



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

November 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. 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.

Worshipping God

November 16, 2025

Reflection

“In gospel-revealing community, many relationships would never exist but for the truth and power of the gospel—either because of the depth of care for each other or because two people in relationship have little in common but Christ. While affinity-based relationships also thrive in this church, they’re not the focus. Instead, church leaders focus on helping people out of their comfort zones to cultivate relationships that would not be possible apart from the supernatural. And so this community *reveals* the power of the gospel.” – Jamie Dunlop (from *The Compelling Community*).

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Minister: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: Our Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

Minister: You comfort us in all our affliction,

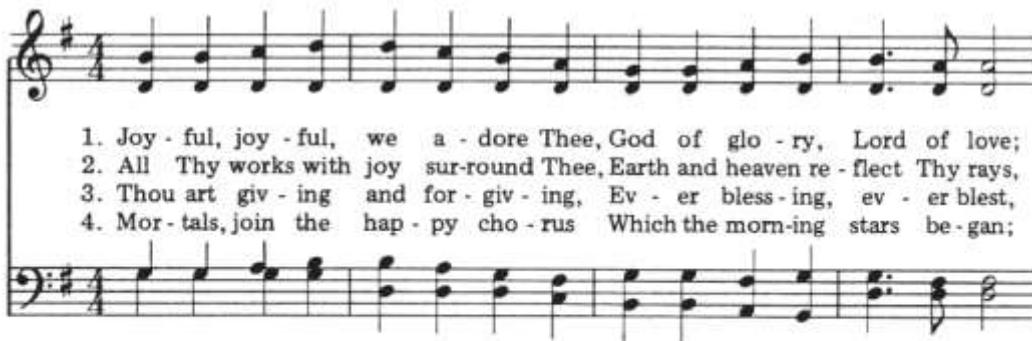
People: So that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction,

Minister: With the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by You.

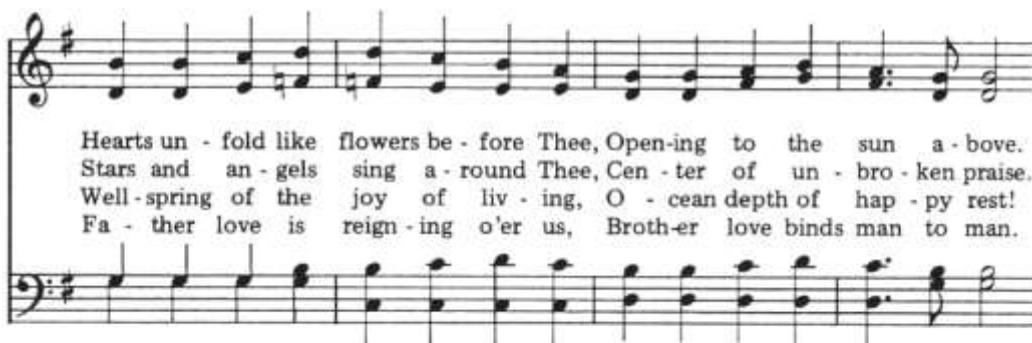
All: Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as You share in all our sufferings, You will also share in our comfort.

Prayer of Praise

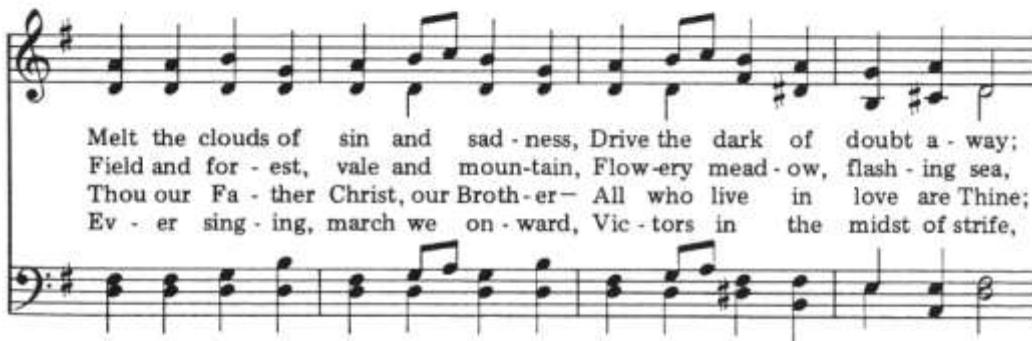
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



