

NEW LIFE NEWS

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

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LCMS NEWS

LCMS welcomes most new congregations in 15 years The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod welcomed 94 new congregations in 2003 -- 10 more than the previous year and the most in at least 15 years, according to Dr. Robert Scudieri, associate executive director, National Mission Team, for LCMS World Mission. In fact, he said, the average is "about 60" for each year in the past decade.

Below says initiatives put church, government 'on same page' "The government is on the same page as the churches when it offers initiatives for faith-based organizations to reach people who are hurting," said Barbara Below, who represented the Synod at the first White House National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives June 1 in Washington, D.C.

Seminary symposium to address homosexuality and the church Registration is open for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis', 15th theological symposium, Sept. 21-22, with the theme, "The Challenge of Homosexuality -- The Church Responds." ...the symposium "will explore the changing use of Scripture and its interpretation in conversations and studies about sexuality, cultural attempts to impose a non-Christian framework and Christian responses and the implications of these changes on the life of Christians and congregations."

– www.lcms.org –

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From The Pastor's Heart The Christian Patriot!

Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.
Proverbs 14:34 (ESV)

As we celebrate July 4th, we celebrate our nation's freedom of religion. But there are attempts to curtail mention of God: the suit to remove the words "one nation under God" from the pledge, the elimination of the cross on the L.A. County Seal, the removal of the 10 Commandments from public buildings. Like the 1st Century Christians who lived as God's people in the secular Roman culture, we ourselves are now missionaries in an increasingly non-Christian society. How can we be what God wants us to be: Christian patriots?

1. Be God's Law & Gospel People! God has given us His 10 Commandments that we might live in His highest will. In a world that seems so dark, those who humbly and daily seek to follow the Master exhibit the Ten Commandments for all to read in a way that the courts cannot stop. Philippians 2:15 further tells us: "that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." (ESV) But if we share only the 10 Commandments, we give people no more hope than if they had never heard them. We need to give them Jesus! "Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV) We no longer need to go overseas, our mission field is right here in San Francisco. This month pray about telling one person about Jesus, and then tell me about it!

2. Be God's Praying People! 1 Timothy 2:1-3 (ESV) says it well: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior" Pray every day that God will lead our nation and our president.

3. Be God's Active People! Christians have civil rights, too. Enjoy our freedom of speech and freedom of expression, whether we are talking about eternity

at work during a break, or leading a Bible Club at school, or hosting a small group at our home. In the United States we have incredibly far reach-ing rights. Let's use them!

4. Be God's International People! The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod has begun a new international outreach called Ablaze! "[It] began as a vision of LCMS World Mission to involve every member of the LCMS, its partner church bodies and partner mission agencies in one focused and concentrated effort to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who do not yet know Him." The goal is to reach 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the year 2017. Personally fulfill the Great Commission by considering where God is calling you to do Gospel work. Help the international Gospel outreach on July 4th by also making a needed financial contribution.

Starting this July 4th, more than ever, God wants to use New Life & Shepherd of the Hills, and you, to transform our society and to evangelize our world with His freedom!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Chip <><

Family of the Month: the Lee's



My Family by Philip Lee

My wife and I immigrated to America with our 5 children (two sons and three daughters) from Hong Kong. It has already been over 30 years now...time really passed quickly. The oldest child was 15 years old, and the youngest was seven. Due to changes in career and lifestyle, we experienced much hardship

before adapting to American life. When the children needed extra money, they had paper routes. They also worked summer jobs.

In Hong Kong, my wife was a housewife, mother, and a family tutor. Life was simpler then. However, when we came to America, we went through big changes. We both went to school each morning to learn English for 2 hours, and then work for 10 more hours. It was very difficult and so exhausting that we couldn't sleep well. I admire my wife for never complaining even though it was such hard work. We endured much to benefit our children and their education. We worked for over twenty years before retiring. Now, we can lay down our burdens and be content. All our children have good education and careers. We also have 11 grandchildren.

