



New Life Presbyterian Church

Welcome to New Life Presbyterian Church

Dear Visitor,

Welcome! It is a joy and privilege to gather this morning to worship God together. Here at New Life, we are a small part of the worldwide, multi-ethnic, multi-generational, multi-cultural body of Christ. Although we are Presbyterian and Reformed, our identity is found not in what makes us distinct, but in what makes us united: we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not only our Maker; He is our Savior. If you have put your hope and trust in Him, we welcome you as a brother or sister. It is in Him that we have New Life!

If you are here this morning and do not know what you think about Jesus, or about the claims of the Bible, we are delighted that you have chosen to join us for the morning. We hope and trust that you will experience a warm welcome, regardless of your religious convictions. We are a community of those who have experienced the embrace of God, through Jesus Christ. It is our goal to show that love to all who are around us. Please know that I personally would welcome your thoughts and perspectives on anything you observe this morning.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all!

Joyfully,

Pastor Erik Swanson

P.S. There is a staffed nursery, off the fellowship hall, for children ages 0-4.

Worshipping God

December 11, 2022

Reflection:

*By gracious pow'rs so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.*

*And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling
out of so good and so beloved a hand.*

*Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, written in prison

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. - Psalm 98:4-9

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Call to Worship – Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Praise

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

7 B \flat C F F C F B \flat /F F C Dm C



peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us,
 yet a King; Born to reign in us for - ev - er,

13 F/A C⁷/G F F/A B \flat C F Am Dm



let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and
 now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e -

19 Gm C F Dm Gm C^{sus} C



con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art;
 - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

25 F/A F B \flat /F C/E F G⁷/D C/E



Dear de - sire of ev' - ry na - tion,
 By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,

29 F F/A B \flat F/C C⁷ F



joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.
 raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Verse 1

In the bleak mid-winter
All creation groans
For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne

Chorus

(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

Verse 2

If I were a wise man
I would travel far
If I were a shepherd
I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart

Bridge

Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah

"He Shall Reign Forevermore" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher
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Jesus is coming, shout for joy! Joy is a word we see and hear everywhere at Christmas. Joy to the world is the message of the season. Joy is the theme of this day.

Two weeks ago we lit the Prophecy candle and remembered those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.

Last week we lit the Bethlehem candle, a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

The third candle on the Advent wreath is called the Shepherds' candle. It remembers the first in a long line of people who joyfully shared the good news of the Savior's birth.

[Light the pink candle and two other candles]

Reader: Isaiah foretells the joy that God's redeemed people will experience.

Scripture: Isaiah 35

Congregational Prayer

Holy God, create in us a fountain of joy, stir in us a spirit ready to rejoice, kindle in us the fire of gladness, set loose in us songs of praise. For you are the One who comes with healing and blessing. Amen.

How Great Our Joy

1 While by the sheep we watched at night, glad ti - dings brought an
2 There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le - hem a
3 There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall re -
4 This gift of God we'll che - rish well, that e - ver joy our

an - gel bright.
Child to - day.
deem us shall all. How great our joy! Great our joy!
hearts shall fill.

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Special Music – “Make Room”

Jim Borch, Roger Kay, Tim Ryan, and Jim Spark

Verse 1

A family hiding from the storm
Found no place at the keeper's door
It was for this a child was born
To save a world so cold and hollow

Verse 2

A sleeping town they did not know
That lying in a manger low
A Savior king who had no home
Has come to heal our sorrows

Chorus 1

Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story

Verse 3

Shepherds counting sheep at night

Do not fear the glory light
You are precious in His sight
God has come to raise the lowly

Chorus 2

You can come as you are
It may set you apart
When you make room in your heart
And trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart

Verse 4

A mother holds the promise tight
Every wrong will be made right
The road is straight the burden's light
For in His hands He holds tomorrow

“Make Room” words and music by Mark Hall, Matt Maher
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Music
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Membership Vows - *Ethan & Abigail Waldrop, John & Catherine Kloetzli, Diane & Brian McGahan, Carol & Tim Loht, Rebekah & Charity Skinner*

Offering Our Gifts

The offering allows friends and members of our church to express their faith in God’s Word, and to support the extension of that Word in our community and in the world.

Angels from the Realms of Glory (as Doxology)

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

2 ¹² A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head. ¹³ When he arrived, Eli was sitting on his seat by the road watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told the news, all the city cried out. ¹⁴ When Eli heard the sound of the outcry, he said, “What is this uproar?” Then the man hurried and came and told Eli. ¹⁵ Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and his eyes were set so that he could not see. ¹⁶ And the man said to Eli, “I am he who has come from the battle; I fled from the battle today.” And he said, “How did it go, my son?” ¹⁷ He who brought the news answered and said, “Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great defeat among the people. Your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured.” ¹⁸ As soon as he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years.

¹⁹ Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. And when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. ²⁰ And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, “Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son.” But she did not answer or pay attention. ²¹ And she named the child Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel!” because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. ²² And she said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

7 ¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, “Till now the Lord has helped us.” ¹³ So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. ¹⁴ The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵ Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. ¹⁶ And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged Israel in all these places. ¹⁷ Then he would return to Ramah, for his home was there, and there also he judged Israel. And he built there an altar to the Lord.

8 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³ Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge

us.” And Samuel prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸ According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. ⁹ Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

Sermon: The Need for Faithful Leaders
Series: Celebrating the Advent of the King

Pastor Erik Swanson

Sermon Notes

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

New Life Church invites all baptized Christians who are members of Christ's church to join us in this feast of bread and wine. The inner circle of cups contains red wine and the outer circle of cups contains white grape juice. If you are unable to consume wheat, gluten-free crackers are available.