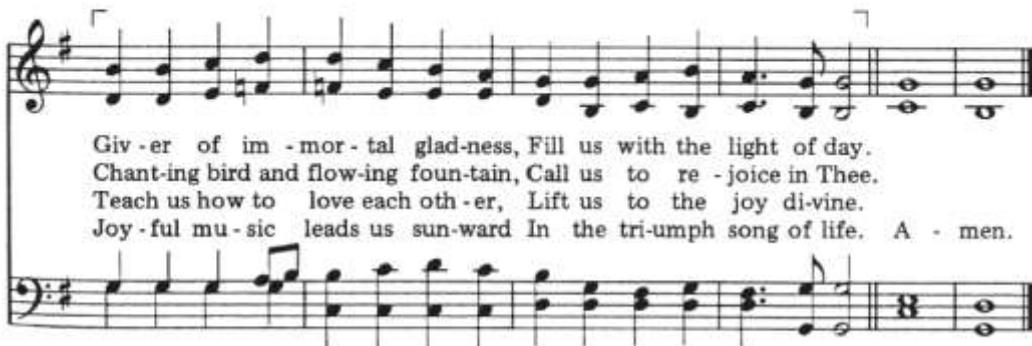
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther Christ, our Broth - er— All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

O Praise the Name

Verse 1

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

Verse 2

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Verse 3

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Verse 4

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God
(REPEAT)

Ending

O Lord oh Lord our God
O Lord oh Lord our God

"O Praise The Name (Anastasis)" words and music by Benjamin
Hastings, Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson
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Affirmation of Faith – Colossians 1:15-19

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Scripture Reading – Romans 15:1-7

Mark Flaharty

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession – from John 17:21

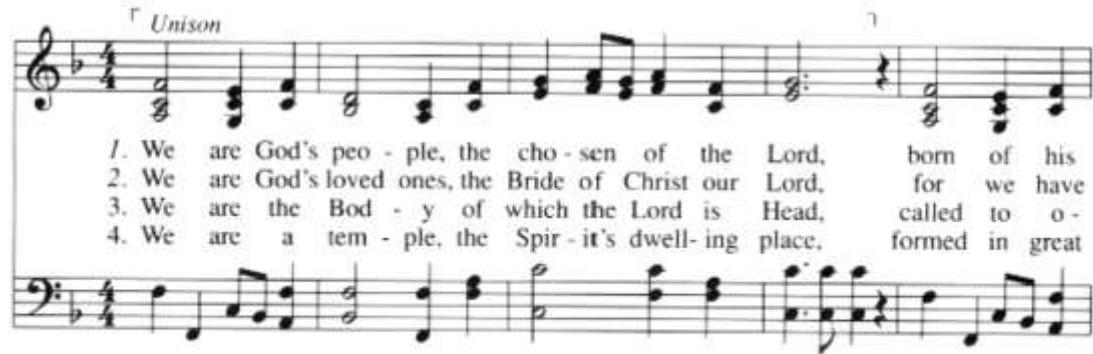
Father, our Lord Jesus prayed that we “may be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you.” Forgive us for the times that we fail to be a unified body of believers, fail to support and care for one another. Our hearts too often strive for our own self-concerns; forgive us and prod us to bear one another’s burdens. Help us to pursue love for one another “so that the world may believe that You have sent” us.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Romans 5:8-11

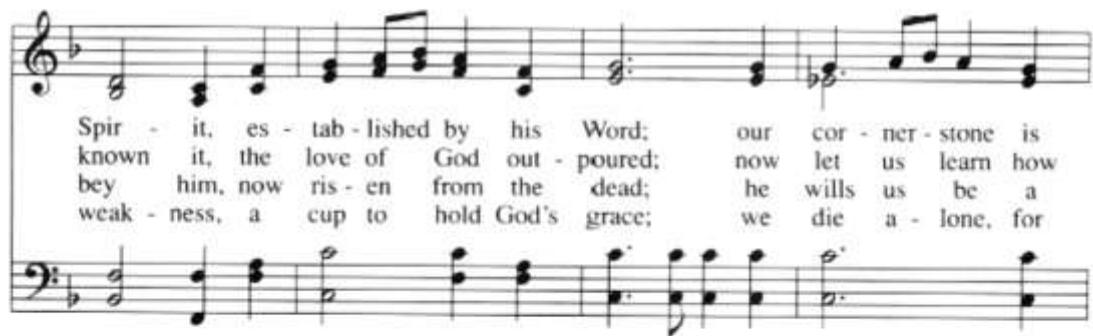
God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

