



NEW LIFE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

February 16, 2025

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.

Please be aware that we livestream our services.

Worshiping God

February 16, 2025

Reflection:

Any human not transformed by the redeeming work of Jesus Christ lives out of self as center. Each of our lives flows out of our own little "I am" and how that self is shaped and defined. So if I believe myself to be superior, smarter, and a gift to the world, then how I think, what I do, how I treat others, and what I pursue will flow out of that *arrogant* "I am." If I believe I am inferior, unworthy, and not capable, then how I think, what I do, how I treat others, and what I pursue will flow out of that *shattered* "I am." If I am Henry VIII and believe I am the supreme head of kingdom and church, with divine rights that cannot be questioned, then I will throw people away, chop off the heads of dissatisfactory queens, lie and steal, or do anything else I please without fearing judgment... We are in danger if we assume that self as center is not a rampant problem in Christendom. – *Diane Langberg*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – from Psalm 98

Minister: The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

People: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Minister: Shout for joy before the LORD, the King!

People: Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Minister: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

People: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Prayer of Praise

Rejoice the Lord Is King



1. Re-joice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore!
2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love;
3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit,
5. Re-joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,



Re-joice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph ev - er - more.
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n.
and bow to his com-mand, and fall be-neath his feet.
and take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.



REFRAIN



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, re - joice!



The Lion and the Lamb

Verse 1

He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Chorus

Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow
 before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Verse 2

So open up the gates
Make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Chorus

Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow
 before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Bridge

Who can stop the Lord Almighty? (7x)
Who can stop the Lord?

Chorus

Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow
 before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

"The Lion And The Lamb" words and music by Brenton Brown,
Brian Johnson, and Leeland Mooring
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Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism, Questions and Answers 27 and 28

27. Q. *What do you understand by the providence of God?*

A. **God's providence is his almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.**

28. Q. *What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by his providence?*

A. **We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from his love; for all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot so much as move.**

Scripture Reading – *Isaiah 40:9-11*

Mark Flaharty

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

God, I've got it all wrong. I've put myself in the center of my world and written my own rules. I've acted as if this life is all there is and have been driven by the pleasures of the moment. So I need your help and forgiveness, but most of all I need you. I realize I need to be rescued from the death of separation in the here and now and from the death that separates me from the eternity for which I was created. I want to live for you, in you, and with you forever, and so in this moment I am seeking your grace. I gladly accept your offer of life now and life forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness – *Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Come Thou Fount

1. Come, Thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing Thy
 2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; Hith - er by Thy help I'm
 3. O, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to

4 D A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise: Teach me
 come; And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home: Je - sus
 be! Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to

9 D F#m G G/D D D F#m G D A⁷

some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; Praise the
 sought me when a stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
 wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my

mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.
 res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
 heart, Lord, take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

Prayers of the People

Missions Moment

Wayne Blanding

Offering

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.

Doxology:

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here, below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Scripture – Luke 12:35-59

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

⁴¹ Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” ⁴² And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁵ But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸ But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

⁴⁹ “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from

now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

⁵⁷ “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸ As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. ⁵⁹ I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

Sermon: Ready or Not, Here He Comes

Pastor Erik Swanson

Series: Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem

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

Even So Come

Verse 1

All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway
 a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Verse 2

Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus 1

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Verse 3

There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus 1

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Bridge

So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
(REPEAT)

Chorus 2

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

"Even So Come" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jason
Ingram, Jess Cates
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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

Minister: Go in peace, to love and serve the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 2/16	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/16	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 2/16	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
W. 2/19	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 2/19	9:45 am	Moms +	Classroom 2
W. 2/19	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
W. 2/19	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 2/20	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 2/23	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/23	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 2/23	5:30 pm	Women's Book Club Potluck	Kay Home
Sun. 2/23	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$49,615.38	\$58,120.63
Week of 2/9/25	\$8,269.23	\$7,966.30

