags of less trash making for a cleaner, healthier and more enjoyable space in the community.
- Three neighborhood homes had their overgrown yards mowed, weeds removed, bushes trimmed, kitchen cabinets installed, and completed countertop. But more importantly neighbors who were unable to handle these projects due to health or finances are grateful and relieved.

New Life took bold action to bewilder our community as we gave our time and talents to serve our neighbors. In a society where it is common to see division, we came together to share our lives, even for a brief time, and extend ourselves to help others in our community.

What comes next?

God's Work. Our Hands. Weekend does not disappoint. It's inspiring to see so many New Lifers come together to serve. It's a jammed-packed weekend that makes it abundantly obvious that a community of Christians is a powerful, life-changing, grace-sharing force!

For the past weeks we've continually invited people to consider boldly serving. Here are a few reasons why it was bold: because even after today, there are still a lot of hungry people locally and globally. There are still many more houses out there that need help with small repairs and yard work. There are still 362 shifts of first responders to go before another GWOH comes around with goodie baskets. There are still kids celebrating birthdays in domestic abuse shelters. There are still parks and green spaces that need to be cleaned up. It's bold because even in the face of those facts, we're going to do what we can this weekend to love Bolingbrook and our neighbors anyway.

So we're boldly serving. And what would BOLDER serving look like? Who aren't we helping this weekend that needs it? Who needs more help than an hour or two's worth of volunteering? Is this church ready to be bolder? Is this church ready to turn serving events into ministries? Ministries like the Tutoring Program or when New Life was going to Mississippi on a yearly basis. The kind where we plant ourselves and say—for the long haul, we're ready to keep serving. Until the need is gone. Bolder serving is where we're going. Serving Boldly today is how we'll get there.

New Life is continuing to be curious about how it can be a blessing to the community, the people, families, and spaces surrounding New Life. And as we get curious and begin to imagine New Life continuing to take deeper steps in our community—all for loving as Jesus has taught—let's expect God to answer our curiosity and lead us. Share what you hear!

Pastor Rakel Evenson

Youth Education Ministry

We are excited to be welcoming youth back into the classroom this fall. We hope that everyone has benefited from worshipping together with all generations over the summer. This is all part of building a thriving and vibrant community of our youngest members.

Elementary Sunday School: Age 3 – 5th grade

Begins Sunday, September 9 at 10:15 am

This curriculum will allow for hands on, interactive learning in fun and creative ways such as art, cooking, science, music, games and more. The fall schedule features bible stories from the Old Testament. Our classes continue to be grouped together by age: age 3-1st grade and 2nd -5th grade.

Confirmation Ministry: 6th – 8th graders

Begins Sunday September 16: Dinner at 5:30 & class 6:00-7:30pm

The Confirmation Ministry is designed to include events that focus on learning, fellowship, and service to strengthen faith formation for youth and families. The curriculum will focus on the teachings of Martin Luther using the Small Catechism, Lutheran Theology, and The Old and New Testament. The focus on Sunday mornings will be on family worship and can include opportunities to serve during worship such as acolytes, ushers, communion assistants or readers. There will also be a fall retreat November 16-18.

Rite of Confirmation: 9th Graders

Begins Sunday, September 16: Dinner at 5:30 & class 6:00-7:30pm

This is a special time for 9th grade youth to affirm their baptism and faith and marks the passage to becoming an adult member of the congregation. In preparation for that commitment, youth will attend a 6-week Confirmation class. They will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, October 28 at 10:15 am.

**Parents with children of all the ages listed above, should have received a letter in the mail with more detailed information and dates. If you did not, please call the church office.*

S.U.P.P.L.Y. High School Youth: 9th-12th graders

Begins Sunday, September 9 at 10:15am

This group will start their Sunday mornings at the youth house. They will return as a group to the worship service for communion. There will be service projects, fun fellowship events, and fundraisers throughout the year. The year ends with the opportunity to attend a mission trip summer 2019!

Summer Youth Offering

While the month hasn't ended at the time of publishing this newsletter; we are already celebrating what our youth have accomplished through their summer youth offerings. At the beginning of the summer, youth voted to support ELCA ministry of Water Filters. We talked about how safe drinking water isn't always available everywhere, especially in times following natural disasters or emergencies. So these simple, ceramic water filter are a lifesaver. It's capable of purifying water without electricity or chemicals. It's a powerful tool to not only quench thirst but prevent water borne diseases.

Thanks to the youth and those who are young-at-heart and have been moved by this ministry; there currently is enough to purchase 24 water filters! We will publish the final number after Labor Day.

