



# NEW LIFE NEWS



~ LOVE ~ LIVE ~ SERVE ~ LIGHT ~



January 2024

Volume 20 : Number 1



## The Great Light in a Dark World

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

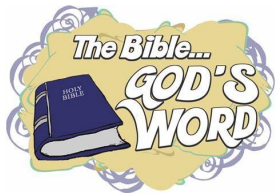
**Matthew 2:2**  
[The Magi] asked,  
"Where is the one  
who has been born  
king of the Jews?  
We saw his star  
in the east and have  
come to worship him."



Potluck for January will be on Sunday January 21st after the service.

### BIBLE IN A YEAR

We welcome you to join us as we make our way through the Bible this year. You will need to read through Leviticus 4 by January 31st.



- Sun 1/7 ~ through Genesis 25
- Sun 1/14 ~ through Genesis 43
- Sun 1/21 ~ through Exodus 15
- Sun 1/28 ~ through Exodus 36
- Sun 1/31 ~ through Leviticus 4

Have you ever got up in the middle of the night and didn't turn on the light so that you won't bother anyone else? If you're like me, you put your arms out in front of you to try to detect anything that you might stumble over and then quietly make your way out of the room. We have some GFCI outlets in our home that have a tiny green light on them, and once I'm out of our bedroom that little green light seems to illuminate the entire hallway, so I can put my arms down. It's quite a relief to not have to worry about stubbing my toe or hitting my head on the door.

Isaiah predicts the coming of a great light into the midst of utter darkness. He speaks figuratively here as He describes a world of sinful people as "the people who walk in darkness" and the coming Messiah as the "great light." We don't think of ourselves as walking in darkness, especially when we're outside on a sunny day. But when we curse that person who cut us off in traffic, ignore a person in need, write down 40 hours of work when we only did 39, or take that drink or drug we said we'd never take again, we are walking in darkness, and there's no amount of good we can do to make up for it. We need someone to save us. We need the light of forgiveness and grace to bring us out of the darkness of our guilt and shame because of our sins.

It's interesting that the first people God chooses to tell about the birth of His Son, are some shepherds, and He tells them in the middle of the night. Here's what Luke 2:8-9 says: "*In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood be-*

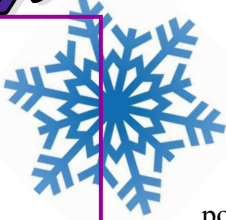
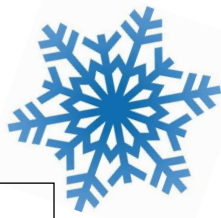
*fore them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*" I've been told that most (not all) shepherds were not the most respectable citizens. I wonder what they were doing' when the angel with the glory of the Lord (presumably a very bright intense light) shining around him suddenly stood in their midst. Were they getting drunk? Were they gambling and cheating one another out of money? Whatever they were doing, they were very afraid. So afraid that they trembled with fear of being struck dead, because God saw whatever they were doing, and they were ashamed.

But God doesn't strike them dead...in fact He does the very opposite. He shows them grace and tells them about the birth of His Son. Then He sends them to Bethlehem to prove that what He says is true. After they had seen Jesus and were returning to their flock, they were glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard. This is what happens to us when we're told about Jesus. At first we doubt if God would want anything to do with us other than to smite us for our sins, but when we hear about Jesus from a friend or read about him in the Bible we understand He's not going to strike us down, but rather, He has taken our sins and suffered for us so we could be forgiven. Then our fears are turned to gladness, and we rejoice like the shepherds over how gracious God has been to us. After Jesus birth, you no longer need to walk in the darkness of your sin and shame, because we now have Jesus, the light of the world, who wants to come into your heart and fill you with the light of His love and mercy and grace.