Announcements

- **Women's Winter Book Club:** This winter we are reading *Captive in Iran: A Remarkable True Story of Hope and Triumph amid the Horror of Tehran's Brutal Evin Prison* by Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh. Read at your own pace, then join us for a potluck dinner and discussion **this Sun. Feb. 23** beginning at 5:30pm at the home of Connie Kay. Contact Connie with any questions.
- **Human Life Services - Baby Bottle Boomerang:** Baby bottles for this HLS event can be picked up from the foyer. You can support life by collecting your loose change! This fun activity is great for the entire family and raises funds that directly support HLS clients and their needs. Please note our last collection date is **Sun. March 9**. Contact Susette Grim with any questions. Please consider viewing the following video from HLS: https://youtu.be/x3J_7U8M0-E
- **Women's Bible Study:** We are resuming our study to see God at work in *Acts* beginning in March using Nancy Guthrie's study *Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts*. There are two study groups to choose from: **Thursday mornings beginning March 13** (in-person in the Aquarium room 9:30-11am) or **Tuesday evenings beginning March 18** (on Zoom 7-8:15 pm). This study will last 10 weeks. Everyone is welcome. It is not a problem to jump right in, starting with Acts 11:19. For more information, to sign up, and/or get information about the book and materials please contact Marlene Spark.
- **Free Comedy Show:** All adults of any age are cordially invited by the S.I.L.V.E.R.S. to join them for an afternoon of laughter and fellowship. York Theater Arts for Everyone will be presenting *Mystery at Senior Manor* featuring our very own Mark Deckard on **Sat. March 22** here at New Life. Show will begin at 3pm followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors. Questions see Mel King, Alice Lomax, Dee Flaharty, or Shyrl Tompkins.
- **Save the Date for VBS:** Please mark your calendars for VBS, the mornings of **July 28-Aug. 1**. More details TBA.
- **Save the Date:** Save the date for our 6th annual church-wide camping trip: **Fri. Sept. 5 through Sun. Sept. 7** at Codorus State Park. Please make your camping reservation online, as close to site 88 as you can book. Go to codorusfriends.org/codorus-park-info.html and scroll down until you see the link to "Camping Reservations."

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Youth and Children's classes: Pre-K through 1st meets in classroom 5, 2nd-4th meets in classroom 4, 5-8th meets in classroom 3, and 9-12th meets in classroom 1. **Two adult classes:** one studying 1 Samuel and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other studying the book *Biblical Critical Theory* and meeting in Classroom 2.

Women's Bible Study: We will be studying *Acts* using Nancy Guthrie's *Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts*. This is a 10-week study. Dates and times: **Thursdays 9:30-11 am at church beginning March 13 or Tuesdays 7-8:15 pm on Zoom beginning March 18.** Please contact Marlene Spark or the office for details.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text? Join us at New Life in Classroom 1 at 9am.

Moms+: We meet every Wednesday from 9:45-11:45am. Contact Joy Swanson or the office with any questions.

Men's Group: Meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 7-8am in the fellowship hall.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: We have two opportunities: The evening group meets on the first **Wednesday** of every month at 7pm. Contact Sherry Rishel or the office. The daytime group meets every **Thursday** (except the Thursday that follows the Wednesday evening prayer group) at 11am. Contact Sue Rothermel or the office.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Contact Will Pope or the office 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.

Community Groups: Designed to be a microcosm of the church, this is an intergenerational home-gathering for fellowship, food, bible study, (singing), and prayer. We meet on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of the month from 6-7:30pm. See Pastor Erik if you would like to join a group.

New Life Presbyterian Church Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Vision: *To see York and beyond embrace God's beauty and extend God's love.*

Mission: *To receive the grace of God, to give glory to God, and to follow the Word of God.*

Core Values:

- **His Voice:** While God speaks through creation, God speaks directly in the Word of God. Therefore, we receive and obey God's Word.
- **His Plan:** Because God is love, God is on a mission to save. We seek to follow Him in His mission.
- **His Grace:** The good news for sinners is that Jesus saves by grace. Through faith, we believe in Christ and grow in Christ.
- **His Power:** Only God has power to save and to sustain His people. We depend on the Holy Spirit.
- **His People:** In Christ, the church is made one. In the midst of both unity and diversity, we must love one another.
- **His Gifts:** Creation, redemption, and the ability to serve are gifts from God. The entire church should be equipped and empowered to serve gratefully.
- **His Timing:** All things are in God's hands; therefore, we trust in His ways.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.newlifeyorkpca.com/about-us.html>

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