

# NEW LIFE NEWS

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New Life is a church of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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LCMS NEWS  
taken from www.lcms.org

**Lutherans open two more 'outreach centers for blind'** Two more "outreach centers for the blind" - in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Daytona Beach, Florida - opened in October, bringing to 26 the number of centers opened Synodwide since 1999.

The outreach centers, opened with the assistance of Lutheran Blind Mission, a ministry of The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, are designed to assist blind people by offering such things as computer training, lessons on reading braille, workshops on topics of interest and weekly Bible studies. They also typically offer a free dinner once a month for blind people and their families.

**Directors adopt policy in principle to set districts' funding for Synod** The Synod's Board of Directors has adopted in principle a policy intended to increase the amount of contributions forwarded to the Synod's national budget by its 35 districts.

The Board plans to ask next summer's Synod convention to endorse the policy, which would set an amount or percentage of contributions to districts that would be forwarded to the Synod.

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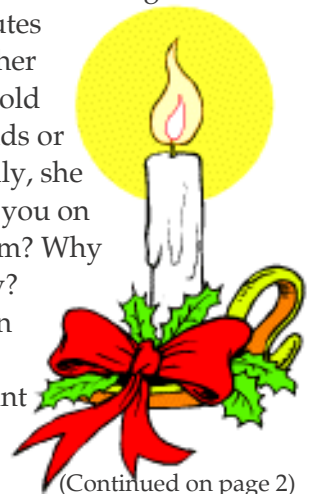
## From The Pastor's Heart *God, Thank You For Christmas!*

And be thankful. Colossians 3:15b (ESV)

December contains many New Life Christmas celebrations: Advent services on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (9am); the Christmas Program on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> (5-8pm); the Christmas Outreach Worship on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> (9am); Christmas Day Worship, on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> (10am); & New Year's Eve Open House at Pastor Chip's on December 31<sup>st</sup> (6pm-1am)! The season will be wonderful, the services meaningful, and the choirs' music beautiful. The center piece will be the Christmas Story: How the Father so loved the sin sickened world. We will again joyfully listen to how Jesus, God's only Son, came to earth, was born as a man to win us our salvation, revealed God's true agape love, successfully gave us God's grace, and enabled all who truly repent and believe in Him eternal life....but for some the reality of Christmas will not last past January 1<sup>st</sup>:

An older mother's age and English made it impossible for her to get a driving license. Yet, through her job as an assistant at a Chinese clinic, she was able to feed and house her family of four, and even provided for her two youngest to begin studies at the University of Toronto. Every morning her eldest son helped his mother drive the long morning journey to drop her at the clinic. In November and December she noticed her son always trying to keep his cold hands from freezing. She painstakingly took the initiative to buy a fine pair of leather fur-lined gloves to give to her son. On Christmas the mother presented the gloves. Her son was delighted, and received the gift with "perfect" words of gratitude. Afterwards, when the regular cold winter commutes again began, the mother noticed something odd: her son never wore the gloves! As she observed his cold chapped hands, she didn't know whether his hands or her mother's concerned heart hurt the most. Finally, she said: "Son, why don't you wear the gloves I gave you on Christmas to keep your hands protected and warm? Why do you hide them away so that they will stay new? When you use them, that is the finest way you can thank your mother for her gift!"

May we remember to keep the most important the most important. May we all say "Thank You,



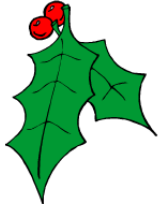
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God, for Your awesome Christmas present of Jesus!" by believing in Him, allowing Him to eternally keep us warm in His grace. By the Spirit's power, may we follow Him closer than ever in 2004; and may we not keep His grace's warmth only to ourselves, but also give this present to all who need it, that Jesus through you may help many to know the warmth of knowing Him as their Savior!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Chip<><

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“Proud and Unrepent”



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# Family of the Month: the Chen's

By Michael Chen



We came to America about four years ago. Our family has four members: me, my sister (Jenny), my mom (Fen Tang), and my dad (Ying Ming Chen). My sister is in her fourth semester of college. When she has time, she will go to church or work part time. Sometimes, she will go hang out with her friends. She loves bowling, shopping, listening to music, and going to the movies.

