

# 2019 Bulletin of Annual Reports



## *New Life* Evangelical Lutheran Church

*"Loved to love, called to call, served to serve."*

6804 Weiss Rd., New Tripoli, PA 18066

Phone (610) 298-2710, Fax (610) 298-8222

On the Web - [www.nlelc.com](http://www.nlelc.com), e-mail - [info@nlelc.com](mailto:info@nlelc.com)

*"Sharing God's love in Jesus with as many people  
and in as many ways as possible."*

Presented at the annual congregational meeting of New Life, January 27, 2019

<b>Page</b>	<b><u>Table of Contents</u></b>
1	Contents
2	2019 Congregational Meeting Agenda
3-5	2019 Budget and Notes
6	Minutes from Annual Congregational Meeting, January 28, 2018
7	Vital Statistics
7-8	Pastor Designate
8	Church Council President
9-10	Pastoral Assistant
10-11	Ministry Assistant
11	Office Assistant
11-12	Parish Administrator
12-13	Call Team
13-14	Preschool
14	Vacation Bible School
14-16	Monday Night Adult Bible Study
16	Early Bird Bible Study
16-17	Sisters In Spirit (SIS)
17-18	Music
17	Chancel Bells
17	Jammin' for Jesus
18	Drums
18	Panama Missionary
18-19	World Missions
19	CROP Walk
19-20	Thrivent
20-21	Endowment Fund

# Congregational Meeting Agenda - Sunday, January 27, 2019

Call to Order:

Opening Prayer

Annual Reports:

Approval of Annual Reports

New Business:

1. Amendments to New Life Constitution

**a. Establishment of a Staff Support Committee**

i. A Staff Support Committee shall be appointed jointly by the Council President and the Pastor. Once established the Staff Support Committee will be made up of three members serving three year terms of office; in rotation with one member coming on or leaving each year. In the absence of a Staff Support Committee, their duties shall be fulfilled by the Council.”

b. **Remove Term Limit of Council Secretary. Chapter 11.03.** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer other than the treasurer **and the secretary** shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

2. Elections

**Council**

Three openings: Terms have expired for Bill Kelly and Becky Sinton. Thomas Bell will serve out the remaining term for Jody Hand, who resigned.

Vote for 3 of the 4 nominees.

<b>Nominees</b>	<b>Term (January to January)</b>
Michael Conrey	2019-2022
Bill Dellicker	2019-2022
Theresa Keim	2019-2022
Lisa Nallon	2019-2022

Members Continuing to Serve

Thomas Bell	2020**
Wayne Klingaman	2020*
Ann Hufnagle	2020*
Michele Barra	2020*
Serving Second Term*	
Michael Bell	2021
Christy Bishop	2021
Larry Rowland	2021

\*\*Serving remainder of Jody Hand's term

**Endowment Board**

Nominees for three openings (Jen, Linda and Mike Conrey)

Thomas Bell	2019-2020	(2 year term)
Jen Hand 1	2019-2021	(3 year term)
Linda Meckel 2	2019-2021	(3 year term)
Mike Conrey 3	2019-2021	(3 year term)
Mike Hand * Chairman	2018-2021	(3 year term)

3. Approval of 2019 Budget

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 19, 2020 @ 11:30 a.m.

## New Life Budget 2019

	2019 Budget		2018 Actual	\$ Change vs Prorated 2018
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$265,848</b>		<b>\$279,789</b>	<b>(\$13,941)</b>
Pledged	\$144,164	1	\$241,060	(\$96,896)
Non-Pledged	\$114,684	2	\$31,979	\$82,705
Loose Plate	\$7,000	3	\$6,411	\$589
Interest Income	\$0		\$208	(\$208)
Rental Fees	\$0		\$131	(\$131)
<b>Surplus/&lt;Deficit&gt;</b>	<b>(\$46,411)</b>		<b>\$30,933</b>	<b>(\$77,344)</b>
<b>2017 &amp; 2018 Surplus Carryover</b>	<b>\$36,732</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$312,259</b>		<b>\$248,856</b>	<b>\$63,404</b>
<b>Benevolence</b>	<b>\$31,585</b>		<b>\$32,369</b>	<b>(\$784)</b>
Denominational Giving	\$26,585	4	\$27,969	(\$1,384)
Counseling Assistance	\$1,000		\$400	\$600
Jerusalem House	\$2,000		\$2,000	\$0
Missionary Support	\$2,000	5	\$2,000	\$0
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	6	<b>\$1,955</b>	<b>(\$455)</b>
<b>Learning</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>		<b>\$4,633</b>	<b>(\$133)</b>
Adult Bible Study	\$1,000		\$1,001	(\$1)
Confirmation/1st Communion	\$400		\$334	\$66
Lay Continuing Education	\$100		\$0	\$100
New Life Explorers (SS)	\$250		\$0	\$250
Vacation Bible School	\$750		\$996	(\$246)
Youth Group	\$2,000	7	\$2,302	(\$302)
<b>Service</b>	<b>\$2,900</b>		<b>\$3,106</b>	<b>(\$206)</b>
Fellowship Supplies	\$1,500		\$1,368	\$132
Pastoral Care Supplies	\$200		\$43	\$157
Stewardship	\$600		\$732	(\$132)
Volunteer Support & Apprec.	\$600		\$963	(\$363)
<b>Witness</b>	<b>\$3,750</b>		<b>\$3,469</b>	<b>\$281</b>
Advertising	\$1,000	8	\$865	\$135
Bibles	\$200		\$310	(\$110)
Men's Ministry (KFC)	\$150		\$122	\$28
New Members	\$300	9	\$268	\$32
Women's Ministry (SIS)	\$150		\$104	\$46
World Missions	\$1,800		\$1,800	\$0
Young Adult Ministry	\$150		\$0	\$150
<b>Worship</b>	<b>\$12,750</b>		<b>\$9,582</b>	<b>\$3,168</b>
Choir Supplies - all choirs	\$200		\$134	\$66
Musicians	\$8,500	10	\$8,000	\$500
Musician Development	\$200		\$207	(\$7)
Outdoor Worship Service	\$300	11	\$0	\$300
Wednesday Worship	\$150		\$17	\$133
Worship Supplies	\$3,400	12	\$1,224	\$2,176

