



NEW LIFE CHURCH (NLC)



2026 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION PACKET

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, February 19th at 4pm

New Life Church Scholarship Program

New Life Church was established with the goal of changing lives in St Louis Metro East communities. To that end, we as LifeChangers have established a scholarship program to help deserving high school graduates change their lives and, in turn, change the lives of others. New Life will award fourteen (14) scholarships, totaling \$33,000 to deserving students that demonstrate academic excellence, exemplify sound moral character, and portray the wholistic characteristics that are the mission of our ministry.

Scholarship Information Packet Instructions

1. Please carefully read and follow all instructions printed:
 - a. Each applicant may apply for only ONE scholarship.
 - b. Complete the [2026 New Life Scholarship Online Application](https://thisismynewlife.com/scholarship) at thisismynewlife.com/scholarship and upload all required supporting documents in PDF format for the scholarship you are applying for. See NLC Scholarship Application Checklist for complete list of required supporting documents.
 - c. Submit your official transcript in a sealed envelope with the school's seal, and the applicant's full name on the upper right corner to:

New Life Church
Elder Dagne Barton
689 Scott-Troy Road
Lebanon, IL 62254
 - d. The [online scholarship application](#) must be completed, and official transcript **received at the NLC church office no later than 4:00pm CST, Thursday, February 19, 2026.** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
2. Cumulative GPA should be provided based on an unweighted 4.0 scale (convert numerical or letter grades). Also, when providing cumulative GPA, be sure that your most recent term is included (i.e., Fall 2025).
3. All transcripts must be **certified/official** copies with SAT or ACT scores reflected. See NLC Scholarship Application Checklist for complete details.

If you have any questions, contact the NLC Scholarship Committee at 689newlife@gmail.com or call (618) 622-6721. Please include both your contact e-mail address and phone number in the e-mail.

The Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley, Sr. Pastoral Scholarship of Excellence The Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley, Sr. Pastoral Scholarship of Excellence is awarded to the high school graduate who exhibits excellence in academics, character, civic/church activities, and family.

Requirements for this Scholarship Only

- **Minimum 3.5 GPA** (submit official academic transcript)
- SAT or ACT score(s) (submit copy of official test scores)
- 450-500 word essay (see “Scholarship Essay” requirements on)
- Interview (will be considered after applicant has submitted and met all requirements)
- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT W/ PACKET Two (2) letters of recommendation **signed**
- Community involvement/service (indicated on Student Personal BIO or Statement)

The Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley, Sr. Pastoral Scholarship of Excellence Essay Topic

New Life in Christ church demonstrates excellence through our core values of Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness. How have you demonstrated excellence in your life? How do you plan to demonstrate excellence in your core values after high school and effectively incorporate it into a life of excellence, integrity, and civic- mindedness. (450-500 words)

*****Requirements for Each of the remaining scholarships below:**

- **Minimum 2.5 GPA** (submit official academic transcript)
- SAT or ACT score(s) (submit copy of official test scores)
- 300-350 word essay (see topic with scholarship & other “Scholarship Essay” requirements)
- Interview (will be considered after applicant has submitted and met all other requirements)
- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT W/ PACKET Two (2) **signed** letters of recommendation
- Community involvement/service (indicated on Student Personal BIO or Statement)

The John H. McCants Hope Memorial Scholarship

The John H. McCants Hope Memorial Scholarship is so named for Bro. John H. McCants, a charter member of NLC who was instrumental in the church’s beginnings. It is a need-based scholarship established to offer hope where there is despair; open doors of opportunity that may be otherwise closed, and give a hand up, not a handout. The additional requirement for this scholarship is proof of a financial need. See **Requirements above *** ADDITIONAL Requirements**

- Verification from your high school that states you are currently enrolled in 12th grade and meet any one of the indicators of economic need listed **1) enrolled in the free or reduced-priced lunch program; 2) participates in a program for economically disadvantaged students; 3) resides in a foster home, is a ward of the state, is homeless OR family receives low-income public assistance.**

The John H. McCants Hope Memorial Scholarship Essay Topic

Hope is defined as wanting or wishing for something with a feeling of confident expectation. In your own words, describe what is meant by the expression “to hope against hope”. Provide at least one example from your own experience where you had to hope against hope as well as how you plan to offer hope after college. (300-350 words)

The Minister Sheila Renee Swygert Memorial Scholarship

The Minister Sheila Renee Swygert Memorial Scholarship is established in memory of the first LifeChanger to exchange time for eternity. This scholarship is awarded to the individual who has, through perseverance and persistence, overcome their circumstances despite the odds. **Requirements above *****

The Minister Sheila Renee Swygert Memorial Scholarship Essay Topic

Minister Swygert overcame adversity in her life through persistence and perseverance. Describe an instance in which you had to overcome adversity. Include the outcome and the effect it had on your life and how it has prepared you for your life after high school and college. (300-350 words)

Bishop Leamon & Ida Dorothy Dudley Memorial Scholarship

The Bishop Leamon & Ida Dorothy Dudley Memorial Scholarship is established in memory of the mother and father of our Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley, Sr. Mrs. Dudley was an avid reader and a great lover of music. Most importantly, this powerful woman of GOD exhibited the “Barnabas” spirit. His father Bishop Leamon Dudley was a leader among men. He was also an advocate for training and education. **Requirements above *****

The Bishop Leamon & Ida Dorothy Dudley Memorial Scholarship Essay Topic

Describe in 300-350 words how your education will be instrumental in changing the lives of others in the future.

