



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

April 6, 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. Jesus welcomed children in worship, and so do we! Having said that, here are some additional options for parents:

- + There is a staffed nursery, off the fellowship hall, for children ages 0-4.
- + A private “nursing moms” alcove is available in the nursery.
- + Classroom 1 is a “Wiggle Room” for parents who desire a place to temporarily be with their young ones while still being able to watch the livestream.

Please be aware that we livestream our services.

Worshiping God

April 6, 2025

Reflection

[Speaking of Luke 15] “These three stories go together. Hearing them is like hearing the same melody played on three different musical instruments: it is all the same music, but each story has its own unique sound. The third story brings the parable to its unmistakable climax. We pity the lost sheep and prize a lost coin, but identify most closely with the lost son. The son gets lost by his own deliberate will - not haphazardly like the sheep, or helplessly like the coin, but willfully and defiantly. He is lost because he wants to be lost, but just because he is a son, there is even greater joy when he is found.” – Philip Ryken

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Deuteronomy 6:4-6

Elder Joe Heidler

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Prayer of Praise

King of Kings

Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

Verse 2

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Chorus

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

Verse 3

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

Verse 4

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Chorus

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings
Praise forever to the King of kings

"King of Kings" words and music by Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood; © 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia, Fellow Ships Music, So Essential Tunes; Used by Permission. CCLI License #2410623

Completely Known, Completely Loved

Verse 1

Completely known completely loved
My heart is seen by God above
Should I now run dare hide my face
When in His eyes there is only grace

Verse 2

Completely free the shame is gone
The highest Judge took all my wrongs
And set them on His only Son
He bore my sin I bear His love

Chorus

Completely known completely loved
I'm covered by my Savior's blood
I'm robed in white and God is pleased
To see His Son when He looks on me

Verse 3

Completely His how can it be
That God would set His heart on me
Loved not for works that I have done
But long before time had begun

Chorus

Completely known completely loved
I'm covered by my Savior's blood
I'm robed in white and God is pleased
To see His Son when He looks on me

Verse 4

Completely saved the work is done
The curse the grave is overcome
For with that dawn there rose a King
Now heaven's smile shines over me

Chorus

Completely known completely loved
I'm covered by my Savior's blood
I'm robed in white and God is pleased
To see His Son when He looks on me
(REPEAT)

"Completely Known, Completely Loved" words and music Matt Boswell, Matt Papa

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Affirmation of Faith – 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 19:19-25