## New Life Budget 2019 (continued)

\$ Change vs  
Prorated  
2018

	2019 Budget		2018 Actual	\$ Change vs Prorated 2018
<b>Support</b>	<b>\$93,291</b>		<b>\$87,910</b>	<b>\$5,381</b>
Building Upkeep	\$7,500		\$6,087	\$1,413
Communications & Media	\$2,900	13	\$2,431	\$469
Electric	\$5,000		\$4,797	\$203
Insurance	\$8,850	14	\$8,640	\$210
Mortgage	\$38,391		\$38,391	\$0
Office Supplies	\$1,800		\$2,155	(\$355)
Fuel Oil	\$5,000	15	\$5,224	(\$224)
Postage	\$1,150		\$803	\$347
Propane	\$5,000		\$6,458	(\$1,458)
Sewer	\$1,400		\$1,026	\$374
Snow Removal	\$6,000		\$5,894	\$106
Synod Assembly	\$700		\$0	\$700
Tax Preparation / Payroll	\$1,800		\$1,554	\$246
Technology	\$3,800	16	\$2,403	\$1,397
Transportation	\$2,500		\$728	\$1,772
Vanco (Simply Giving Expense)	\$1,500		\$1,319	\$181
<b>Preschool</b>	<b>\$6,288</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$1,266</b>	<b>\$5,022</b>
Registration	-\$600	18	-\$1,170	\$570
Tuition	-\$20,000	19	-\$24,568	\$4,568
Insurance	\$550		\$514	\$36
Field Trips	\$300		\$0	\$300
Supplies	\$2,500		\$2,431	\$69
Salaries & Payroll Taxes	\$22,238	20	\$23,913	(\$1,675)
Substitutes	\$300		\$60	\$240
Tuition Discounts	\$1,000	21	\$86	\$914
<b>Salaries/Benefits</b>	<b>\$155,696</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$104,566</b>	<b>\$51,130</b>
Continuing Education	\$1,000		\$50	\$950
Ministry Leader Salary	\$31,200	23	\$25,813	\$5,387
Parish Administrator	\$24,370	24	\$21,409	\$2,961
Dir. Volunteer Ministries	\$0	25	\$8,002	(\$8,002)
Pension/Medical	\$27,000	26	\$12,013	\$14,987
Seminary Support	\$2,000	27	\$2,006	(\$6)
Intern Co-Op Expenses	\$0	28	\$0	\$0
Pastor Salary/Housing	\$34,000	29	\$0	\$34,000
Soc. Sec. Employer Contribution	\$8,926	30	\$5,894	\$3,032
Supply Pastor	\$5,200	31	\$8,367	(\$3,167)
Pastoral Assistant	\$22,000		\$21,012	\$988

### Notes

1	Pledged	49 households submitted an estimate of giving card for 2019. 68 households did for 2018.
2	Non-Pledged	52 households who gave over the past year have not submitted an estimate of giving card for 2019. Comprised of active regular givers in 2018 estimated to give the same amount in 2019.
3	Loose Plate	Anonymous cash put in the offering plates Sundays and Wednesdays
4	Denominational Giving	10% of income
5	Missionary Support	Bob Moyer - Panama
6	Contingency	Expenses that do not fit budgeted categories.
7	Youth Group	Includes Family Ministry
8	Advertising	3 NW Press mailings @ \$300 + \$100 for Facebook ads

9	New Members	New Budget Category
10	Musicians	Musician stipends for Wednesday and Sunday worship.
11	Outdoor Worship Service	Two services at Ontelaunee Park @ \$150
12	Worship Supplies	Includes \$1900 for Handbell refurbishment
13	Communications & Media	Includes internet, website, and telephone
14	Insurance	Package, General Liability, Workers Comp, and Umbrella
15	Fuel Oil	Oil prices have dropped
16	Technology	Includes annual media licenses along with planned 2019 hardware upgrades, live streaming costs, and networking purchases.
17	Preschool	The projected model for Christian pre-school budgeting is based on the potential maximum expense, with the minimum number of children for continued ministry.
18	Registration	Income, or negative expense, received through pre-school registrations.
19	Tuition	Income, or negative expense, received through pre-school tuition.
20	Salaries & Payroll Taxes	This is based on the actual staff hours in support of a five half-day per week Christian pre-school year. 3% increase in September 2019. Increase in hours of .25 per day. Includes 7.5% of salary for PR Taxes.
21	Tuition Discounts	Discounts for multiple children from the same family
22	Salaries/Benefits	Assumes welcoming a new pastor effective July 1
23	Ministry Leader Salary	Salary adjusted to \$15/hr as of 1/1/19
24	Parish Administrator	3% increase reflected as of 1/1/19
25	Dir. Volunteer Ministries	Position was eliminated
26	Pension/Medical	\$12,000 Billy + 15,000 for 6 months @ \$30k
27	Seminary Support	Seminary support for Pastoral Assistant
28	Intern Co-Op Expenses	New in 2018. Extra-curricular expenses for Pastoral Intern.
29	Pastor Salary/Housing	6 months @ \$68k
30	Soc. Sec. Employer Contribution	8% of all salaries
31	Supply Pastor	For Sunday services for 6 months
		No Further Notes

### **Minutes of Previous Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 28, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 and was opened in prayer by Council President, Bill Kelly. He read Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." He added the verse from Jeremiah 29:11. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. We need to be patient in finding a new Pastor who will be fitted to New Life. He has enjoyed his time as President of Council, even though he faced many challenges. He wishes the next president success in their position that the right decisions will be made for the best interest of the congregation. He ended with a prayer.

Pastor Peggy Wuertele, our Designate Pastor, announced that she is here on Wednesday afternoons should anyone want to talk about issues they may be struggling with at this time. She is working on getting a new pastor, as soon as possible. She oversees 26 other congregations, and many of them are in need of a new pastor also. She explained the steps in the calling of a pastor. She is looking forward to meeting every one of us. She always enjoys her visits here. She is impressed at what a friendly and spiritual congregation we are. She said it is so wonderful to hear all our testimonies.

### **Annual Reports**

Annual reports were previously made available to all members for review. No questions or concerns were raised at the time of the meeting. Kurt Kiefer made motion to accept all Annual Reports as written. Edna Schlott seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **Approval of the Budget**

The 2018 proposed budget, which had been developed by the Budget Committee and previously approved by Council, was also made available to all congregational members for review prior to the meeting. Treasurer, Bill Shannon, reviewed any new additions to the budget and explained all facets of the proposed budget. No further questions or concerns were raised at this time of the meeting. Karen Betancourt made a motion to accept the 2018 Budget as written; George White seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **Election for Council**

Three openings, with the expiration of the terms of Wendy White, Brian Nallon, and the resignation of Melinda Lingenfelter, serving the remaining term of Billy Miller. Council nominated, Michael Bell, Larry Rowland and Christy Bishop to fill these positions. Bill Kelly asked if there were any nominations from the floor, there were none. Dave Hufnagle made a motion to accept the above council nominations, Shirley Blose seconded the motion, motion carried by unanimous vote. Members continuing to serve include Jody Hand, Wayne Klingaman, Ann Hufnagle, Michele Barra, Becky Stoudt, Bill Kelly, and Isaiah Betancourt. Jacquie Moser will continue to serve as Council Secretary.

### **Endowment Board**

Four openings existed for the Endowment Board. The Board nominated Mike Hand, Tom Bell and Bill Kelly. One more opening existed, Brian Nallon announced that if anyone was interested, they should contact him. David Fallinger made a motion to accept the Board's nominations, Mike Bell seconded the motion, motion carried by unanimous vote. Brian Nallon will continue to serve his third term.