My mom and dad go to work in the same place called Master Cable, so they can go to work together. Their work is fine and they don't have to work on the weekends, so they can have time for church. My mom is a good cook and takes care of the family, maybe inherited from my grandmother. Every Saturday, she goes to learn beginning English from another church in Sunset. Sometimes she will make dumplings for us to eat. She would give it to other people to try and give her some suggestions too. She loves to chat with people, exercise, read, and learn new things. My dad is a hard worker and a good cooker too. When the supermarket needs him, he will go to work on the weekend. If he doesn't have anything to do, then he will go to church. He loves to watch stunt shows and play sports.

Finally, it's my turn. Well, I'm in Herbert Hoover Middle School. This is my last year there, which means I'm going to graduate this year. I think most likely I will go to Abraham Lincoln High School next year. I love to play sports, especially basketball and swimming.

We came to America on December 7, 1999. I still remember at first I didn't know English that well. Thank God my mom put me in the after school program, which was at New Life's old office. Sunny and other friends helped me a lot. I still remember the first day I went there was a Friday. After we studied, they brought me to the teen fellowship. It was great. Then they asked me to bring my family to church, and that is how we are members of New Life. We are very happy and surprised that we are in this big family. We get lots of help from other people, like Auntie Norma, Auntie Gail, Auntie Vivian, and others, especially God.

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# Basketball News

By Samuel Chang

New Life has a basketball team! We're thankful for the interest and the many participants. Our current roster consists of the following members: **Bryan Chan, Corey Chang, Samuel Chang, Michael Chen, Brian Cheung, Gabriel Laureta, Melissa Laureta, Matthew Laureta, David Fox, Pastor Chip, Jason Ng, Tim Tam, Aaron Tse, Danny Tse, Kristen Yee, Matthew Yee, Melicia Wong** and **Jeff Woo**. We also have two new members of the team, **Philmon Berhane** and **Zhi Yang**. Our group is unique in the way of the varied ages of our team. We range from 11 to over 40 and this gives us different vantage points in our lives. It's a great way for us to get to know each other, and build camaraderie among us.



We're happy to report that we just had a wonderful time with our sister church, **Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit** on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the gymnasium of Zion Lutheran Church. DCE **Allan Tong** opened our afternoon with a game of "Deck" and had everyone running around getting acquainted. Pastor Chip and Bryan Chan led us on a song of "Lord I Lift your Name on High" followed by a devotion on "making baskets for Christ" and closed with a prayer. Then it was off to basketball. Everyone got a chance to play. It was a fun afternoon. We would like to thank all the participants and the families that came and gave us rousing cheers all afternoon.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we strive to build each other up in Christ and follow the path where our Lord leads our team in the future.

**"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16**



## New Life and Shepherd of the Hill's Thanksgiving Joint Services



above: New Life and Shepherd of the Hills choir lift up their voices to sing thanksgiving praises.



below: New Life's Youth and Young Adult Fellowships perform a skit.



## New Life and Shepherd of the Hill's *Marvelous Christmas Program*

Mark your calendars for an exciting night of fun! It's time for our annual Christmas program. If you've been to our programs in the past, you must remember the amount of fun, excitement, laughter, and food. If you haven't been to one yet, then make sure you don't miss this one.

**When:** Saturday, December 20th, 5pm-8pm

**Where:** Shepherd of the Hills (395 Addison St.)

**What:** Dinner with lots of delicious food

Fellowship time with friends and family

A fun filled program that's sure to get you into the Christmas spirit

Singing

Don't forget to bring your family and friends too!