We Are God's People

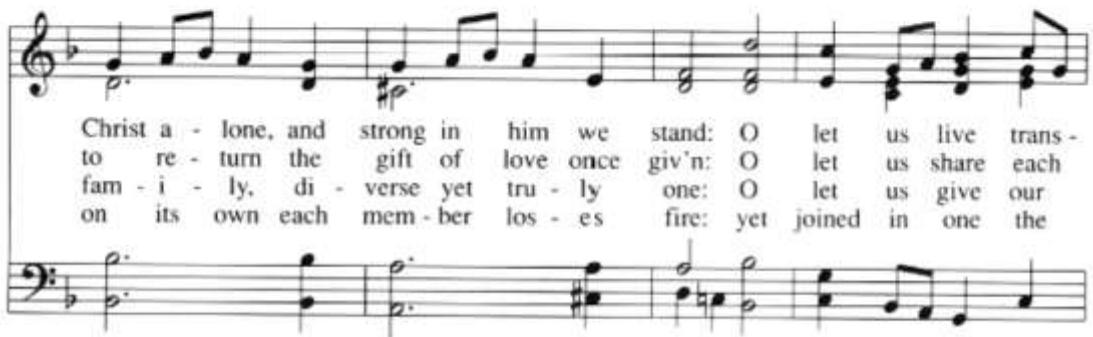
Unison



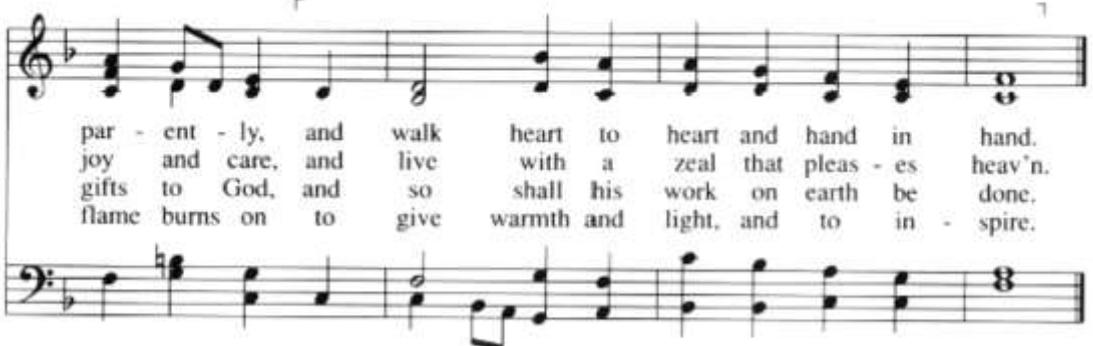
1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great



Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for



Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each
fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the



par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.
gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done,
flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Prayers of the People

Missions Moment

Diane McGahan

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 133

¹ How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
² It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
³ It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

Sermon: Unity in the Church

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

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our hearts re - stored. He has
 done great things, we will say to - geth - er. We will feast and weep no more.

VERSE

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord, our
 In the dark of night, be - fore the dawn, my soul, be not a -
 Ev - 'ry vow we've bro - ken and be - trayed, You are the faith - ful

God. We are not con - sumed by the flood; up - held, pro - tect - ed,
 fraid. For the prom - ised morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Ja - cob,
 one. And from the gar - den to the grave, bind us to - geth - er,

gath - - - - - ered up.
 be my strength.
 bring sha - - - lom.

"We Will Feast In The House Of Zion" words and music by Joshua Moore, Sandra McCracken
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Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13:11, 14

Finally, believers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.... The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Sending

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

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Postlude

*Fact correction to the Nov. 9 sermon on Ps. 132 (Mark Deckard) – when referring to the attempt to use the Ark of the Covenant as a magical charm, resulting in its loss to the Philistines, I accidentally credited that action to King Saul. Of course, I Samuel 4 tells us it was Hophni and Phinehas, the two unrighteous sons of Eli. Sorry for the error, good lesson for us all to follow the direction of Acts 17:11. For another example of trying to manipulate God’s power by our own magical efforts, see Simon the magician, Acts 8:9-25.