Bill Kelly said he is proud to be a part of this church, and as he looks around the congregation, he sees so many people who are faithful servants.

Pastor Peggy closed us out in prayer.

Larry Rowland made a motion to adjourn the meeting, David Fallinger seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Faithfully Submitted,  
Jacquie Moser  
Church Council Secretary

### **2018 Vital Statistics in the Life of New Life**

#### **2018 Baptisms**

Micah Levi Mesker	June 10, 2018	Jack Robert Moyer	September 2, 2018
Harmony Durrenberger	October 25, 2017		

#### **2018 Funerals**

Carson Frey	January 11, 2018	Wayne Wilson	March 10, 2018
Lorraine Krause	April 29, 2018	Brian McAvoy	August 28, 2018

#### **2018 Confirmands**

Andrew Miller	Katie Browning
Cassie Browning	Katie Flower
Emily Bell	Jocelyn Tadley
Juli Wetzel	Kourtney

#### **2018 Weddings**

Melinda Lingenfelter December 28, 2018

### **Pastor Designate**

Saint Paul writes in his letter to the church at Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." This is what comes to mind as I think about my engagement with all of you at New Life during 2018.

You have been steadfast in this difficult year as we have searched for your next called pastor. Your call team has seen paperwork for five different candidates, and interviewed some of them. One really seemed like a great fit, but in the end personal issues made it necessary for him to say no. Even now, they are working with someone, discerning whether this might be your next pastor. All of this is done with prayer and holy conversations between the call team, the bishop's office and the candidates.

But in the midst of this, you have continued to have three worship services every week, held Christian education and bible study, provided service to the community and had remarkable fellowship.

All of your lay leaders have really stepped up, from the council to the worship leaders and the remarkable staff. You have raised up leaders in Sammy and Billy who are now providing incredible work through their giftedness. Sammy is a deeply thoughtful theologian. I have been serving as her "supervisor" as she completes an internship portion of her degree from United Lutheran Seminary. Her insights and understanding of the relationships and complexities of New Life are truly amazing. She also exhibits a real talent for hospitality. And Billy is a kind of free spirited and creative genius when it comes to programming. This "old" pastor has learned so much from them and all of you.

I don't want to forget the great work that Bill Shannon has done in organizing your congregation, not just in these past months as your parish administrator. He has been a literal Godsend for some time, in helping you all understand your financial realities.

2018 brought challenges, from the nursery school to the staffing, to the frustrations of searching for your next called pastor. You have weathered these things and continue to be faithful to your baptismal call to be disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. I will always value my time as your "designated pastor." I have been spiritually enriched. Thank you and thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted:  
Pastor Peggy Wuertele

### **Council President**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

I began my year as council president focusing on this verse from Proverbs. And yet I, as perhaps many of you do, had my own "understandings." First, I understood that I was alone as council president and expected to somehow know how to deal with the business of the church. And then I was blessed with our previous council president, Bill Kelly, who was so supportive, offering advice and encouragement every step of the way. Thank you, Bill!

I understood that it would be difficult to not have a pastor. And then I was blessed with Pastor Peggy, New Life's pastor designate. You may not be aware of how hard Pr. Peggy has been working behind the scenes at the Synod to find us candidates that would be a good fit for New Life. Then in addition to that (as well as all her other synodic work) she always found time to help me address any concerns that arose at New Life. Her thoughtfulness, wisdom, and patience have truly been a Godsend. Thank you, Pr. Peggy!

I understood that congregations without a pastor often see an ebb in the life of the church. And then I was blessed with the enthusiasm of both Sammy Kelly and Billy Miller. They were always ready to try something new, whether that was a change to Sunday School to better fit our students, fresh ideas of how we could worship on Wednesdays to reach people spiritually, or new ways to use technology to streamline volunteer management. I truly believe their endless hard work and enthusiasm have buoyed New Life up in a way that would have been impossible without them. Thank you, Sammy and Billy!

I understood that we had a myriad of office duties and a long hiring process for a parish administrator. And then I was blessed with both Jacquie Moser and Bill Shannon. Jacquie singlehandedly kept the office running before Bill was hired as parish administrator in August. The two then worked in tandem through the end of the year with training, organizing, and coordinating office duties to make the office a well-oiled machine. Thank you, Jacquie and Bill!

I understood that council was a lot of different perspectives and personalities that might not agree on everything. And then I was blessed with a council who cares so much about New Life and doing the absolute best for the church whether it be as mundane as getting the restrooms cleaned or as vital as creating a parish study report for pastoral candidates. Everyone always worked together to achieve the best (and maybe have a few laughs together along the way!) Thank you, Michele, Bill, Wayne, Larry, Christy, Mike, Tom, Becky, and Jody!

So after almost a year as council president, I truly understand what I knew all along - that we all must just keep trusting in the Lord. We may be uncertain, impatient, or frustrated with waiting for a pastor, but I have found God's blessings in this "Year Without A Pastor" through the people of New Life. Thank you all for your support, dedication, and as always, sharing the love of Jesus with as many people in as many ways as possible!

Blessings,

Ann Hufnagle, Council President



## Pastoral Assistant

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

2018 was certainly a year of trusting God through the unexpected for New Life. A year ago, most of us would not have thought we'd spend the entire year without a called Pastor to shepherd us. We could not foresee the staff fluctuations, candidate profiles, and joys and sorrows of life ahead of us, and still, we trusted. We trusted God had a plan and as 2019 rolls in, I continue to trust God will work to make our paths straight.

I am grateful for so many New Lifers and their leadership in 2018. Where would we be without Deb Madey stepping up to offer her musical gifts even more frequently as our musician pool depleted? Where would we be without Mike Bell spearheading our call team in a tireless search for a new leader? Where would we be without our Bible Study leaders keeping us focused, our worship leaders guiding us week after week, or our many volunteers quietly serving our people, ministries, and building? I continue to be grateful that we are not just a group of random people who trust in God, but a community... a family of believers each using their gifts to serve in beautiful ways. Thank you for that.

In 2018 I was especially grateful for our staff as we sought to lead as a team. I was grateful for all of the time and love Ann Flower poured out upon our tiniest family members. For Becci Bell allowing her passions for children and God's Word to shine through her with each day. For Debi Remaley never ceasing to show appreciation for our volunteers and for always spreading God's message of love with every conversation she holds. For Jacquie Moser's willingness to jump in anywhere and everywhere she can, for her passion for New Life and its people, for her assistance, understanding, and friendship over the years. For Billy Miller's deep care for the people of New Life and desire to be the best he can be. For Pastor Peggy's undeserved time and energy, given week after week, despite her equal obligations elsewhere. Thank you.

It has also been a joy and pleasure to have Christine Zarnowski and Bill Shannon jump on our team towards the end of the year. They have already been an incredible blessing to me and I look forward to the months to come together. As with any change, it was an adjustment to re-learn the roles of our positions as a ministry without full staffing, but I am grateful that the Staff Team and council have been assisting us in navigating these waters.