Stay tuned to see what our youth will do next. They will be voting on a new ministry soon for the fall season and receiving new envelopes. Their selection will be posted on the bulletin board outside the nursery.

Young Family Dinner—Sunday, September 16

All families with children age 3 through 5th grade are invited to come together for dinner and fellowship. Dinner will be provided from 5:30-6:00 pm. Then from 6:00-6:30 pm, we will be exploring a possible resource to support your family in talking about faith at home. We want to encourage families to support the faith development of your children at home as well as at church.



Ever Wonder . . .

How you can volunteer at other times besides just God's Work. Our Hands. weekend? One opportunity is at the newly opened Northern Illinois Food Bank in Joliet. They have regular volunteer shifts on

- Weekdays: Tuesdays at 9:00am – 11:30am
- Weeknights: Wednesdays at 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
- Weekends: Saturdays at 9:00am – 11:30am

For more information and to sign up, please visit their website <https://solvehungertoday.org/south-suburban-center/>



Spotlight on Music Ministry

Our adult choir kicked off a new season on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. All are welcome to join and sing for joy! Practices are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. If you would like to join, just stop in or you can contact Music Director, Agata Olszakowska for more information.

Maybe you can't make a weekly commitment to the adult choir or your musical talent is playing an instrument. We would love to have you share that gift through special music during worship services. Agata Olszakowska is available to help you pick music, practice as well as provide accompaniment.

Our Youth Choir is ready to begin again this fall. The first practice will be Sunday, September 9 at 9:30-10:00 am with Karen Weitendorf. Their first performance is Sunday, September 30 at the 10:15 am service. This is for all junior and senior high students with an interest in singing together. Come share your musical gift.



Imagine Our Jubilee Campaign

We are excited at the continued progress we are making towards fulfilling our campaign goals. Thank you to everyone who is demonstrating their strong commitment by following through on their pledges. Our total amount pledged to the campaign is \$535,375. As of 7/31/18, we have received \$155,669. We are making great progress and are on track to finish this first year strong.

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Goal: Retire Our Mortgage Debt One of the goals of the campaign was to eliminate our mortgage debt which was \$430,000 when the campaign began. We have been able to make additional mortgage payments as a result of the campaign and that debt has been decreased to \$330,040. We are excited to start thinking how we can use God's abundance to allow us to expand or add ministries in the future.

Goal: Repair and Replace HVAC Systems COMPLETE! Our entire system has been inspected, repaired or replaced. In addition to the comfortable environment, whether hot or cold, we will also be enjoying the energy efficiency of these new systems.

We invite you to look at the new displays in the narthex that will help you track our progress towards pledge fulfillment and our other goals. Thank you for your continued generosity in making a difference at New Life. Campaign envelopes are part of the regular mailing of monthly offering envelopes. If you do not receive monthly offering envelopes but would like campaign envelopes, please contact the church office. You can also use online giving to fulfill pledge payments. Go to www.NewLifeBolingbrook.org and click on Giving in upper right corner. If you were not able to make a pledge in the past, but would like to participate in the future, please contact the church office for more information. Everyone has different gifts and every gift continues to make a difference as we approach our 50th jubilee.

Blood Drive—Sunday, September 23

You have the opportunity to impact someone's life in a big way and it takes less than an hour of your time. Sign up for your preferred time at www.heartlandbc.org. Walk-ins are welcome as well. In addition, students who are 16 years old, in general good health and meet the general criteria are able to donate with parental consent. Please help us meet our goal of 20 donors. All donors will receive a free entry voucher for Stade's Farmtractions Theme Park in McHenry, good thru October 28.



September Anniversaries

Sally & Ryan Minor	9/5
Martha & John Jr Kierstein	9/6
Bob & Cary Edgerton	9/7
Scott & Sarah Bovyn	9/9
George & Jan Sanchez	9/12
John & Lisa Mustonen	9/15
Jerry & Christine Streeky	9/15
Doug & Ronda Goers	9/16
Mike & Julie Selep	9/17
Bob & April Clark	9/21
Jose & Sylvia Galvicius	9/21

Have you moved or changed your phone number recently? If so, it is important that the church office is contacted so we can update our records. Thank you.

Adult Education 2018-2019

Adult Education is learning about our faith by looking at various sources which include historical context and theological understanding of Scripture and other relevant sources. No prior knowledge is assumed or expected. Come sample our first session on **Evil, Suffering and the Existence of God**, beginning September 9.