Elder Joe Heidler

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

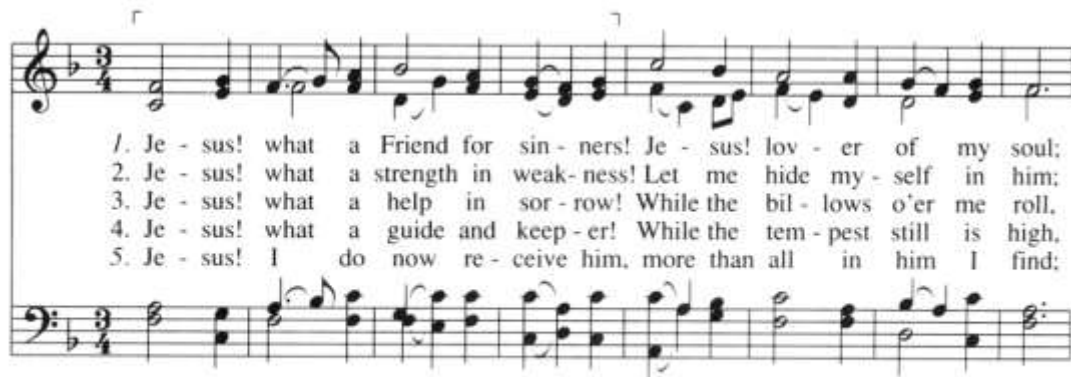
Prayer of Confession

O God our Father, You have given us all that we need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. He is our life, he is our righteousness, he is our peace, he is our protection, he is our hope, and he is our strength. Our life belongs to Jesus. His blood purchased our salvation. We have peace with you and with other believers because of our Lord. We know our lives are held in His hand. We have confidence for the future because of him. He has given us His Spirit and His Word. We believe this, Father, with gratitude and thanksgiving. And we also confess our lack of faith. We fail at times to live as if these things are true. We believe lies and half-truths rather than clinging wholeheartedly to your promises in Christ. We act sometimes as if our righteousness depends on us, rather than being your gracious gift. We can be quick to take offense at others, rather than living as ambassadors of peace. Rather than live by faith in your word, we often live in fear of the other voices in our lives. At times we forget that salvation is entirely a gift from you. Sometimes we act as if it is our strength, not yours, that matters. We confess this unbelief, and we cast ourselves once again on your mercy. Lord, we believe! Help our unbelief. We ask this as we trust in Jesus' name and as we rely on the strength of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

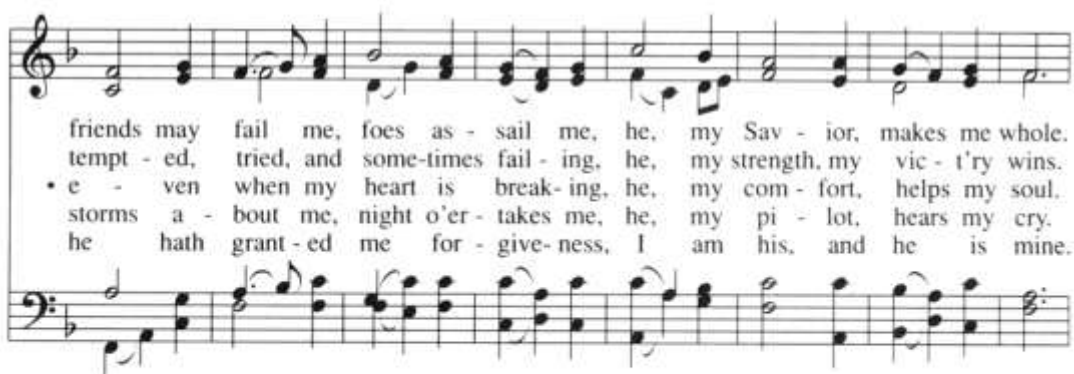
Assurance of Forgiveness – Isaiah 53:4-5

*Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners



1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners! Je - sus! lov - er of my soul;
 2. Je - sus! what a strength in weak - ness! Let me hide my - self in him;
 3. Je - sus! what a help in sor - row! While the bil - lows o'er me roll.
 4. Je - sus! what a guide and keep - er! While the tem - pest still is high,
 5. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive him, more than all in him I find;



friends may fail me, foes as - sail me, he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
 tempt - ed, tried, and some-times fail - ing, he, my strength, my vic - t'ry wins.
 • e - ven when my heart is break - ing, he, my com - fort, helps my soul.
 storms a - bout me, night o'er - takes me, he, my pi - lot, hears my cry.
 he hath grant - ed me for - give - ness, I am his, and he is mine.

REFRAIN



Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!



Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing, he is with me to the end.

Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment – A/V Team

Jenn Ryan

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 15

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

¹¹ And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Sermon: *What God's Love Looks Like*

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 I 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

Stronger

Verse 1

There is Love that came for us
Humbled to a sinner's cross
You broke my shame and sinfulness
You rose again victorious

Verse 2

Faithfulness none can deny
Through the storm and through the fire
There is truth that sets me free
Jesus Christ who lives in me

Chorus

You are stronger
You are stronger
Sin is broken
You have saved me
It is written
Christ is risen
Jesus You are Lord of all

Verse 3

No beginning and no end
You're my hope and my defense
You came to seek and save the lost
You paid it all upon the cross

Chorus

You are stronger
You are stronger
Sin is broken
You have saved me
It is written
Christ is risen
Jesus You are Lord of all

Bridge

So let Your Name be lifted higher
Be lifted higher
Be lifted higher
(REPEAT 4X)