Speaking of the Staff Team, this is a team, created in 2018 to assist with staff management so our new Pastor will not have to. The Call Team has been eagerly sharing with each candidate the development of this new team. It is hoped that with a Staff Team in place, the pastor will no longer need to be the "boss," but instead be a spiritual guide that works with the Staff Team in leading the staff. This team has been working diligently and prayerfully already in doing so.

Speaking of the Call Team, as of this writing we have reviewed *five* profiles. Five. Each time we get a new one or meet a new person, I make a joke that this is what I imagine online dating to be like... "Will this work out in the long run or is this the last time we see each other? Will we like them? Will they like us? God, please give us a sign!" It has been tiring work, but I believe the Call Team has worked effectively and honestly throughout the past few months. I couldn't ask for more from them.

I have also had the pleasure of working with many New Lifers pursuing new efforts in 2018. Erin Miller modeled our mission statement, jumping in to lead the annual Trunk or Treat and in turn *sharing the love of God with and many people and in as many ways as possible*. "Video goofballs" have brought a new flare to our announcements and social media postings, spreading opportunities to experience God's love far and wide. Michele and Billy led us through the stations of the cross in Holy Week, diving into what it meant for Jesus to be our ultimate sacrifice. Wanda Sittler began editing our monthly newsletters. Our Stewardship Team finished a yearlong emphasis on holistic stewardship, taking extra time for *time*. Volunteers

interviewed New Lifers about their Time and Talents so we can try a new way of organizing and notifying volunteers in 2019. Ann Hufnagle dove right into our “year without a Pastor” as council president. Kurt Kiefer has stepped up assisting with our weekly worship technology. Wednesday night worshipers participated in a five week RESET worship series, filled with a full service of drumming, card writing, and weekly challenges. Pastor Kim confirmed our catechism students, leaving traces of the Holy Spirit everywhere for us to find unceasingly. God has been at work through New Life in 2018 and I am thankful that work.

And as we take each new step into 2019, whether it be initiating the “Planning Center Online” software or moving forward with a new pastoral candidate, I pray we continue to lean not on our *own* understandings, not on our *spouse’s* understandings, and not on our *friend’s* understandings, but in all ways submit to God. It isn’t always easy to know what this means, but I believe together, as a family, grounded in the hope we have in Christ and the living Word given to us, we can lift each other up and together submit to the One who will make our path through 2019 a straight one.

God’s Peace,  
Sammy Kelly

### **Ministry Assistant**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

As we enter into a new year, a new moment in our faith journey, a new phase in our church’s walk in service, we look at so many things. We look at both past and future to seek the path God has laid out and the one He is calling us to.

This past year we have climbed over many trials and accomplished great things with our church family and within our youth and worship. In 2018, we started 2 new youth programs, one being our Sunday School for elementary aged students. As we recognized the falling away of families and students in 2016-17, we decided to make a change. We purchased a new curriculum, reorganized a schedule and rallied up 17 willing spiritual teachers to help create a functional fulfilling Sunday school class for our 12 students. As we celebrate this exciting journey, we see the struggles that come with new things and are looking forward to working out needed changes in the curriculum and structure of this ministry for a sustainable future for our elementary students.

This past year we tried out a new model for our middle and high school students with the introduction of a new worship/fellowship night called SNAC “Sunday Nights Aimed at Christ” where we invited our middle and high school students to join together for games and learning. While this endeavor fed our current youth, it was not conducive for new or already busy schedules. We have decided to pull back from this weekly event, looking instead at engaging their lives in a way that incorporates their current extracurriculars and provides them with a steady and full faith growing experience. As we look ahead, we seek out new opportunities for retreats and service opportunities as well as welcoming into our facilities Northwestern’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes group. FCA is a faith-filled youth group started at the school that has been meeting in students’ homes. They have requested to join us here at New Life in the New Year.

Yet another year filled with many worship styles such as “worship on the water” days where dozens of families gathered multiple times at Leaser Lake with trucks stacked high with watercrafts (really high see Facebook page for pictures) for a time of fellowship and worship, enjoying the beauty of our local community. This past year we welcomed many into our Wednesday evening experiences as we joined with James Harvey who led us musically for a few months, Teen Challenge, and multiple guest preachers. We worshiped in different locations and in different ways when we met in the fellowship hall for a small intimate gathering or a meal or to be led through a series like the R.E.S.E.T series Sammy Kelly led us in. We look forward to following God’s call into the New Year as we look to provide these same opportunities on Sundays with live music as well as continuing to explore new options for our Wednesday evening worship services.

All in all, with the bumps aside it has been a great year of ministry. Through your support, New Life has been a blessing to dozens of families, youth, and strangers lakeside when they needed it most. New Life’s mission is to share the love of God with as many people and in as many ways as possible and with your help we will continue to find new ways and raise up old ways to support our community and world. Thank you.

William Miller

Ministry Assistant

### **Interim Parish Administer & Substitute Office Assistant**

It has been another interesting year here around New Life. I was privileged to serve New Life in the office from January through August until we had a new Parish Administrator in place. I loved every minute of serving New Life and working in this office.

I was then blessed to train Bill Shannon, our new Parish Administrator. As you can imagine, if you know Bill at all, he is a very smart and organized guy so he picked up the workings of the office pretty quickly. I will miss not being here in the office in 2019, but let me assure you that New Life is lucky to have Bill in the office at the head of the reigns.

In Christ’s Love,  
Jacquie Moser  
Office Volunteer

### **Parish Administrator**

I began my Parish Administrator journey in the first week of August 2018, depending heavily on Jacquie’s experience and guidance. As I write this report in January 2019, I am ever more grateful for her kind, thoughtful and faithful service to New Life and for her unselfish sharing of the hundreds of nuanced things to learn in administering to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

August and September were a total blur! I could attempt to list all of the tasks that needed to be accomplished or administered to. Or I could highlight the Top 10. Neither would adequately describe the avalanche of new things I had to process in my brain. I started on August 6<sup>th</sup> with an empty briefcase and by the end of September it was overflowing with notes on only about half of what I am supposed to do and

how to do it. I again have to thank Jacquie for her patience while I recorded the details of “all things New Life”.

In September I was able to scratch the surface on building maintenance. With a huge assist from Billy Miller, Bill Kelly, and Allison Conrey, we accomplished a major cleaning of the church in advance of the visit from a pastoral candidate. In addition to demonstrating pride in our building, the effort also gave us some ideas as to how to organize the weekly cleaning of the church in the future.

A not-so-traditional **Fall Clean-up** happened primarily on Saturday October 27. We tried something new, by organizing the clean-up tasks for 2 or 3 person teams. The idea originated with an offer from Wayne Klingaman and Bill Dellicker who have volunteered to do some occasional project work after Tuesday morning men’s Bible study at Katie’s. For Wayne and Bill, we organized tasks that can be accomplished in under 2 hours and on a day and time that works for them. For longer projects, it may span several weeks. They refinished the wooden window frames in the Sanctuary and they completed a total re-organization of the Utility room.