By Dave Wickus

# January Birthdays

# What's Happening



- 2 Kevin Henke
- 3 Roxie Novak
- 5 Madelyn Francis
- 6 Nathan Murray
- 6 Traci Crouse
- 7 John Rockhill
- 10 June Dills
- 10 Kristine Starks
- 13 Taylor Dessauer
- 15 Pam Mjelde
- 16 Jerry Kinnamon
- 17 Unique Starks
- 18 Baylee Solchenberger
- 19 Candice Weirisma
- 22 John Westendorf
- 24 Evelyn Waddell
- 24 Jeff Meador
- 24 Margaret Jantz
- 25 Sabra Dessauer
- 26 Gary Getschman
- 30 Holly Klawitter

## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting for 2024 will be on Sunday January 21, 2024. After the service we will have a potluck meal, then the Annual Meeting. It will start around 12:15pm. In order for the meeting to be "Official", we will need AT LEAST 25 members in attendance - but ALL people are welcome. During the Annual Meeting, we will have a written Annual Report, as well as hear oral reports from the Pastors, and various committees. It is a great time to hear about what God did in 2023, as well as look forward to 2024. For those who currently are chairs of committees, please **get your written reports in to New Life by January 16th 2024.**

A few of the items that will get voted on are: **1) The new people serving on committees and the Church Board.** Please see the attached reports that have been submitted by the Nominating Committee to the Board. **2) New Life's 2024 Annual budget.** Each year the Finance Committee presents a new budget to the board before the Annual meeting for approval, then the Official Board brings it to the Annual Meeting for approval. Join us as we seek to be good stewards of the resources New Life has been given.

## New Photo Directory for New Life Church

New Life is updating it's picture directory. If you would like to have a FREE family 8x10" picture, plan on coming to get your picture taken. In fact, we need ALL people to come and get their picture taken, so we fill up our directory with your beautiful faces.

On Wednesday February 14th, appointments for pictures are from 2 - 8:36p at New Life. If you are retired or can come early, please come and sign-up for the early picture times. This will leave open the late picture times for families whose parent(s) work. You do not have to buy any picture package offered, but you do have to come to get your picture in our directory. If you do not come, your information can be added, but without a picture. Also, we need at least 32 families to come to get pictures take to maintain our directory package.

There is a sheet to sign-up on, on the bulletin board by pastor Jesse's office door. If you are a family of 6 or more, please be sure to sign-up over 2 slots. Also, if you would like a larger multi-generation picture, sign-up for an extra slot as well.

There are a number of picture packages you can buy, but if you just want an additional 8x10 photo, that is only \$25. Please let New Life know if you will be getting your picture taken for the new picture directory.

# Happy Anniversary

- 1 Dan & Carol Keepers

## November Financial Report

Month of November		Year to Date	
Actual Income	\$21,914	Actual Income	\$172,993
Actual Expense	\$14,048	Actual Expense	\$182,666
Difference	\$7,866	Difference	-\$9,673
Budgeted Giving	\$17,366	Budgeted Giving	\$191,014
Budgeted Expense	\$16,157	Budgeted Expense	\$192,227
Difference	\$1,209	Difference	-\$1,213



**Men's Basketball Monday nights from 6:30-8pm-Starting Jan. 8th @ Walnut Hill Bible Church**

## Baby Shower for Melinda Moe

On Saturday January 13th, there will be a baby shower hosted at New Life for Melinda Moe @ 1pm. She and Adam will be having their 3rd child. Please let Sabra Dessauer know if you are planning on coming - sabradess@gmail.com. She will let you know if there is a theme to keep in mind.

