



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

October 19, 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

October 19, 2025

Reflection

*“Surprises are always part of God’s leading. If you’re waiting on God to fill in all the shading in your picture, you will never take the first step in obeying His will. You must be prepared to trust His plan, knowing it will be full of surprises. Surprises are always a part of God’s leading. Surprises always intensify our need for faith. Stepping out in faith always brings clarification of God’s plan. When Ananias went, he received additional information. As Saul submitted himself to the ministry of Ananias, he found out more about God’s plan for his life [Acts 9:10ff]. Obedience always stimulates growth.” – Charles Swindoll (from *Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit*)*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – from Psalm 3

Minister: You, O LORD, are a shield about me,

People: My glory, and the lifter of my head.

Minister: I cried aloud to the LORD, and He answered me from His holy hill.

People: I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.

Minister: I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

People: Salvation belongs to the LORD, your blessing be on your people!

Prayer of Praise

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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Desert Song

Verse 1

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

Verse 2

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth than
gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 3

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Bridge (4x)

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 4

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favor and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

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Affirmation of Faith – adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:1-7

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened – not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Scripture Reading – Hebrews 12:1-6

Sue Vester

Minister: *This is the word of the LORD.*

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Prayer of Confession – adapted from a prayer of Martin Luther

O Father of all mercy and God of all comfort, strengthen and uphold us by your Spirit. You command that we should wait on you until the reason for our trials shall appear. For you do not for your own pleasure permit us to be grieved. In fact, you do not permit any evil to be done unless you can make it serve a good purpose. We confess our failure, at times, to exercise faith in Christ's work in our times of trial. You see our distress and weakness. Therefore, forgive, help and deliver us. We ask through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Romans 5:8-10

God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Christ Is Mine Forevermore

Verse 1

Mine are days that God has numbered
I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings

Chorus 1

But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore

Verse 2

Mine are tears in times of sorrow
Darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good

Chorus 2

But mine is peace that flows from heaven
And the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted
Christ completes His work in me

Verse 3

Mine are days here as a stranger
Pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name

Chorus 3

But mine is armour for this battle
Strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore

Chorus 4

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

Bridge

Come rejoice now O my soul
For His love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure
Christ is mine forevermore
(REPEAT)

Chorus 4

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore
Christ is mine forevermore

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Prayers of the People

Missions Moment

Denise Fitz

Ministry Moment – Operation Christmas Child

Connie Kay

Membership Vows

Craig, Ashley, and Reagan Nicholson

Baptism

Reagan Lorraine Nicholson

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 – Psalm 129

129 “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth” —
let Israel now say—
² “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,
yet they have not prevailed against me.
³ The plowers plowed upon my back;
they made long their furrows.”
⁴ The LORD is righteous;
he has cut the cords of the wicked.
⁵ May all who hate Zion
be put to shame and turned backward!
⁶ Let them be like the grass on the housetops,
which withers before it grows up,
⁷ with which the reaper does not fill his hand
nor the binder of sheaves his arms,
⁸ nor do those who pass by say,
“The blessing of the LORD be upon you!
We bless you in the name of the LORD!”

Sermon: Sowing with Tears and Reaping with Joy

Pastor Erik Swanson

Series: Travel Songs

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 is 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

His Glory and My Good

Verse 1

I have seen my Father's glory
Revealed in Jesus Christ
And the more that I behold Him
The more He satisfies
When I gaze upon His beauty
When I see Him as I should
Then my eyes are lifted upward
For His glory and my good

Verse 2

There is hope in every trial
For I can trust the Lord
He will turn my heart towards Him
And help me bear the thorn
So in faith I follow Jesus
On the road not understood
For I know that He is working
For His glory and my good

Chorus 1

To our God be the glory
To our God be praise
He alone the name above all names
I will boast ever only in the Lord my God
For I know His glory is my good

Verse 3

See the open arms of Jesus
Upon the cross that day
What they understood as weakness
Deserves my every praise
For the charge that was against me
It was nailed into the wood
Yes I know that He has saved me
For His glory and my good

Chorus 1

To our God be the glory
To our God be praise
He alone the name above all names
I will boast ever only in the Lord my God
For I know His glory is my good

Verse 4

Would I gladly be made nothing
That Christ would be made more
Would I seek the only kingdom
That far outweighs them all
I will stand before my Father
Where the faithful saints have stood
And with joy my heart shall praise Him
For His glory and my good