Many thanks to the following New Lifer’s with respect to the Fall Clean-up. Wayne and Bill, Larry, Bobby, Billy, Sammy, Linda, Christy, Cara, Mina, Teri, Olivia, Elena, Harvey, Brian, David, Dave H., June and Bill S. Also, Dave Backenstoos, Joe and Christine Zarnowski and Shirley and David Blöse.

This Advent and Christmas season was my first time through as administrator. Behind the scenes are dozens of New Lifers, giving generously of their time and talents... musicians, teachers, Sunday school students, singers, cleaners, ushers, worship leaders, and the list goes on and on. As busy as we are in our personal lives, it is truly amazing and awe inspiring that these people make the time to walk the talk of Jesus. We even carried out the New Life Christmas Eve tradition of 3 worship services, despite being in the middle of a call process. Many thanks to Pr. Bruce Potteiger and Pr. Larry Pickens for leading us in worship that day.

Also worthy of praise and thanks are Sammy and Billy who led a memorable Christmas morning worship service. Tim Mahon provided musical leadership that morning as all Christmas Carols were sung acapella, guided by Tim’s melodious voice. God surely is watching over us at New Life and we are quite thankful for that.

New Life is really an amazing place, with the most amazing people. I am absolutely thrilled and blessed to be able to serve with and for the people of our church family. Take a minute to look at the church calendar; also, the weekly Announcements Packet and the Monthly Newsletter. Our faith in Jesus is strong. Our faith and care and concern for one another is also very strong. Lord, we thank-you for the many New Life servants who support our three weekly worship services, our missions in Panama and Allentown, our Sunday School teachers, our excellent music ministry, our Pre School teachers, our Council Leaders, our SNAC members, our Bible study members, Sammy, Billy, Jacquie, and on and on and on.

May God continue to bless His church and His people. Bill Shannon

### **Call Team Report**

The Call Team is comprised of (7) members of New Life and includes Michael Bell (chair), Reed Conrey, Dave Hufnagle, Theresa Keim, Sammy Kelly, Deb Madey and Gail Post. During February and March of 2018, the Call Team worked with Council and the Synod to assemble New Life’s Parish Study Report. This report serves as our congregation’s “resume” for potential candidates. The Report was finalized in April and distributed to potential candidates being vetted by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Pastor Peggy Wuertele has led the search for potential candidates on behalf of the synod.

Initially, we received Rostered Minister Profiles for two candidates, both located out-of-state. The Call Team reviewed the profiles, agreed there was a desire to interview both and developed questions for the candidates. When contacted to schedule the interviews, one of the candidates removed their name from consideration to explore opportunities closer to home. The Call Team subsequently held two web-based video interviews with the remaining candidate. While having conversations via the web was a bit awkward, we thoroughly enjoyed the discussions. They were very open, honest and God centered exchanges.

While in this process, (2) more candidates expressed interest in New Life. It was apparent from the Rostered Minister Profile of (1) of these candidates that they would not be a good fit for New Life. The second candidate was local and the Call Team took the opportunity to meet with them personally. The meeting went well but all agreed that the original candidate we spoke with via the web seemed to have greater gifts to potentially lead New Life. This candidate flew in Labor Day weekend to visit with us. The Call Team spent several hours with the candidate and had the chance to hear them preach as a guest preacher at a local congregation. The Call Team was very impressed with this candidate and was close to recommending the candidate to Council. Unfortunately, the candidate was not able to continue in the call process with New Life. They were drawn to New Life but were not in a position to relocate for personal reasons including the magnitude of the decision to move far away from extended family and needing to deal with a parent's illness.

With this news, the Synod continued to search for additional candidates.

In mid-November, the Call Team received the profile of a 5<sup>th</sup> candidate and we had the opportunity to meet with this person for several hours in early December. The meeting went well and, in January, the Call Team will be attending a worship service led by this candidate. This has been a long process but God has a plan for New Life. The Call Team will continue to see where we are led to find a pastor for New Life. We would like to thank Pastor Peggy for her efforts and Bill Shannon for his help with handling the logistics that have been needed. Please continue to pray for God's guidance for Pastor Peggy, the Call Team and New Life.

Michael Bell

### **New Life Christian Preschool**

New Life Christian Preschool (NLCPS) had 19 amazing 3-5 year olds that meet two to four times a week in our 3rd school year. Teachers are Rebecca Bell and Christine Zarnowski. We would like to thank Ann Flower for all of her hard work, dedication and love that she gave to NLCPS the first two years of the ministry.

Classes are currently running 9-11:45 am Monday - Friday. Preschool registration is now open for the 2019-2020 school year. We will continue to have classes 5 days a week if we meet the enrollment requirements for the next school year. You can receive information by contacting the school at [preschool@nlelc.com](mailto:preschool@nlelc.com). Registration forms are also available in the Narthex. We look forward to our 4<sup>th</sup> year of the preschool ministry. If you are interested in helping in any way, including serving as a substitute teacher, please let us know.

In class we learn through play, STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math) time, Bible, literacy, math, art and science.

NLCPS had our second graduation in May 2018 where we celebrated nine of our students as they moved onto kindergarten in the fall. We had a train theme and sang songs that we learned throughout the year.

In October 2018 the students and families went on a field trip to the Allentown and Auburn Railroad. The students really enjoyed the train ride and visit to the pumpkin patch for a picnic lunch. There was even a camp fire to warm up by. We had about 60 people attend, and we filled a passenger train car!

On Sunday, December 16, 2018 our preschoolers presented the Nativity story to family and friends in our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Pageant. Thank you to Billy Miller, Deb Madey and the Drum Circle for helping put on a memorable pageant! The kids sang songs, with both familiar verses and new verses that told of Jesus' birth. Everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship afterwards with yummy cookies.

Graduation for the 2018-2019 class will be on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 3 pm.

Please continue to keep the ministry, teachers and board members in prayer as we continue this amazing mission for our local preschoolers.

Becci and Christine

### **Vacation Bible School**

Shipwrecked no more! This past July we hosted yet another successful Vacation Bible School week. Five days of crafts, snacks, drama, music, and fun as we celebrated our God's gift, Jesus, through our theme Shipwrecked.

Thanks to countless hours and over 30 volunteers (middle school and up), alongside your support, donations and boats, we were able to host around 60 pre-k and elementary aged students along with their families for a dramatic journey through stories of the Bible and providing a safe fun place to learn about God.

We look forward to coming back later in 2019 to jump back into the fun. I wonder what we will learn this time!

William Miller & Christy Bishop

### **Monday Night Adult Bible Study**

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*  
~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

On Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, a dedicated and growing group of New Lifers and friends participate in Bible study. We are hungry for God's Word to be alive and active in our lives. Our studies continue to be facilitated by Wayne and Terri Klingaman and Deb Ritter. We have ranged from 15-25 participants! This year we engaged in two lengthy life changing studies.

