

Good News From New Life

December 18, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Troy Dunn preaching

Calendar of Coming Events

Dec 21 Advent IV

Troy Dunn preaching

Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7 pm

Taizé Eucharist

Dec 25 Christmas Day 10 am

Casual service with story

Dec 28 Christmas Lessons

& Carols, Holy Eucharist

Jan 4 Christmas 2

**Jan 4 Epiphany Lessons & Carols,
St. Timothy's Massillon 4 pm**

Jan 11 Baptism of Jesus:

Bishop Anne's Visitation

Jan 25 Annual Meeting and

Chili Cookoff

Christmas Services at New Life

Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 7 pm on Dec 24, with a short musical prelude by Adam Keeler, classical guitar. The entire service will reflect our beautiful Taizé tradition, with quiet carols, Taizé chanting, and lighting of meditation candles.

Christmas Day's casual service begins at 10 am and includes the reading of a children's story.



Bishop Anne's visitation to New Life on January 11

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly will make her official Episcopal visit to New Life on Sunday, January 11.

This is her first visit to us, and we are pleased to welcome her. With 79 parishes in the Diocese of Ohio, and no assisting bishops, Bishop Anne will only visit individual parishes once every three years.

Rev. Barbara will be consulting with Bishop Anne next week regarding our liturgy and activities for that day, which is a major feast day, the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will provide a coffee hour after the service, and the vestry (old and new) will meet with the bishop after the service also. The bishop will be celebrant and preacher.

Loose offerings (undesignated) will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, for support of clergy, congregations, and non-budgeted ministries.

NCD Prayer

**Holy and living God, who nurtures
our faith: Help us to be so rooted
in your love that we may
encourage New Life in others.**

Episcopal Minute: Von Bora

A couple of years ago, I challenged the Wednesday Book Group to figure out who Katharina Von Bora was. Many group members are digitally talented and went straight to Google for the information. And they were a little surprised. Katharina is in our book of saints on December 20, and she was a Lutheran!

Well, not just any Lutheran. She was married to Martin Luther and had a pretty exciting life of her own. Our saints' book, *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, offers some intriguing details: (p. 572) She was educated in a convent and took vows in a Cistercian convent as a teenager. A very intelligent woman, she became increasingly discontented with abuses she perceived in the church. She and 11 other nuns made contact with Martin Luther, leader of the German reform movement, and they escaped from their convent in a fish wagon (hiding in herring barrels, an aromatic escape). Eventually all of the women found husbands among the church reformers, except for Katharina. "Most of her potential suitors found her intellect intimidating and her assertiveness off-putting. Eventually, she expressed a desire to wed Martin Luther himself, and rather to the surprise of most of his friends, he agreed... Katharina therefore became an early model for the vocation of a pastor's spouse, assisting Martin in his ministry and providing hospitality to many, as well as raising six children and opening their home to a number of orphans." She died on Dec. 20, 1552.

Ask any member of the Wednesday group. They all know the story.

Food in January

Our usual schedule for coffee hour (first Sundays) will change in January because of the visitation of Bishop Anne Jolly on January 11. Coffee hour will move to that date, overseen by Team 4 but with assistance from others. A sign-up sheet for food offerings will be available soon.

Next, our Annual Meeting is always accompanied by the Chili Cookoff, an enduring tradition at New Life. The meeting and Cookoff will be held on January 25. A signup sheet for chili and other treats will be available in mid-January.

Coffee Hour Teams

Team 1: Darlene, Bo, Connie

Team 2: Rita, Terri, Charlyn

Team 3: Marianne, Kathy, Julie

Team 4: Gladys, Laura, Judy R 1/11

FISH Items for 2025

Please bring items to church for the FISH food pantry.

January **Canned soup**

February **Peanut butter**

March **Toothpaste**

April **Cleaning products, dish soap**

May **Cereal**

June **Canned fruit**

July **Shampoo**

August **Fruit juice**

September **Cleaning products**

October **Cereal**

November **Pasta and pasta sauce**

December **Instant potatoes**

Vestry Officers 2025

Senior Warden: Larry Mackey

Junior Warden: Julie Martin

Treasurer: Amy Allen

Clerk: Pete Iole

Vestry members: Andrea Page, Scott Bridges, Jeff Maurer, Julie Martin, Larry Mackey.

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Barbara Bond

Vestry Goals for 2025

1. Improve visibility of the church
2. Adopt Natural Church Development process, focusing on Need-oriented Evangelism
3. Continue developing relationships within the larger community (FISH, Lake Library, other parishes, lay preachers, Taize services, Adults with Disabilities Events)

Sunday Night Prayer Telecon

Join your New Life family in prayer for about 15 minutes each Sunday night at 8 pm and start your week off prayerfully! A few minutes before 8 pm call 720-8432008. Enter the access code when prompted: 420030#. If you use a smart phone and would like a text reminder and texted prayers, contact MJ at 330606-9904. Or pick up a flier in the parlor with the prayers. Rotating telecon leaders are Julie Martin, MJ Maling, Bo Iole and Jo Schiffbauer. We pray for our church, our country, our world, and each other's concerns and thanksgivings

Server Schedule

Altar Guild

Dec 20-26 Marianne

Dec 27-Jan 2 Rita

1/03 - 1/09 Terri

1/10 - 1/16 Marianne

1/17 - 1/23 Rita

1/24 - 1/30 Terri

1/31 - 2/06 Marianne

Readers

Dec 21 Pete

Dec 24 Bo

Dec 28 Bo

Counters

Dec 21 Andrea & Darlene

Dec 28 Julie & Susan

Vestry In Charge

Dec 21 Pete

Dec 28 TBD

Healers

Dec 21 Charlyn

Dec 28 Amy

Jan 4 Julie

Jan 11 Bo

Jan 18 Charlyn

Jan 25 Amy

Acolyte

Dec 21 Andrea

Dec 24 Andrea

Dec 28 Kathy

Vestry Candidates for 2026

Candidates for vestry positions beginning in 2026 are **Kathy Jernigan and Darlene Giffin**. Retiring vestry members are Julie Martin and Jeff Maurer. **The Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, January 25, 2026.** If you are in charge of a ministry at New Life, **please submit a report** to the office for our Annual Report by the end of the year. The assembled report will be presented at our Annual Meeting.

Send newsletter items to Rev Barbara by Tuesday

Please send items by Tuesday evening to Rev Barbara by email:

RevBLBond@msn.com

Deacon's Dismissal

The Rev Josh Butler

I've never been big on genealogy, though sometimes the past reaches out to me. I know that my forebears came from Scandinavia, and that some made their way to Kilkenny, Ireland. There, in 1538, they founded Kilkenny College. The college remains, open and active. The family motto, "Comme Je Trouve" ... French for "As I Find" ... is engraved over the entryway. The notion is to overcome obstacles as they present themselves ... to not dither, but to surmount one hurdle, one stumbling block, one obstacle at a time. "Comme Je Trouve" ... "As I Find" ... words to live by from the distant past.

Beatrice (Bea) Dale, 5, daughter of Allison and Matt Dale and granddaughter of Terri and Larry Mackey, danced her way through a Santa Lucia procession on December 14.

