

New Life News

Volume 1, February 2020

Riz's Reflections...

Do not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

– Romans 12:2

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

– Matthew 6:31-33

Dear Church,

Peace be with you. As we find ourselves at the beginning of the new year, with many of the same issues of yesteryear that plague our nation and the world, it might be in our collective interest to examine our eyes. For those of you who wear corrective lenses the benefit cannot be underscored. However, if you have good vision and have tried on another's prescription lenses you know that your vision is no longer in focus. In order for us to lead the healthiest lives possible and live in harmony with creation, our outlook is paramount.

Outlook is defined as your point of view or general attitude to life. Our view of things and people shape our experiences. This can be summed up in the old adage that says, "When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade." The good news of the Kingdom of God confronts our often-erroneous human knowledge and perspective and reshapes it with the lens of Christ. When Jesus becomes the lens in which we view the world, that which seems stressful can be seen in a new light. The world becomes a place in which strangers are not seen as hostile threats to our existence but rather as potential friends to live out the good news with. When we overcome an obstacle or circumstance instead on just being thankful we survived and move on, we can teach others from our wisdom. When we experience the end of something in our lives, we can express gratitude and look ahead toward new beginnings.

Our attitude is central on our journey in this life, and has real consequences

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We are
An
Inclusive
Faith
Community

February Bowl of Abundance

Loose change in the offering plates and Bowl of Abundance this month goes to Northside Healing Space operated by our sister church Liberty Community Church in North Minneapolis. North Minneapolis has the greatest health, wealth, and education disparities in the state of Minnesota, which Northside Healing Space addresses with their safe and culturally celebratory healing space. Programs at NHS include assisting victims of commercial sexual exploitation, providing K-12 educational support, supportive housing and workforce development all geared towards ending cycles of historical and generational trauma.

Riz's Reflections... (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

to your health. A study from the Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland tells us that there is a direct link to cellular age and your attitudes towards aging. In the study, those with positive outlooks towards aging showed greater physical health and cognition than those with negative attitudes on aging.

This new scientific data confirms the wisdom of our spiritual ancestors who wrote in Proverbs 23:7, "As someone thinks within himself, so he is." Jesus shared the enormous value of recalibrating our attitude on this journey. Even if you have a negative attitude your entire life, it is never too late. The Kingdom of God invites one and all to live in the light.

On March 22, Dr. Keith Buckley will share with the church some new findings regarding stress and how our attitude and reaction can impact our health. We invite you to join us for that sermon and adult education class to follow. If you know someone who is really stressed and struggling with their attitude towards life, you will want to invite them to learn how stress can be good.

Life will throw you curveballs, but when you see it not as an attack but an opportunity for a home run, your Kingdom attitude is leading the way. May we all begin our new year with seeking the Kingdom of God and all its righteousness. To God be the Glory!

In Christ,

Rev. Riz

Learning about loving God's creation in the Valentine season

Watch your bulletins for more information regarding Earth Care-focused Adult Faith Circles coming up on February 16th and 23rd. Our plans for the 16th are currently being firmed up and we are very excited to announce that our guest speaker for the last Sunday of the month will be J. Drake Hamilton from Fresh Energy. As you probably know, she is an excellent speaker and we are so thrilled that she has recovered from



her extremely serious accident last year in order to be able to lead the discussion regarding her involvement along with other Minnesotans at the U. N.'s meetings about Climate Change, as well as what is happening in Minnesota and things we can do to actually make a difference. This will be open to the public so you can invite friends and relatives.

We would like to offer a warm Thank You to all who contributed to decorating our Advent Christmas tree this year! Thanks to your incredible generosity, we harvested a bounty of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, games, puzzles, coloring/activity books, socks, and even a backpack for Project Home and Como Park Elementary. This included numerous beautifully hand-knitted and kid-focused-in-design items! There were a total of 72 hats, 42 mitten/glove sets, 7 scarves, 14 hat/mitten/glove sets, 4 pairs of socks, 1 backpack, and 21 activity/coloring books/puzzles/games contributed. We pray that these items will warm many hands, heads, and hearts.

Major News in the Ongoing PolyMet Copper-Sulfide Mine Battle!

On Jan. 13, the Minnesota Court of Appeals unanimously reversed three of PolyMet's critical permits: their permit to mine & two dam safety permits issued by the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In the ruling, the panel of judges found that there was "conflicting evidence on material fact issues" that by law required the DNR to hold a new assessment of the project. The court also found that the criticisms of Polymet by project opponents had "not been properly reviewed" by a neutral administrative law judge, and went so far as to describe the DNR as inappropriately seeking "unfettered discretion" to sidestep its legal duty to hold a contested-case hearing. The court directed the question of whether to go forward with the project to be brought to a contested case hearing before an impartial fact-finding judge. Minnesota state regulators will face further scrutiny in a district court case to be decided next week, addressing whether they improperly suppressed EPA concerns about a key water permit, then destroyed records to cover their tracks.