Our first study began as a 7-week study and ended up being a 14-week study on *Discerning the Voice of God*, penned by Priscilla Schirer. Throughout this study, we discovered the route to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. We learned how surrender unlocks God's many blessings intended for us; how surrender centers us in His will and helps us discern His voice in everyday life. We came to know and understand God's voice through His Word; to recognize the Holy Spirit's character, language, and tone of voice, as well as to experience a deeper relationship with God. This study strengthened our daily walk with Him - a very powerful and personal study.

See below an awesome breakdown of who God is throughout the Bible

### **GOD OF THE BIBLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

*In Genesis*, He is the breath of life.

*In Exodus*, He is the Passover Lamb.

*In Leviticus*, you'll get to see Him as your High Priest.

*In Numbers*, He's the fire by night.

*In Deuteronomy*, He is Israel's Guide.

*In Joshua*, He's salvation's choice.

*In Judges*, He is Israel's guard.

*In Ruth*, He'll be the Kinsman Redeemer.

*In 1st and 2nd Samuel*, you'll see Him as your trusted Prophet.

*In Kings and Chronicles*, He's sovereign.

*In Ezra*, He is the true and faithful Scribe.

*In Nehemiah*, you'll see Him as the re-builder of walls and of lives. *In Esther*, you'll see Him as courage.

*In Job*, He'll be the timeless Redeemer.

*In Psalms*, He is the morning song.

*In Proverbs*, He is our wisdom.

*In Ecclesiastes*, He's a time and a season.

*In Song of Solomon*, you'll see Him as the lover's dream. *In Isaiah*, He is the Prince of Peace.

*In Jeremiah*, He is the weeping prophet.

*In Lamentations*, He's the cry for Israel.

*In Ezekiel*, He is the call from sin.

*In Daniel*, He's the stranger in the fire.

*In Hosea*, He is the forever Faithful.

*In Joel*, He is the Spirit's power.

*In Amos*, He'll be the strong arms that will carry you.

*In Obadiah*, He's the Lord our Savior.

*In Jonah*, you'll see Him as the great missionary.

*In Micah*, He is the promise of peace.

*In Nahum*, He's our strength and our shield.

*In Habakkuk and Zephaniah*, He brings revival.

*In Haggai*, He restores that which was lost.

*In Zechariah*, He is our fountain.

*In Malachi*, He's the Son of righteousness, rising with healing in His wings.

### **GOD OF THE BIBLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

*In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*, He's not just God, now He's the Messiah.

*In Acts*, He's the raining fire from heaven.

*In Romans*, He's the grace of God.

*In Corinthians*, He's the power of love.

*In Galatians*, He is freedom from the curse of sin. *In Ephesians*, He's our glorious treasure.

*In Philippians*, He's the servant's heart. *In Colossians*, He's God and the Trinity.

*In Thessalonians*, He's our calling King.

*In Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, He's our mediator and our faithful pastor.

*In Hebrews*, He's the everlasting courage.

*In James*, He is the one who still heals the sick.

*In 1st and 2nd Peter*, He is our faithful Shepherd.

*In John and Jude*, He is the Lover coming for His bride.

*In the Revelation*, in the very end, when it's all over and said and done, He is and will always be the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the Lamb of God, the Great I AM, our Savior forever.

Our second study was another powerful and life changing study titled *The Good Book* by Derron Spoo and Kyle Idleman. With engaging stories and fascinating Biblical insights, Deron Spoo and Kyle Idleman guided us into the Bible's forty biggest ideas (chapters) and how they apply to life today. This study affirmed God's word as timeless and ever relevant as we navigate the challenges and struggles of life, to know our purpose, to grow our faith, to become more Christlike. We explored in God's word the following: In the beginning, God's grace when life gets messy, God is bigger than life, tough love in troubled times, Jesus enters the building (our lives), Jesus doesn't leave us as we are, following God and His message for us. It was quite a 9-week journey! Together we asked and discussed questions that matter most and discovered why God's life-changing truths never fail.

*Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

We are excited to see how and where God will lead us in the coming year. He is always up to something amazing to grow our faith and draw us nearer to His very heart. Stay tuned and prayerfully consider joining us in study, prayer and fellowship on Monday nights and beyond!

In God's abiding love,  
Wayne, Terri, Deb

### **Early Bird Bible Study**

EBBS is a ladies group that meets every Friday at 6:00 am (yes, that is am) ☺ for breakfast, Bible study and fellowship. We are currently meeting at New Tripoli Dinner, just a hop, skip, and a jump up route 309. Women 16 years or older are welcome to join us. Feel free to jump in at any time.

This past year we studied the books of Acts and Psalms, and are now finishing up a book called The Cost of Discipleship, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We meet all year, weather permitting. Contact Debi Remaley with any questions 610-767-9232 or debremaley@ymail.com

### **Sisters in Spirit (SIS)**

SIS (Sisters in Spirit) is the name for the women's ministry at New Life. All New Life women high school age and up are part of Sisters in Spirit. The group seeks to unite, encourage and support its members while nurturing their faith in Christ.

In January 2018, Cindy Kelly stepped down as SIS coordinator and the leadership team regrouped under Deb Remaley to determine how or if to continue in the future. All activities and events were put on hold, except for bible studies. As of the end of 2018 we do not have anyone who is willing and able to lead going forward. We continue to seek God's plan and pray for the group, a leader and the leadership team. If you are interested in serving in this role, please contact Cindy Kelly or Deb Remaley for more details.

The 2018 SIS Retreat Leadership Team also took a break for the year and focused their energies on the 2019 Retreat planned for April.

Through the year, SIS continued to have three active Bible studies called SHIFT (Seeking Him in Faith Together). The Thursday night group is studying Revelation and met from 7 to 8:30 pm. Jen Mesker and Lisa Nallon are leading the study and do a large amount of research to provide in-depth insights and background into the scriptures. The Tuesday morning study group met at SPADE, a Christian retreat center in Steinsville, from 9:30 to 11:30 am and is currently focused on Women of the Bible. The early bird group met at Katie's on Friday mornings at 6 am. Check the Announcements Packet or the Newsletter for current schedule information and contact information.



In the coming year, consider adding one or more of these studies to your week and deepen your faith. You will truly be blessed.

Your sister in Christ, Cindy Kelly

## **Music**

Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Psalm 150: 1-5

The **Sunday Music Worship Team** continued to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:15 PM throughout 2018. We are as blended a group of planners, as is our blended musical worship on Sunday! Previously led by Pastor Scott, who opened our hearts and minds to the praise of Jesus and the history and purpose of music in worship, our group continues to prepare the congregation for worship through the selection of relevant and meaningful hymns and contemporary praise choruses under the ever competent and resourceful Sammy Kelly.

We welcome all who are interested in this exciting process of using the vehicle of music to bring worshipers ever closer to God's living word.

