



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

November 23, 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

November 23, 2025

Reflection

Why was spiritual regeneration, instead of making a good man better and happier, such a miserable struggle for William Wilberforce? Evangelicals certainly expected Christianity to make a person better and happier, but mere improvement was not what it was about at all. As he put it in his later spiritual writings, every person is ‘tainted with sin, not slightly and superficially, but radically and to the very core.’ He had to learn to see how far his day-to-day conduct fell below God’s standard of perfection – his short temper, his flashes of pride, his wounding wit, his willingness to believe gossip – and to see himself as a wretched sinner. He had to learn that religion was not what happened when one picked up a Bible or entered church, but was about living every moment of life in the presence and to the glory of God...true Christians ‘prostrate themselves before the cross of Christ with humble penitence and deep self-abhorrence.’ – Stephen Tomkins (from *William Wilberforce – A Biography*)

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – adapted from Exodus 15

Elder Brian Fitz

Minister: I will sing to the LORD for He has triumphed gloriously.

People: The horse and his rider You threw into the sea.

Minister: O LORD you are our strength and our song and You have become our salvation.

People: You are our God, and we will praise you. Our father’s God and we will exalt You.

Minister: You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed.

All: You, O LORD, will reign forever and ever.

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!



Forever

Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise
Sing praise sing praise

Verse 2

With a mighty hand
And outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise
Sing praise sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

Verse 3

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise
Sing praise sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever (REPEAT)

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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 – Zechariah 3:1-10

Kevin St. John

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession – adapted from Daniel 9:17-19

Our God, listen to the prayer of your servants and to our pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon us here in our worship. O God, incline your ear and hear. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act, for we, your people, are called by your name and pray in the name of our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y la - den, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer?



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment

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 – 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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

This Is Amazing Grace

Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Verse 2

Who shakes the whole earth with holy
thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Chorus

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me

Verse 3

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory

Verse 4

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Chorus

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me

Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy

Chorus

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me

"This Is Amazing Grace" words and music by Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham
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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

** Do you need prayer today? Following the service a PRAYER TEAM member is available to pray with you. Find them up front to the right of the stage.**

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
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	Ordination of Justin Kleiner	Sanctuary
W. 11/26	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Sun. 11/30	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 11/30	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 11/30	11:45 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 11/30	6:00 pm	Advent Wreath Making	Fellowship Hall

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$380,384.58	\$384,006.98
Week of 11/16/25	\$8,269.23	\$3,870.60

Announcements, page 1 of 2

- ❖ **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:**
 - + **An Overview of the Book of Job:** Starting **today 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 **today Sun. Nov. 23**.
- ❖ **Parents' Day Out & Kids' Christmas Party:** Refreshments are needed. Please sign up in the foyer if you are willing to contribute.
- ❖ **Advent and Christmas at New Life:**
 - + **Advent Wreath Making:** This coming **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 **next Sunday**.
 - + **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.

(Announcements continue on next page)

Announcements, page 2 of 2

- + **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.
- ❖ **Men's Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Fri. Jan. 23 through Sun. Jan. 25, 2026**.
- ❖ **Winter Women's Book Club:** This winter, read at your own pace and then join us for a dinner and discussion in **late February or early March**. We will be discussing the book *Running to the Fire: Helping in Jesus' Name* by Ken Isaacs.
- ❖ **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 studying Job and meeting in Classroom 2.

Women's Bible Study: Our fall session has ended. Stay tuned for details on the spring study. Contact Marlene Spark with questions.

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 9-11am. 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
Deacons Team 2025/26**

Lead Deacon

Steve Harman

Benevolence Team

Jim Borch

Kiel Reese

Dave Lomax

Blaine Marsh

Leon Leader

Property Management

Interior Team

Roger Kay

Dan Paules

Ray Henry

Dennis Tompkins

Exterior Team

Dave Lomax

Dennis Tompkins

Leon Leader

Ray Henry

Utility Team

Ed Feeney

Blaine Marsh

Roger Kay