The Chyriell Drain Hill Memorial Scholarship

The Chyriell Drain Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund, in partnership with New Life Church, will award to those individuals who exemplify the characteristics of wanting to be helpful, showing a tendency towards sociability, displaying warmth towards others and are concerned with the welfare of all humankind. **Requirements above *****

The Chyriell Drain Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund Essay Topic

Describe one humanitarian act you have performed. Include the outcome and the impact it had on your life and the lives of others. (300-350 words)

The Gerald T. Washington Memorial Scholarship

The Gerald T. Washington Memorial Scholarship commemorates the life of LifeChanger Bro. Gerald T. Washington. He was the Vice-President for Institutional Advancement in five Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). He also assisted four more HBCUs with grant writing and institutional gifts. **This scholarship is reserved for African American students who plan to attend an HBCU. Requirements above *****

The Gerald T. Washington Memorial Scholarship Essay Topic

Briefly describe why you wish to attend an HBCU. Describe how your values, qualities, and skills will flourish at an HBCU as well as how attending an HBCU will make an impact in your life and career. (300-350 words)

The New Life Church LifeChanger Scholarships

The LifeChanger Scholarship is established based on the mission of New Life Church – “To Change Lives in Our Lifetime”. This scholarship is awarded to those individuals who exemplify the characteristics of servant-leader, and role model impacting the lives of others. This scholarship is reserved for members of New Life and their families. **Requirements above *****

The LifeChanger Scholarship Essay Topic

Describe how you would exemplify the characteristics of a servant-leader and adopt the attitude of not myself, but others. Give specific examples of how you have impacted the lives of others and how you plan to impact the lives of others after high school/college. (300-350 words)

The Strong Beginnings NFP, Inc Scholarships

The Strong Beginnings NFP Scholarship is established by Elder Vic Hayes and his family's non-profit based on the mission of promoting the welfare of others through giving time, experiences, skills, talents and treasure to create better opportunities for underserved communities. **Requirements above*****

The Strong Beginnings NFP, Inc Scholarship Essay Topic

Describe how you would serve your community and exemplify the characteristics of a servant-leader, and how this scholarship will help provide the strong beginning needed to change the lives of others in your future. (300-350 words)

The Ernest Cotton Memorial Scholarship

The Ernest Cotton Memorial Scholarship commemorates the life of LifeChanger Bro. Ernest Cotton. Earnest believed in sowing into the lives of young men. As a professional athlete who went to college on an athletic scholarship he wanted to give back to other young men to be able to use their abilities to fund their education. **This scholarship is reserved for African American male students who plan to attend a traditional college OR pursue a technical trade certification track. Requirements above *****

The Ernest Cotton Memorial Scholarship Essay Topic

Briefly describe why you wish to further your education. Describe how your values, qualities, and skills will flourish at a college or your technical trade school and how that will make an impact in your life and career. (300-350 words)

The Deacon John P. Coleman, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is named for our own beloved Deacon John "Big John" who served faithfully at New Life in Christ Church from 2004 until his passing in 2024. He loved people and served them in ministry and in life. His servant leader qualities manifested in his Social Work in the marketplace and his kingdom work at New Life. In addition to being a deacon, he served from Children's Ministry to Seasoned Saints to Couples Ministry in between. This scholarship is for a student planning a career in social work or a career in a servant capacity such as teaching, nursing, counseling or the medical field. **Requirements above *****

The Deacon John P. Coleman, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Essay Topic

How do you see yourself right now serving others around you (being a servant leader)? (400-450 words)

DeAndre Morrow Memorial Capitalize & Prosper Scholarship

This scholarship was created to honor DeAndre's legacy and the principles by which he lived his life. Capitalize & Prosper was not only a brand to DeAndre – it was his lifestyle, his mindset, and his daily mission. DeAndre consistently dedicated his time, energy, and creativity into building C&P, using it as a platform to inspire growth, resilience, and purpose in everything he pursued. He believed in maximizing opportunities, striving for excellence, and encouraging others to prosper in their own journeys. Through his unwavering commitment and passion, DeAndre's message reached and positively impacted many individuals, leaving a lasting impression on those who encountered his work and his spirit.

The C&P scholarship stands as a tribute to DeAndre's vision and serves to continue his legacy by supporting individuals who embody the same drive, determination, and commitment to capitalizing on their potential and prospering in life.