Our members this past year included: Samantha Kelly, Deb Madey, Gail Post, Linda Bowman, Linda Moyer, Morgan Moss and Edna Schlott. We celebrate Morgan's graduation from high school and new adventures in the study of music at Temple! Thank you to Steven Berger and Sara Hunsicker for providing service music and special musical selections during the seasons of Easter and Christmas while on their semester break from college.

Super Elf: Billy Miller and music director: Deb Madey, along with Sunday School teachers and students, teamed together to present a Christmas program on Sunday, December 23. Songs, and an action poem taken from their Sunday School Curriculum, were presented by preschool and elementary students, while catechism and high school students provided narration. Special thanks to Brian and Lisa Nallon and Allison Conrey for their support and participation in this program. Also, an interactive Bible Beat session, complete with Drum Circle and congregational accompaniment, was presented as elementary students displayed their skills in playing rhythm sticks, shakers and bells. The rhythms were added to "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" at the end of the service. Kourtney Keim, Olivia Emens and Jocelyn Tadley shared their beautiful vocal talents in singing "O Children Come" and "Mary Did You Know?" during the Prelude and the Offering.

**New Life's Chancel Bell Choir** continues to meet on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM. We offer anthems at Easter and Christmas and throughout the church year. This year, we downsized from a three-octave choir to a two-octave choir with 7 members. Along with other selections, we presented a joyous Processional and Fanfare at Easter, a reflective Advent selection and a Celtic-style First Noel on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Bernice Flynn, Barb Mohr, Robyn Cimerol, Julie Cloonan, Gail Post, Rebecca Sinton and Lynn Begley for an awesome year.

**Jammin' for Jesus** is a small group ministry that uses the vehicle of musical praise to tell the story of Jesus and to share His love in worship, praise and fellowship. We met at 7:00 PM on Thursdays to rehearse. Thank you to Michele Barra, Becky Sinton, Gail Post, Olivia Emens, Theresa Keim, Billy Miller and Tom Bell for serving in this way. Our very own ukulele group: Olivia, Savannah, and Tom added their strums as we presented "Spending My Time" with Deb Madey and the Jammin' singers.

**New Life Drum Circle** continued to meet Monday and Friday mornings 9:30 - 10:30 AM throughout 2018. This group has developed beyond devotions and prayers and drumbeats to a loving support system for its participants. I am continuously blessed by the prayers I read in group texts as we lift up each other and our families and our fur families.

We enjoy adding our rhythms to occasional Sunday and Wednesday services and are blessed to accompany New Life Preschool during a special music time on Mondays and Fridays as well.

We thank Becci Bell, Ann Flower and Christine Zarnowski for inviting us to accompany the preschool graduation ceremony and Christmas Pageant again this year.

We invite all to come drum with us! Thank you to our current members: Bernice Flynn, Beverly Weaver, Susan Hilbert, Lauren Ondra, Rene Backenstoos, Barb McAvoy, Ruth Shafer and Jacquie Moser.

Deb Madey

## **2018 Missionary Report from Panama**

We were made to love one another. Yes, God, the Creator of everything created you and me to love one another. How do we do that? By sharing the love of Jesus with as many people as possible and in as many ways as possible. But, how does Bob do that? I'm glad you asked. By helping people with their homework, helping with health issues, helping them have clean, fresh water, by teaching them from the Bible how one is supposed to live. Sometimes we can love them just by listening or being a friend. Here in Panama there are many opportunities to BE the Bible for someone.

This year we supplied many Bibles, helped one man see again, and helped others with glasses and meds for epilepsy. I helped rebuild a house that fell down, built another Rainwater Recovery System. The church has been going well, but the future looks amazing. I recently was given the permission to show Christian movies, preach, and have special events in 3 other churches. I was asked to give several talks here in the Catholic mission on serving and Christian Values. Personally, I have had my faith grow even more as, more and more, God proves to me that when he says something, it will happen. I trust like never before, and I THOUGHT I had a lot of trust before. We CAN do all things through CHRIST who strengthens us. We just need to try!

After 8 years here in the mission field, I have seen a lot of positive change. Some with the government here and some with New Life's presence here. I have seen people grow physically and spiritually. I have seen children grow up and graduate school. I've had some go off to college. I have really seen a rise in the quality of life in various ways. Just to pick out one thing, the Hato Chami School just built a prayer and reflection room! How cool is that when we can't even mention 'God' in the schools in the states. They invite God into the school.

2018 was a very good year. Thank you, God, New Life and friends. Together we can make 2019 even better. Believe in the power of the cross. Believe in the red letters of the Bible. Then let God steer your life to a life of peace and contentment.

Joyfully Serving Him, Bobby Mo

## **World Missions**

New Life Church, the body of Christ, has been blessed and empowered to be the heart, hands and feet of Christ in its mission's ministry. Thanks be to God for His grace and blessings for us to share His glory with our brothers and sisters in Panama, Allentown, Northwestern Lehigh County, Emerald United Methodist Church, and Texas. Our Father is so awesome. 2018 has been a real walk of faith. When faced with challenges and uncertainties, New Lifers were convicted to respond to God's call through their time, gifts,

sacrifice, cooking, laboring, sharing and loving. What a joy to serve, especially alongside of brothers and sisters in Christ.

One of the founding goals of the New Life World Missions Ministry was to grow hearts for serving Jesus! Thank you, Father, for blessing and prospering this ministry and New Life in its outreach in world and local missions. Praising God for His blessing for and work through Bobby Moyer, our/His missionary in Panama. God continues to magnify His love for Bobby and through him to be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in San Felix as he continues to share Jesus as Lord and Savior.

As a way of praising God, please see some of the many projects that World Missions was able to support in 2018. In Panama – Support for our missionary; upgrades to water systems; installation of a water retention system, provide school supplies and Bibles, repairs to a generator, providing some recreation supplies, mouse-proofed a storage room, and provided some food. Locally, Shirley and David Blöse have loaded and transported thousands of pounds of food from Emerald United Methodist Church to Jerusalem House to feed the hungry. Missions helped support five ministry projects at Jerusalem House including outdoor picnic meals, holiday events where meals (turkeys, potatoes, canned goods, etc.) were distributed for Thanksgiving; 70 backpacks and school supplies were provided to the youth and New Life was blessed to provide approximately \$800 in coats for youth and adults for winter and for Christmas. Thank you, Lord.

New Life was especially blessed this year when the Dorney's facilitated a "Project Storm" team to Texas to provide support and aid to flood victims. World Missions was also able to help support Emerald Methodist Church with a \$1,000 gift toward replacing their truck, which is used to provide food for distribution to Lehigh Valley food pantries, including Jerusalem House. Also, praising God for blessing New Life with providing financial support for medical intervention and prayer to restore sight to Emelio in the Comarca in San Felix.

Thank you, New Life family and World Missions volunteers, for your continued support of our World Missions Ministry. We are blessed to be a blessing. Thank you, God!