This is a major victory for the myriad environmental organizations, sovereign tribal nations, citizen and public health advocacy groups that have been fighting for years to halt this project on one of Minnesota's most vulnerable natural treasures. Polymet proponents have brought forward serious concerns that the projects tailings dam and closure plan are unsafe, that the project puts Minnesotans downstream at risk of a potentially catastrophic pollution event, that Glencore as the primary backer of shell company Polymet should have been named on state permits, and that the financial assurance package proposed by Polymet is insufficient to protect the public from a potentially massive clean-up/liability bill.

Additionally, Rep. Betty McCollum has brought forth a bi-partisan bill (HR 5598) to protect the Boundary Waters in perpetuity by permanently preventing copper-sulfide mining in 230,000-plus acres of Superior National Forest. If you wish to support passage of the HR 5598 bill in the Senate, you are encouraged to contact Sen. Tina Smith (@ 202-224-5641) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (@ 202-224-3244)!

Project Home is on its way!

Preparations for our yearly Project Home host month (April) are underway! If you are interested in being a part of New Life's Project Home team, to help organize this ministry of hospitality, please contact Mari Hirabayashi (651-285-4217 or mari_hiray@yahoo.com)!

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9a Earth Care 2p Daring Group
2 8:30a Choir 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 11:15a Faith Circles 5p Firing Line AA 5:30p Youth Group	3 OFFICE CLOSED 5:45p Handbells 6:30p Senate DFL	4 9a TOPS 11:45a Staff Meeting 6:30p Vision Team	5 9a Quilters 12p Fair Trade	6 6:30p Big Book AA	7 12:30p Sheridan Story 4p Anuak Women 5p Anuak Youth	8 9:30a Care Coordinators
9 8:30a Choir 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 11:15a Faith Circles 1p Anuak Church 5p Firing Line AA	10 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30a Rebekah Circle 5:45p Handbells	11 9a TOPS 11:45a Staff Meeting 6:30p Faith Formation	12 9a Quilters 9a Men's Breakfast 10:45a Meals on Wheels 6p Membership	13 6:30p Big Book AA 7p Building & Grounds	14 12:30p Sheridan Story 4p Anuak Women 5p Anuak Youth 	15 NEW LIFE NEWS ARTICLES DUE
16 8:30a Choir 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 11:15a Faith Circles 1p Anuak Church 5p Firing Line AA 5:30p Youth Group	17 OFFICE CLOSED 5:45p Handbells	18 9a TOPS 11:45a Staff Meeting 6:30p Esther Circle 6:30p Personnel	19 9a Quilters 6p Comosso	20 6:30p Big Book AA	21 12:30p Sheridan Story 4p Anuak Women 5p Anuak Youth	22
23 8:30a Choir 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 11:15a Faith Circles 1p Anuak Church 5p Firing Line AA	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5:45p Handbells	25 9a TOPS 6:30p Session	26 9a Men's Breakfast 9a Quilters 7p Joint ASH WEDNESDAY Service	27 6p VT Relational 6:30p Big Book AA	28 12:30p Sheridan Story 4p Anuak Women 5p Anuak Youth	29

Contact Information

Ministers: New Life Congregation
Minister of Word & Sacrament:
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Church Administrator:
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2020 Church Leadership

Buildings & Grounds: Cynthia Erickson & Jackson Gienger

Celebration & Worship: John Kachel

Church & Society: Mari Hirabayashi

Congregational Care: Pam Hord

Education & Nurture: Pete Marchetto

Finance: Cindy Ward-Thompson

Stewardship: Deb Griffin

Membership & Growth: Nancy Irsfeld & Dayan Dickson

Personnel: Amy Lane

Nominating: John Bootier

Operating Fund—Through December of Fiscal 2019-2020

This early in the year our operating income (mainly contributions) typically exceeds operating expense. And this year is no exception. Year to date income exceeds expense by about \$39,000—that's better than we had projected for 12/31—thanks largely to an uptick in December contributions.

February Birthdays

2nd— Derward “Ducky” Johnson
3rd— Dennis Konkell, Jovante Van Dyke
6th— LuAnn Hudson, Barbara Rafn
7th— Myrna Mackinnon
10th— Mary Adamu, Sarah Heikkila, Diane Rosenberg
11th— Peder Sandhei, Jr., Elliot Schultz
14th— Lynn Throckmorton, Oliver Bogen, Jr.

15th— Georgia Harris
16th— Greg Ritter, Sandra McGiffin
18th— Ian King
19th— Michelle A. Barnes
20th— Carolyn King, Darby Laing
21st— Perry Jones
22nd— Joseph Thompson
23rd— Drew Hatton, Gayle Stout

24th— Nova Casterlin, Ron Linebarger, Siena Rust
27th— Amanda Herbst, Nancy Holt



If your February birthday is missing from this list, my apologies. Please let Deb in the church office know so we can include you next time. (deb@newlifechurchroseville.org)