Scheduled Classes for 2018-2019:

- **Evil, Suffering and the Existence of God** – In this class we will explore this great dilemma and look at some possible solutions. How can evil exist in a world created by an omnipotent and omniscient Supreme Being with unlimited goodness? We will look at various types of evil and how they might be reconciled with the existence of God. Class Leader: John Beaugard
- **Book of Concord** – a journey through the historic doctrinal standard of our Lutheran faith.
- **John** (Gospel from the Adam Hamilton DVD series)
- **Flavius Josephus - His life and works**
- **Imago Dei in Humanity** – what makes us human. We will look at several views of the image of God
- **Nag Hammadi Scriptures** - a survey of one of the greatest archeological discoveries over the past century
- **Baptism – Its History and Meaning**
- **Sin – The Human Predicament**

WHEN: Sunday Morning
WHERE: Genesis Room
TIME: 9:15-10:15 am



New Life Butterfly: Traveling with Faith

It is time to wrap up our summer photo project with the New Life Butterfly. Hopefully you have seen how the wall of pictures at church has grown over the last three months! Thank you to everyone who shared their photos and summer adventures with all of us. There were two main purposes of the project. One was to give you a conversation starter to talk about your faith and New Life when you are not in the building. The second purpose was to give you a way to stay connected with the New Life family during the busy summer schedules.

We want to know...who did you meet while taking a picture? What kind of questions did you get when people saw the butterfly? Did you have an opportunity to talk to someone you don't know very well in the congregation because you saw their picture on the wall or on Facebook?

We want your stories! Please send an email to Susan Brown at susan@newlifebolingbrook.org or call the church office to verbally share your story.

While the picture part of this project is ending, we hope that the Spirit will still move you to have a conversation with someone about your church and/or your faith as well as continue to build relationships at church, one conversation at a time.

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NA at 7 pm	AA 7:00 pm	Al Anon 7 pm	NA 10 am AA 7 pm	Ladies AA 7 pm	PANN 7 pm	Al Anon Study 8:45am Al Anon 10 am

						1 Celebration Band Rehearsal—10 am
2 Worship—8:15 & 10:15 am	3	4 Mariachi—5-7 pm Oasis—7 pm	5 Bible Study—10 am Adult Choir—7-8:30 pm	6 Worship Commi—6:30 p Executive Comm—7:15 p Christ Center of Hope 7p	7 Community Yoga - 6 pm Oasis Choir Practice—8 pm Oasis Prayer Service— 10 pm	8 Celebration Band Rehearsal—10 am
9 Worship—8:15 & 10:15 am Youth Ed Begins King's Purpose Dance Team—2 pm	10	11 Mariachi—5-7 pm Oasis—7 pm Church Council—7 pm	12 Adult Choir—7-8:30 pm	13 Mariachi—5-7 pm Christ Center of Hope 7p	14 Community Yoga - 6 pm Oasis Choir Practice—8 pm	15 "I Love My Church" Work Day—8:30 am Celebration Band Rehearsal—10 am
16 Worship—8:15 & 10:15 am King's Purpose—2 pm Young Family Dinner— 5:30 pm Confirmation—5:30 pm	17	18 Mariachi—5-7 pm Oasis—7 pm Outreach—7 pm	19 Bible Study—10 am Adult Choir—7-8:30 pm	20 Mariachi—5-7 pm Mutual Ministry—6:15 pm Christ Center of Hope 7p Care Team—7 pm Stewardship—7:30 pm	21 Community Yoga - 6 pm Oasis Choir Practice—8 pm	22 Celebration Band Rehearsal—10 am
23 Worship—8:15 & 10:15 am BYOB (Bible) Sunday Blood Drive—8 a—12 p King's Purpose—2 pm Confirmation—5:30 pm	24	25 Mariachi—5-7 pm Oasis—7 pm	26 Bible Study—10 am Adult Choir—7-8:30 pm	27 Mariachi—5-7 pm Christ Center of Hope 7p Property—7 pm	28 Community Yoga - 6 pm Oasis Choir Practice—8 pm	29 Celebration Band Rehearsal—10 am Wedding—4 pm
30 Worship—8:15 & 10:15 am King's Purpose—2 pm Confirmation—5:30 pm						

Manage Your Giving Online!

New Life is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit www.newlifebolingbrook.org.
2. Click on "Giving" on the top right side of the page.
3. Click on "Donate/Pay Online" to schedule your recurring or one-time contributions. You may also scan this QR code to immediately access the online giving page.

If you already give via Simply Giving, your profile will link automatically when entering your email address, and you can manage your contributions online at your convenience.



Sunday Worship

8:15 & 10:15 AM

New Life

Lutheran Church

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Visit us on the web at
www.newlifebolingbrook.org

Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord!

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