Shalom,  
World Missions Team

### **CROP Walk**

In 2018 our New Life walkers put their best foot forward to make the Allentown CROP Walk a bid success raising over \$2,000. Thanks to organizer, Billy Miller, and everyone that stepped up to feed the hungry through Church World Services outreach in the Lehigh Valley and the world overall. Special thanks to first time walkers, including Sammy Metzger and family, and veteran walkers, including June Tatkovsky. Together our walkers and sponsors are helping us Fight Hunger One Step at a Time.



Regards,  
Larry Rowland

### **Thrivent Recap**

In 2018, five New Life members directed \$942 in Choice Dollars to New Life. In addition, some members of New Life have designated financial support to various non-profits throughout the Valley. Choice Dollars donated to New Life in 2017 was \$1,184 by 10 members. Some of the lower giving in 2018 may be due to New Lifers donating their Choice Dollars to the other non-profit organizations that they care about now that they are on the recipient list. Don't forget, you have until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to donate your 2018 Thrivent Choice Dollars before they expire!

In 2018 New Lifers led four Action Teams; one by Michele Barra for the bonfire and one by Mike Hand for Night in the Country which benefited World Missions Ministry and two by Sammy (RESET and dinner church). Please be reminded that each Thrivent benefit member gets to do two Thrivent Action Teams per year, each worth \$250 of seed money. There are presently 64 Thrivent members at New Life, creating an opportunity to have up to 128 Action Teams in 2019... that is a whole lot of sharing God's love in Jesus with many people!

As a reminder Sammy Kelly, Michele Barra & Jen Hand are around as congregational advocates. They have offered to help me pass along any Thrivent related information that needs to get to you in my absence. If anybody else would like to be an advocate for Thrivent please let me know. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Lastly, thank you to those who attended my various events throughout the year...whether they be educational workshops, member appreciations, or any other event in the community. If you would like to see workshops about specific topics, please send me a note and let me know.

Andrew F. Filler

### **New Life Endowment Fund**

New Life's Endowment fund was established to facilitate planned giving in support of benevolent ministries. A 10% tithe of all gifts received and 5% of the year-end balance is gifted equally for capital improvement/debt reduction, local benevolent Christian ministries, national/international Christian ministries, and a discretionary portion that may be allocated for any of the other three categories. The fund is separate from any other fund at New Life, and no proceeds are used to support the ongoing budget of New Life.

This year's balance as of 12-31-2018, before distribution was \$135,415.41. There were no additional funds added this year, beyond interest. The amount of \$6,770 (5%) will be distributed as follows. An amount of \$1,692.50, which reflects the one-quarter distribution for capital improvement/debt reduction will be applied to the Building Fund. Another \$1692.50 representing the discretionary portion of the Endowment Fund distributions, will be applied as indicated below.

This was the second year that the fund has been invested with Thrivent. With the recent market fluctuation, the Fund has seen a decrease of about 2% for the year. Although the fund has lost some equity, we are still committed to blessing the following charities.

### **Local Benevolent Causes**

#### **Jerusalem House (\$846.25)**



Jerusalem House is a non-denominational Christ-centered mission in center-city Allentown providing physical, evangelical and discipleship services to inner city residents whom church and society find it most difficult to reconcile to God and community. JH serves as a resource for those who are unable to overcome their social handicaps, dysfunctions, and/or inability to achieve even the most basic hopes and dreams of society; these people are (or are at risk of) falling through the cracks of other benevolent efforts.

Jerusalem House serves neighbors (1) physically, by providing, food, clothing and other resources to those who are often isolated by society's boundaries; and (2) spiritually, by providing a faith-based fellowship in worship, Bible-study, and teen and young adult gang outreach where each person is accepted, encouraged and supported in the process of restoring them to social stability. As an evangelical mission, the desire to share Jesus Christ is foundational to all JH does.

#### **Truth for Women of the Lehigh Valley (\$846.25)**



Truth For Women

In the name of Jesus, Truth for Women seeks to transform women from the inside out by confronting life issues through support, education and advocacy. A focus for the past two years has been

the establishment of Truth House, which provides shelter, counseling, and life-skills training for women through the region who are escaping from sexual slavery.

### **National / International Benevolent Causes**

#### **Ngabe-Bugle Comarca Mission Ministry (1,692.50)**

A growing expression of global mission is providing for the basic education needs among the Ngabe-Bugle Indians, the indigenous people relegated to the Comarca (or "reservation") near San Felix, Panama. A critical part of saving and improving the lives of the children of these tribes is providing primary education, for which these people of subsistence-level poverty must still provide their own supplies. Our mission partners provide these items, are currently seeking improve the rudimentary dormitory where some children stay who must walk several hours to attend school, and are developing egg production and terraced gardening for nutritional support, all as means of conveying the good news of God's love for all people.



### **Discretionary Distribution**

#### **Flint Hill Farm (846.50)**

Flint Hill Farm in Coopersburg is meeting the educational and nutritional needs of our area while bridging the growing gap between the family farm and the suburban and urban communities of the Greater Lehigh Valley. FHF's mission of "Feeding the Spirit, Educating the Mind, Preserving the Community," is manifested through on-farm opportunities for young adults with mental and physical challenges, agro-educational programs for pre-K through HS, and year-round educational programs for community residents of all ages. Most inspiring is the opportunity for lost and wayward individuals throughout the Valley to find sanctuary at FHF, learning life skills for independent and sustainable living, and simply being bathed in God's grace. Find out more at [www.flinthill-farm.org](http://www.flinthill-farm.org).



#### **Lowhill Food Bank (\$423)**

Christ's Church at Lowhill Food Pantry opened its doors in May, 2009, in a one-room school house on the grounds of Christ's Church. The mission of the pantry is to serve the residents of Lowhill, Lynn, Heidelberg and Weisenberg Townships who are in need of food assistance. The pantry is in partnership with area churches, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the community at large. The pantry is managed by an all-volunteer work force and is governed by a steering committee.

#### **Northern Lehigh Food Bank (\$423)**

Northern Lehigh Food Bank distributes bags of non-perishable foods, and fresh and frozen foods are occasionally included. The pantry provides assistance to residents of the Northern Lehigh School District and surrounding areas. Ongoing, one-time, and emergency assistance is regularly provided to individuals and families in need. The food bank is partnered with other local pantries as well as churches.

**The Mission Endowment Fund Board** is responsible for managing the investment of the Endowment Fund holdings and for recommending beneficiaries of distributions. The Board is comprised of five members of New Life, each serving a three-year term, with a max of three consecutive terms. Brian Nallon has reached his term limit for serving on the board. Mike Hand will be taking the role of Board Chairperson. He will be serving with Jen Hand, Linda Meckel, Thomas Bell and Mike Conrey.

Please remember New Life in your will, consider naming the church as a beneficiary of your insurance policy, and explore many creative ways to save taxes through planned giving, including matured stocks and bonds, all for the sake of perpetually sustaining the work of New Life in reaching out with God's love in Jesus. For more information on how you can help grow this fund, please contact Brian.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Nallon, Chairperson, New Life Mission Endowment Fund Board