Minimum 3.0 GPA required (submit official academic transcript). **Additional requirements above *****

The DeAndre Morrow Memorial Capitalize & Prosper Scholarship Essay Topic

Using the terms, "Capitalize and Prosper", describe how these terms align with goals that you've accomplished and are seeking to achieve. (300-600 words)

Jacqueline Denise Johnson Memorial Scholarship

The Jacqueline Denise Johnson Memorial Scholarship, in partnership with New Life Church, will be awarded to a young woman pursuing a degree in STEM or Education, who exemplifies the characteristics of leadership and compassion with a commitment to community service. *****Requirements Above**

The Jacqueline Denise Johnson Memorial Scholarship Essay Topic

Describe an experience that demonstrates your leadership, compassion or dedication to your community and how this scholarship will positively impact your educational goals.

NLC Scholarship Packet Checklist:

The following checklist will help to ensure you have assembled all required documents prior to beginning the online application submission. A PDF version of each document must be uploaded to the [2026 New Life Scholarship Online Application](http://thisismynewlife.com/scholarship) at thisismynewlife.com/scholarship.

Complete Online Application Form

- o NLC Scholarship Application Checklist
- o Personal Data
- o High School Data
- o Signature Page

Personal Biography OR Personal Statement - typed PDF document, and should include the following:

- o Community Involvement / Volunteer Service
- o Extracurricular Activities
- o Career Goals and Objectives

Scholarship Essay Requirements

The scholarship essay requirements are:

- o The essay should have complete sentences, correct grammar and punctuation, and sufficiently discuss the scholarship topic. The essay topic is listed on the scholarship detail pages above.
- o Essay should be the appropriate length (# of words range indicated)
- o Essay should be typed or computer-generated using a **12-pt. font and double-spaced**. Place word count in the footer of the Word or Google document. **"My essay word count is: _____"**
- o **Submit the essay as a PDF document**

Official High School Academic Transcript

- o All transcripts must be certified/official copies with SAT or ACT scores reflected and should be:
 - Submitted in a sealed envelope, stamped with the school seal. Transcript requests, that involve a 3rd party vendor, are still the applicant's responsibility to ensure the transcripts are **postmarked on OR received at the NLC church office no later than 4:00pm CST, Thursday, February 19th, 2026 for application to be considered complete. Mail delivery is strongly discouraged.** Parchment may send electronic transcripts to 689newlife@gmail.com.
- o Minimum GPA requirement met for _____

Name of Scholarship

Two (2) signed Letters of Recommendation, scanned as a PDF document

Digital photograph

- o You will be asked to upload a digital photograph on the online application. In the event you are selected for an NLC scholarship, this photo will be used for announcements, and Education Sunday.

New Life Church 2026 Scholarship Application Personal Data

This information **MUST** be submitted on the [2026 New Life Scholarship Online Application](#).

Last Name _____ First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____
MM / DD / YYYY

Gender: _____ Male _____ Female

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile #s: _____ | _____
Student Mobile # Parent Mobile #

Student E-mail (*required*): _____

Parent E-mail: _____

Student Facebook name: _____ Instagram profile name: _____

High School Data

School Name _____

School Address _____

Building Principal's Name (not grade level AP) _____

Counselor's Name _____

Composite ACT Score _____ SAT Score _____ Cum GPA (4.0 scale): _____
(un-weighted) (weighted)

Institution you have chosen to attend

College/University Name _____

College/University Address _____ City/State Zip Code _____

Have you been accepted? (Circle one: YES / NO)

Signature Page

I am applying for: (**Check only the ONE you are applying for**)

- Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley, Sr. Pastoral Scholarship of Excellence *(1 available)*
- John H. McCants Hope Memorial Scholarship *(1 available)*
Economic need verification (**Only required if applying for Hope Scholarship**) _____Initials
- Bishop Leamon & Ida Dorothy Dudley Memorial Scholarship *(1 available)*
- Minister Sheila Renee Swygert Memorial Scholarship *(1 available)*
- The Chyriell Drain Hill Memorial Scholarship *(1 available)*
- The Strong Beginnings NFP, Inc Scholarship *(1 available)*
- The Gerald T. Washington Memorial Scholarship *(1 available)* ****see special requirements in the description.**
- The Earnest Cotton Memorial Scholarship *(1 available)* ****see special requirements in the description.**
- New Life Church - LifeChanger Scholarship *(3 available)* **** You must be a member of New Life to apply for this one only.**
- The DeAndre Morrow Memorial Capitalize & Prosper Scholarship *(1 available)* ****see special requirements in the description.**
- The Deacon John P. Coleman, Sr. Memorial Scholarship *(1 available)*

By signing below, you attest to the truth and accuracy of the information you have provided on this application. A scholarship, if awarded, will be revoked should it be discovered that any of the information provided therein is false or misleading.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Printed / Typed Name

Date