Chorus

You are stronger
You are stronger
Sin is broken
You have saved me
It is written
Christ is risen
Jesus You are Lord of all
(REPEAT)

"Stronger" words and music by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

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Benediction – Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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. 4/6	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 4/6	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 4/6	11:30 am	Children’s Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 4/6	11:30 am	Giant cards for sale	Foyer
Sun. 4/6	11:45 am	Egg-Stuffing Party	Aquarium
Sun. 4/6	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members’ Homes
Tu. 4/8	7:00 pm	Zoom Women’s Bible Study	Zoom
W. 4/9	7:00 am	Men’s Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
W. 4/9	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 4/9	9:45 am	Moms +	Classroom 2
W. 4/9	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 4/10	9:30 am	Women’s In-Person Bible Study	Aquarium
Th. 4/10	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sat. 4/12	10:00 am	Easter Egg Hunt	New Life Yard
Sat. 4/12	4:00 pm	Memorial for Barbara Marsh	Sanctuary
Sun. 4/13	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 4/13	9:55 am	Palm Sunday Procession	Sanctuary
Sun. 4/13	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 4/13	11:30 am	2 nd Sunday Potluck Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 4/13	12:00 pm	Young Adults Gathering	Classroom 1

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$107,499.99	\$114,038.90
Week of 3/30/25	\$8,269.23	\$11,961.00

Announcements

- **Sound Team Members Needed:** Do you have a good ear for music, a basic understanding of technology, and a desire to use these skills to worship God? If so, New Life's sound team could be a good fit for you. There are a variety of ways sound team members serve the congregation, from running the camera and balancing the audio feed for our livestream, to using digital tools to make the most of the voices and instruments leading in musical worship. Experience is preferred, but we are willing to train if you are interested. The ability to attend worship team rehearsals on Wednesday evenings is necessary. Please contact Jenn Ryan (jenn@newlifeyorkpca.com) or Ed Feeney.
- **Palm Sunday Children's Choir:** Rehearsal will begin about 15 minutes after the end of worship each Sunday between now and Palm Sunday. Happy singing!
- **Service for Barbara Marsh:** We will gather to remember our dear sister in Christ at 4pm **this Sat. Apr. 12**. New Life will provide sandwiches after the service, but if you wish to help, you can contribute chips or a dessert. Please see sign-up sheet in the foyer.
- **Easter at New Life:**
 - **Egg-Stuffing Party:** You are invited to the Aquarium **TODAY Sun. Apr. 6** following the worship service to help stuff Easter eggs! Our young friends at the Easter Egg Hunt this coming Saturday will delight in the surprises you've packed for them!
 - **Easter Egg Hunt:** Come as early as 10am **this Sat. Apr. 12**. Egg hunts will begin at 10:30am. Community members welcome! Invite neighbors, friends and family!
 - **Palm Sunday Processional:** We will begin at 9:55am **next Sun. Apr. 13**. Please begin the line at the Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary door and continue down the back hallway.
 - **Good Friday Service:** Join us at 6:30pm on **Fri. Apr. 19**.
 - **Sunrise Service:** Greet Easter morning **Sun. Apr. 20** with a sunrise service at **6am at the home of Ray & Renee Henry**. We will follow with a potluck breakfast.
 - **NO Sunday School** for any classes on Easter **Sun. Apr. 20**.
 - **Easter Worship:** We'll meet at our regular time of 10am on Easter **Sun. Apr. 20**.

- **Service for Teresa Deckard:** We will gather to remember our dear sister in Christ at 4pm on **Sun. Apr. 27**. If you'd like to help, you can contribute a gift card to offset the cost of refreshments. Please see Connie Kay.
- **Save the Dates!**
 - **Vacation Bible School:** The mornings of **July 28-Aug. 1**. More details TBA.
 - **Camping Trip:** Our 6th annual church-wide camping trip will be **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."
 - **Men's Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Jan. 23-25**.

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 are 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 9:30-11am at church beginning March 13, or Tuesdays 7-8:15pm 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 Breakfast: 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 Elder 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.