Chorus 2

To our God be the glory
To our God be praise
He alone the name above all names
I will boast ever only in the Lord my God
For I know His glory is my good
(REPEAT)

Tag

Yes I know His glory is my good

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Benediction – 2 Peter 3:17

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. 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. 10/19	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 10/19	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 10/19	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
Sun. 10/19 – M. 10/20		SILVERS Trip	Peddler's Village
M. 10/20	7:00 pm	Finance Team Meeting	Aquarium
Tues. 10/21	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study	Aquarium
Tues. 10/21	11:00 am	Mid-Day Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Tues. 10/21	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
W. 10/22	8:30 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
W. 10/22	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 10/22	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 10/26	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 10/26	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 10/26	11:45 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 10/26	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$339,038.43	\$350,938.01
Week of 10/12/25	\$8,269.23	\$7,459.60

Announcements, page 1 of 2

- ❖ **Missionary Visit:** Please join us for adult Sunday school on **Nov. 2** when the McMillans will share with us about their ministry in Madrid, Spain.
- ❖ **Hospitality Brainstorming Session:** Anyone interested in the hospitality ministry (contributing to/serving snacks after church), please mark your calendars for a feedback and brainstorming meeting on **Sun. Nov. 2** at 11:45am. We will meet in the aquarium classroom, off of the fellowship hall. The purpose of this meeting is to coordinate plans for moving forward, as the hospitality ministry has grown.
- ❖ **Directory Updates:** Please note the fall directory draft in the foyer. Please make any updates/corrections next to your entry. If you are a new addition to the directory, please write your info on the separate sheet provided. Charles Fox will be available after the service on **Sun. Nov. 2 and Sun. Nov. 9** if you would like your picture taken. Alternatively, you may submit a photo to admin@newlifeyorkpca.com. You are also welcome to leave your picture as is, or go without.
- ❖ **Adult Sunday School Classes:**
 - + **Parenting in the Pew:** On **Nov. 9 and 16** there will be a class helping parents teach their children about how the whole of the worship service is intended to include children. Specific focus will be on teaching children to listen to the sermon through picture notes or written outlines. Meet in Classroom 2.
 - + **An Overview of the Book of Job:** Starting **Nov. 23** there will be a five-week overview of the book of Job. Meet in Classroom 2.
 - + **2 Corinthians Study:** We also have an ongoing Sunday school class on 2 Corinthians which meets in the Aquarium room.
- ❖ **Operation Christmas Child:** Please consider filling a Christmas gift shoebox with appropriate gifts and toys for a child in another country. Secure your own empty shoebox (or small plastic tote), fill it with gifts, pay online, and print out the label. Please also remember to secure your box with a rubber band. You can also build a box online if you prefer. Go to samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ for helpful suggestions and more information. The final collection date to bring your completed box back to New Life is **Sun. Nov. 16**. Please note there are no boxes provided this year. Please supply your own box.

(Announcements continue on next page)

Announcements, page 2 of 2

- ❖ **Advent Children's Choir:** We are inviting all children aged 4 through 8th grade to be part of leading worship on **Sun. Dec. 21**. Rehearsals will be on Sundays, beginning about 15 minutes after the end of the worship service and lasting for 30 to 45 minutes. The first rehearsal will be on **Sun. Oct. 26**. Questions? Please contact Catherine Kloetzli, Ellen Metzger, Elissa Ryan, or Jenn Ryan. We hope to see your children there!
- ❖ **Men's Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Fri. Jan. 23 through Sun. Jan. 25, 2026**.
- ❖ **Refreshments:** Thanks to all those who helped out with Sunday refreshments last quarter! You will find a new sheet for sign-ups in the foyer. Sign up with some friends to make it easier, and please keep it simple.

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 2 Corinthians and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other an Inquirers' Class and meeting in Classroom 2.

Women's Bible Study: The fall session takes place Tuesday mornings at church 9:30-11 or evenings on Zoom 7-8:15 using the book [*The Word of the Lord: Seeing Jesus in the Prophets*](#) (A 10-Week Study), by Nancy Guthrie. Please contact Marlene Spark for details.

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

Moms+: Women, please join us at the church on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10:30. Childcare and Bible classes for your kids are also provided.

Men's Breakfast is in transition. Stay tuned for details.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: NLPC has two ongoing opportunities dedicated to prayer. In the midday, prayer meets on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays** from 11am-12pm in classroom 1. In the evenings, prayer meets on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** from 7-8pm in the classroom 3. Sherry Rishel is the point of contact.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Contact Elder Will Pope 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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