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 11/16	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 11/16	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 11/16	11:45 am	Children’s Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 11/16	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members’ Homes
Tues. 11/18	9:30 am	Women’s Bible Study	Aquarium
Tues. 11/18	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Tues. 11/18	7:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study	Zoom
W. 11/19	9:00 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
W. 11/19	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 11/19	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
W. 11/19	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 11/23	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 11/23	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 11/23	11:30 am	Meeting for Parents’ Day Out	Classroom 1
Sun. 11/23	11:45 am	Children’s Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 11/23	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$372,115.35	\$380,136.38
Week of 11/9/25	\$8,269.23	\$7,062.00

Announcements, page 1 of 3

- ❖ **GriefShare Class:** NLPC is considering offering a group for those who are walking through the process of grieving. The group would meet for 13 weeks. It would cover the "GriefShare" program, including video teaching, homework, and opportunity for discussion and sharing. While other churches in York County offer this program, New Life is considering offering it if there are at least four committed participants. Please contact Pastor Erik for more information.
- ❖ **New Finance Team Member Needed:** The purpose of the finance team is to assist the elders and deacons by providing oversight, advice, guidance, and reporting regarding the financial planning and systems of New Life. Financial or business experience is a plus, but as long as you can "balance a checkbook" and have interest in helping the team your participation is welcomed. We hope to bring the new member onto the team in January. Contact Wayne Blanding if you are interested or have questions.
- ❖ **Adult Sunday School Classes:**
 - + **Parenting in the Pew:** On **Nov. 9 and 16** there is 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.
- ❖ **Parents' Day Out & Kids' Christmas Party Meeting:** For those helping on Sat. Dec. 6, there will be a brief meeting in Classroom 1 after church on **Sun. Nov. 23**.
- ❖ **Parents' Day Out & Kids' Christmas Party:** Refreshments are needed. Please sign up in the foyer if you are willing to contribute.

(Announcements continue on next two pages.)

Announcements, page 2 of 3

❖ Advent and Christmas at New Life:

- + **Operation Christmas Child:** Boxes are due back **TODAY**. Please see Connie Kay for any questions.
- + **Advent Wreath Making:** On **Sun. Nov. 30** at 6pm, meet in the fellowship hall to make your own advent wreath. Bring \$10 per wreath, bring cookies to share, and plan to stay for singing Christmas Carols!
- + **Daily Advent Devotional Book:** Pick up a copy of a daily advent devotional, written by the NLPC community. Available in a few weeks.
- + **Parents' Day Out & Kids' Christmas Party:** On **Sat. Dec. 6** from 9am-1pm, NLPC will be hosting a one-day VBS kids' Christmas program for children ages 4 to 12. Please invite your friends and neighbors using the postcards from the foyer table. Register through EventBrite. If you would like to volunteer to help, please see Shyrl Tompkins.
- + **SILVERS** please mark your calendars for a special music event where you will hear some incredible music performed on handbells. We will be going to see the Westminster Ringers Concert on **Sat. Dec. 6** at 2pm at Fawn Grove Community Church. Cost is free, however there will be a freewill offering. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Questions or for carpooling see Mel King, Alice Lomax or Shyrl Tompkins.
- + **Christmas Luncheon:** In lieu of our regular 2nd Sunday lunch, on **Sun. Dec. 14** NLPC will be coordinating a Christmas Luncheon. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please bring items in crockpots or casserole dishes to keep warm in oven. Oven will not be available to bake items, just to keep food warm. For questions see Shyrl Tompkins or Suzanne Harman.
- + **Caroling in the Community:** Meet at NLPC on **Sun. Dec. 14** at 7pm to go caroling in the community around the church.
- + **Open House at Swansons':** Come to the Swanson home on **Sat. Dec. 20**, from 3-7pm for a festive time of fellowship. We will sing carols together at 6pm.
- + **Children's Choir:** All NLPC children from age 4 to 8th grade are invited to help lead worship on **Sun. Dec. 21**. In preparation, we will be rehearsing every Sunday between now and December 21st beginning about 15 minutes after the end of the worship service and running for 30 to 45 minutes. If your child was unable to make last Sunday's rehearsal, it is not too late to join! Questions? Please talk to either Catherine Kloetzli, Ellen Metzger, Elissa Ryan, or Jenn Ryan.

(Announcements continue on next page.)

- ❖ **Men's Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Fri. Jan. 23 through Sun. Jan. 25, 2026.**
- ❖ **Short-Term Mission Opportunity:** New Life is partnering with Servants and Baptist on Mission for a short-term trip to assist with hurricane recovery efforts in western North Carolina from **Sun. Apr. 12 through Sat. Apr. 18.** See Nathan Raine for more information.
- ❖ **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 "Parenting in the Pew" 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.