## STAY CONNECTED

✉ [Pastorjessstevens@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorjessstevens@gmail.com) ☎ (608)408-9804

✉ [jedcrouse@gmail.com](mailto:jedcrouse@gmail.com) ☎ (608)963-1205

✉ [newlifebaraboo@gmail.com](mailto:newlifebaraboo@gmail.com) ☎ (608)356-3367

🌐 [www.newlifebaraboo.com](http://www.newlifebaraboo.com)

**Official Ballot of  
New Life Community  
Advent Christian Church  
Baraboo, WI  
January 21, 2024**

(\* Indicates will serve on the board)

**Elder Emeritus - LIFE**

Jerry Nims  
Jerry Kinnamon

**Currently Serving:**

\* Dave Taylor

**Term Ends January:**

2026

**Elder 3 year Term - Term Ends January 2027**

\* Pam Mjelde Y  N

\* Pat Sardeson Y  N

\* Tim Green Y  N

**Diaconate 3 year term**

**Currently Serving**

\* Bob Dessauer - Chairperson

Brandon Wegner

Sabra Dessauer

Charlotte Taylor

Robin Goeb

Lisa Meyer

Cindy Doescher

Shawn Fuller

Pat Sardeson

Beth Zamzow

**Term Ends January:**

2026

2026

2026

2026

2026

2026

2025

2025

2025

2025

**Chairperson of Christian**

**Ed 1 year term:**

\* Carolyn Green Y  N

**Chairperson of Missions Ministry**

**1 year term:**

\* Sherry Stevens Y  N

**Chairperson of Finance Comm.**

**1 year term:**

\* Kim Wegner Y  N

**Trustees 3 year term:**

**Currently Serving**

Kevin Hanke

\* Dave Goeb - Chairperson

John Westendorf

Bob Dessauer

**Term Ends Jan.:**

2026

2025

2025

2025

**Church Board Clerk**

**1 year term:**

\* JoEllen Westendorf Y  N

**Chairperson of Connection Team**

**1 year term:**

\* Sabra Dessauer Y  N

**Chairperson of Outreach Ministry 1 year term:**

\* John Westendorf Y  N

**Church Treasurer 1 year term:**

\* Jan Karpinski Y  N

**Collectors: 1 year term:**

Pam and Roy Mjelde Y  N

Dan and Sheila Green Y  N

Roxie and Steve Novak Y  N

**Auditors for 2024:**

JoEllen Westendorf Y  N

Dave Goeb Y  N

# Nominating Committee Report

(\* Indicates will serve on the board)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

1 year commitment  
Dave Goeb - Chairperson  
Dave Taylor  
Lisa Meyer  
JoEllen Westendorf  
Pastor Jesse Stevens

Standing Committees - 2024

## CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE:

1 year commitment  
\* Carolyn Green - Chairperson  
Bonnie Sherven - Church Librarian  
Traci Crouse - Children's Church Director  
Pastor Jed Crouse - Mid- Week  
Pastor Jesse Stevens

## FINANCE COMMITTEE:

1 year commitment  
\* Kim Wegner - Chairperson  
Elder to be chosen by Official Board  
Trustee to be chosen by Official Board  
\* Jan Karpinski - Treasurer  
Counter

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE:

1 year commitment  
\* Sherry Stevens - Chairperson  
Jan Karpinski  
Angie Fuller  
Pam Mjelde

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

1 year commitment  
(chooses own chairperson)  
Sheila Green  
Carolyn Green  
Eugene Starks

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

1 year commitment  
\* John Westendorf - Chairperson  
JoEllen Westendorf  
Cindy Doescher  
Lisa Meyer  
Jerrad O'Donnell  
Erika O'Donnell

## USHERS:

1 year commitment  
Dave Taylor - Chairperson  
Roy Mjelde  
Dan Green  
Roger Mislivecek  
Dave Shaw  
Roger Doescher  
Kevin Hanke  
Dave Goeb  
Lisa Meyer

## CONNECTION TEAM:

1 year commitment  
\* Sabra Dessauer - Chairperson  
Traci Crouse  
JoEllen Westendorf  
Sherry Stevens  
Erika O'Donnell

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

1 year commitment  
2 Elders/Elder Emeritus  
(elected by the Elders)  
1 Trustee elected by the Trustees  
Kim Wegner - (Finance Committee Chair)