My family received much of God's grace and love. May all this be to God's glory. The most precious thing that we received in America is salvation. Our children brought us to know our Lord, Jesus Christ, so that we would not perish but have eternal life. "If anyone is in Christ; he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come." May God's grace be with us always. Amen.

Father's Day 2004 – In review

by Dorcas Wong

A lovely day, spent in a lovely way, honoring some very special people.

The children's message was especially riveting that morning. We were treated to a dramatization of *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein, performed by the talented Pastor Chip and Sons. I don't know about everyone else, but that story always gets me weepy. It spoke to all of us, young and old.

Highlights of the sermon:

- God made man the leader of the family, and the women the pillars of support to make him a great leader.
- Dad's are given the gift of courage to protect the family physically and spiritually.
- The most valuable gift to pass on is the Good News about Jesus.

Thank you Pastor Chip!

For the Entertainment, we had a lively program this year filled with poetry, music, and drama.

- 10 Reasons Why Men Love Being Men
There were some good ones, but my favorite was: "Hairstyles last for years, even decades." Yes, I'm sure many of us are painfully familiar with this adage.
- 5 Rules That Men Live By
Christopher Columbus didn't need directions and neither do we.
And again, unfortunately, painfully familiar.
- Our Chinese Small group then serenaded us "Jesus Loves You," accompanied by guitar, violin, and piano.
- The Skit – The Prodigal Father and Son
A whimsical, rollicking interpretation of the parable, the Prodigal Son. There were flashing spatulas and tongs, a prancing Hillbilly Banjo Man™, big grilling scenes, creative voice-overs™ and lessons to be learned, notably: Young pride should learn from the old, and that you can always come home.
I was left with one thought after their inspiring performance, gotta get me that soundtrack!
- Praise Band
Guitars, guitars, every where, and so talented, for beginners! Yay, you guys!
- Awards
Though the award ceremony was cut short, they were distributed privately to the fathers by their respective children, which is just as nice.
- And before I forget, I must add a word about the special performance by David on the trumpet: Getting better every day man!

Good job to everyone!

We just wanted to say to all you fathers, father figures, and friends – We love you guys!





[a l i e n s]

by Samuel Chang

Have you ever felt out of place? What do you think of when you hear the word “Aliens”? Creatures from outer space? Monsters from another planet? That’s one definition of the word “Aliens”.

Another meaning for the word is people from another country. When non-Americans enter the United States, they are classified as aliens. When we travel abroad and visit other countries, we are considered aliens in their country.

But for many of us Chinese Americans, we sometimes feel out of place in America even though some of us were born here. We cannot escape the fact that we are of Asian descent. And though we speak English without any hint of accents, most Caucasians see us as “Aliens” because of our physical features.

For many of us this is a double edge sword. In America we sometimes feel we are aliens because of the way we look. But yet when we travel to places like Hong Kong or China, we also feel out of place because of the language barrier. Though we look like the majority, we are aliens there as well.

But fortunately for us, the bible tells us in Ephesians 2:18-19 “For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.”

Whenever I am down, discouraged by events in life that I don’t understand and when I feel overwhelmed, it helps me to read these verses.

“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.” Hebrews 10:35

“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best: but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. Hebrews 11: 7 & 10

So try to remember that we are all “aliens” in this world. This is only a temporary place for us to dwell. No matter what situation you are going through at home, school or work, draw strength from knowing that one day we will no longer be outsiders, aliens anymore. Trust and believe in Jesus and one day we will be in our real home in heaven where we won’t be stamped as an “Alien” anymore.



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New Life News is a monthly newsletter, communicating the vision and mission of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church in San Francisco, California. The VISION of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church is to bring the life-changing word of God to its community and to care for and nurture all those that hear it. As a spiritual family, we shall edify those in our fellowship and reach out to the unchurched. In so doing, we will teach, train, and equip new disciples to grow in their faith through Bible study, witnessing, service, and missions.

The MISSION of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Our primary mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the unchurched community, disciple them in the body of Christ, and equip them for Christian service and spiritual leadership through Christ-centered worship and Bible study groups.