



CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

THE LIFE Line

is a monthly publication of THE LIFE Church
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Join us and have your time of THE LIFE!

Calendar

Thursday Evenings — Free Dinner, 6 pm Prayer, 6:30, Communion Service, 7 pm

Dec. 2—Preparing food for the INN, 6:30 pm

Dec. 2-Advent Wreath Making, 6:30 pm

Dec. 5— Tree Lighting Celebration, 5 pm

Dec. 9-Christmas Cookie Baking, 6:30 pm

Dec. 12— Group Study , *Mere Christianity*, 6 p.m. at THE LIFE

Dec.19-St. Nicholas & Preschool Sing, 7 pm

Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Worship, 5 and 11 pm

Are You Ready? Something Big Is Going to Happen.

By Pastor Justin Vetrano

We can just feel it in the air! There is an inner excitement that in the midst of the busyness of our lives we are like little children, anxiously anticipating something grand.

As we hung the 8,400 lights on the our 75-foot tree in the courtyard of THE LIFE, with the help of the Westbury Fire Department and their 100-foot ladder truck, the children from our school would walk outside and look up with an intense sense of awe! Their mouths would drop, and they would point to the sky and say, “Wow!” Something big is going to happen!

As the children from both preschools at Resurrection and THE LIFE rehearse the songs they are going to sing, they cannot help but think, wow, something big is going to happen.

In all our planning meetings as we coordinate the music, the hot dog vendors, the popcorn machines, the video screen and power-point we all have this sense of something big is going to happen.

As I visited with the bell choir and heard their enthusiasm and nervousness about playing out in the cold, we all laughed and talked about the order of events for the evening, the excitement was in the air. Something big is going to happen.

As the script has been written and the parts divided up for the children’s message and the tree lighting, as the sections of staging, sound equipment and lights are setup in place we just can’t help but think, something big is going to happen.

Reading the emails of creative ideas of how to park all the cars of the people we are expecting



How else to place the star on top? Thanks to the Westbury Fire Department.

for the tree lighting ceremony we can’t help but think, we had better be ready because something big is going to happen.

And finally on December 5th, when we all gather around the base of the tree, singing Christmas carols, drinking hot co-

coa we might think that this is the “big thing” we have been waiting for as all 8,400 lights illumine the beautiful tree and we sing.

However, the tree lighting and all our preparations for the Advent and Christmas season are just signs and remembrances of that big thing that has already happened: the birth of God as a human being into our world to proclaim hope, joy and peace to all the Earth! Our festivities and celebrations are not just a remembrance of that night over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem but also the anticipation of the return of Christ as he calls us all to dwell with him for eternity. **THIS IS THE BIG THING WE CELEBRATE**, the true hope and possibility that Christmas reveals to us.

As the season flies on by may we not look at all we do to prepare and celebrate as “the big thing,” but may we humbly look to God proclaiming, **JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD HAS COME**. Now that is truly worth waiting for!

THE LIFE Opens Day School and Extended Day

By Lisa Dannelly

Wow! It's finally happening. After two long years THE LIFE Preschool is starting to take full advantage of the day-care center license.

The process was a long and tedious process; it could never have been accomplished without the great legal mind of our site coordinator Laura Bauer. She worked many long hours drafting documents and working closely with the Office of Child and Family Services.

The fruit of our labors are start-



The first students of Daytime Playtime, Martina and Matthew explore our outdoor playground.

ing to pay off. THE LIFE Preschool was able to offer an extended day for the four-year-old classes this year, and our newest program, Daytime Playtime began Nov. 17. Daytime Play-

time offers the children the opportunity to stay at school on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays until 3 p.m. There is an \$8.00 an hour fee. Parents can choose the days and number of hours for each week. There has been a tremendous response.

Next year THE LIFE Preschool will be offering an array of programs to choose from. There will be an early drop off and a late pick up option and part- and full-day programs.

With all these great changes we have decided to use a more appropriate name to suit our growth. Since we want to continue to operate under our same philosophies of offering a warm, nurturing, Christian atmosphere we will go forward as THE LIFE Day School. We invite families in the community to call for a visit and learn more about all that THE LIFE Day School has to offer you and your children.

ESL Group Honored for Achievement

By Paulina Janssen



Our first group of ESL students and staff celebrate commitment to the program.

The ESL (English as a Second Language) classes began this past September as an outreach program of the Hispanic Ministry at the LIFE. After our grant from Wheat Ridge was approved, the final curriculum and format established, the staff assembled, we partnered with Literacy Nassau in Freeport for their expertise, resources, and helpful advice ... and the journey began!

On Nov. 20, after two short months of classes, we celebrated an important milestone and recognized the commitment and dedication of our first class of 15 students. Together in the Sanctuary at THE LIFE, we thanked God for all his blessing. We rec-

ognized our staff, volunteers, Pastors, and the congregation of Resurrection and THE LIFE, for their commitment to mission and specifically to the Hispanic community at the LIFE. We sang

and prayed to God in Spanish and English, and presented the students with a certificate of recognition and a bilingual Bible. Pastor Vetrano preached his message ... in Spanish!

After the service, we enjoyed fellowship with our students and their families, and we savored delicious foods the students brought as a way to say thank you to THE LIFE church for all the blessings received.

In January, we will be enrolling another class of 15 students, already on a waiting list. Later on next year we will be offering citizenship classes. Please continue to pray for this ministry... and consider joining us on this amazing journey.

Welcome in the Christmas Season

Advent Wreath Making Thursday, Dec. 2, 6:30pm

Come and make a wreath out of real evergreens, all the supplies are provided.

Tree Lighting Celebration Sunday, Dec. 5, 5pm

Gather around our 75-foot Oriental spruce bedecked with 8,000 lights. Preschool children sing Christmas carols, Handbell Choir herald in the Christmas season. Hotdogs, popcorn, cotton candy, cookies & hot chocolate.

Christmas Cookie Making Thursday, Dec. 9, 6:30pm

Come and bake Christmas cookies! All the homemade ingredients, sprinkles and cookie cutters are provided.

St. Nicholas & Preschool Sing Thursday, Dec. 16, 7pm

A visit from St. Nicholas who shares his story of generosity and blessing. Make sure the children bring an extra shoe; during the service St. Nicholas will fill shoes with Christmas surprises

(free family-style dinner every Thursday at 6pm)

CHRISTMAS EVE Friday, Dec. 24th, 5 and 11pm

Keeping Christ in Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with a family-friendly worship service, including a children's parade (5 pm only), favorite Christmas Carols, candle-lighting and the "reason for the season," Jesus Christ, as we celebrate Holy Communion.