Prayer

Words of Institution – *from 1 Corinthians 11*

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

All: **Christ has died.**
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

Communing Together

The elders and deacons will serve you in your seats. Please hold the elements so that we can partake together after all have been served. Use the extra time during communion for prayer and reflection.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing.

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Sending:

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 12/11	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/11	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/11	11:30 am	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12/11	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home
Tu. 12/13	7:00 pm	Bible Study Fellowship	TV Room
W. 12/14	9:00 am	Morning Bible Study	TV Room
W. 12/14	9:00 am	Moms' Group	New Life
W. 12/14	9:15 am	Prayer Group	New Life Library
W. 12/14	7:00 pm	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sat. 12/17	11:00 am	Ladies' Christmas Tea	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12/18	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/18	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/18	6:00 pm	Youth Group Christmas Party	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2022	\$211,076.93	\$250,244.29
Week of 12/4/22	\$4,307.69	\$10,952.00

Announcements

- **12/11 - Special ministry opportunity for those of you who know Teresa Deckard as well as those who may only know her as our Worship Team Flute Player** – Teresa has begun treatment for Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer and currently she is not able to attend Church or receive visitors at home. But she does miss visits with her friends. After the Sunday service on December 11, her husband, Mark, will be recording audio/video messages from you to share with her. Enjoy the Christmas dinner and pop into the sanctuary to share a few words, share a bible verse, share a special Christmas thought, share a Christmas carol, or anything else! The video recording will be only for Teresa to see. If you do not know Teresa well, she would still love to hear a word from you.
- **Ladies' Christmas Tea:** All women from New Life are invited to a Christmas Tea on Sat. Dec. 17 from 11am-1pm in the fellowship hall. Volunteers are needed to help with decorations, food preparation, and serving. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby for attending as well as volunteering. Please contact Holly Wirt with any questions.
- **Good News Jail and Prison Ministry** is collecting items to assemble gift bags for children of inmates at York County Prison. Items are listed on tags in the foyer. Take a tag or two, buy those items, and bring back to New Life no later than Sun. Dec. 18. Questions? See Barb Marsh.
- **Youth Group Christmas Party:** Youth, bring a gift for the gift exchange and come to the Swansons' on Sun. Dec 18 from 6-8pm for a Christmas party.
- **Christmas Changes:** Our Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols" service will be at 7pm. There will be no Sunday School or snack after worship on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.
- **New Adult Sunday School Class:** Starting Jan. 8, Wayne Blanding will teach a class on Finances and the Bible. The study of 1 Corinthians will also resume that day.
- **Congregational Meeting:** Mark your calendars for January 15th for NLPC's annual congregational meeting. We will look back at 2022, look forward to 2023, discuss the 2023 budget, and hold a congregational vote on a proposed salary change for Pastor Erik.
- **Ladies of New Life and Friends:** Winter book: *Where the Light Fell* by Philip Yancey. Discussion and dinner to be announced for late February.

(continued on next page)

- **Cleaners Needed:** Many of our cleaning volunteers will be gone over the winter months which leaves us in need of more volunteers to help clean the church. Would you prayerfully consider volunteering in this way? Sign up with a partner, or on your own and we will try to pair you with someone else. Email kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com.
- **Giving Need for the Building Improvement Fund:** New Life hopes to fundraise and finish several building improvement projects this year. These include: classroom wall removal and ceiling replacement; a level, fenced play area in the yard for children/youth; replacement of the external sanctuary door; and a redesign/replacement of the external fellowship hall door. The redesigned door will include a transom to allow natural light into the fellowship hall, as well as an ADA compliant paved sidewalk out to the asphalt driveway. The cost of all these changes is \$27,000. The Building Improvement Fund has a current balance of \$13,368.57. Although we have a current YTD giving surplus, there are some expenses that NLPC has incurred that are not in the 2022 budget (50 new chairs, the new piano, etc.). Further, the elders think that the capital reserve fund - for major upkeep of the existing property like a new roof or new HVAC units - is very underfunded. Any undesignated budget surplus from 2022 will be allocated to the capital reserve fund. As you prayerfully consider the ways in which you feel led to give, please consider designated giving to the building improvement fund.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 am in the Fishbowl Room. During the summer, children and youth do not meet for their Sunday School classes.

Women's Bible Study: This fall we completed our study of *Galatians*. A new study will begin in March 2023 with the topic of study to be determined. Meanwhile, the chosen reading for the women's winter book club is *Where the Light Fell* by Philip Yancy. For more information on the book and the February discussion, contact Connie Kay. For more information on Women's Bible Study, contact Marlene Spark.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text? Join us at New Life in the TV Room at 9:00 am.

Moms' Group: Moms of children of all ages are welcome to come together for support and to study Ephesians on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 at church. There are three classes for the children as well. Please contact Joy Swanson for more details.

Men's Group: Meets at Cracker Barrel every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7:00 am. We are discussing *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Contact Rob Rothermel for details.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: Join us in prayer at New Life on alternate Wednesdays, beginning at 9:15 am. Contact Sue Rothermel.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): We are studying "People of the Promise: Kingdom Divided." Contact Joe Heidler with questions.

Discipleship Groups: Same-gender groups meet to encourage each other to follow Jesus as we walk with each other. Please contact Pastor Erik to join a group.