

New Life Presbyterian Church

Embrace God's Beauty.
Extend God's Love.

December 14, 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

December 7, 2025

Reflection

Trials should not surprise us, or cause us to doubt God's faithfulness. Rather, we should actually be glad for them. God sends trials to strengthen our trust in him so that our faith will not fail. Our trials keep us trusting; they burn away our self-confidence and drive us to our Savior. - Edmund Clowney

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Philippians 4:4-7

Minister: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Praise

Manger Throne

Verse 1

You could have stepped into creation
With fire for all to see
Brought every tribe and nation
to their knees
Arriving with the host of heaven
In royal robe and crown
The rulers of the earth all bowing down

Pre-Chorus

But You chose meekness over majesty
Wrapped Your power in humanity

Chorus

Glory be to You alone
King who reigns from a manger throne
My life my praise everything I own
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

Verse 2

You could have marched in all Your glory
Into the heart of Rome
Showed them splendor
like they'd never known
But You wrote a better story
In humble Bethlehem
Creator in the arms of common men

Pre-Chorus

You will die for our redemption
And You'll rise so we can live

Chorus

Glory be to You alone
King who reigns from a manger throne
My life my praise everything I own
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

Bridge

From heaven to the cradle
From cradle to the cross
Let heaven and nature sing
This is our King
But the grave couldn't hold Him
Our God has overcome
Let heaven and nature sing
This is our King
(REPEAT)

All hail the King
All hail the King
All hail the King

Chorus

Glory be to You alone
King who reigns from a manger throne
My life my praise everything I own
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

Ending

My life my praise everything I own
To Jesus the King on a manger throne
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

"Manger Throne" words and music by Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham, Tony Wood
© Mike Curb Music; Tony Wood Songs; Be Essential Songs; Cashagamble Jet Music; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs
Used by Permission. CCLI License #2410623

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing.

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Prayer

O Lord, we have found eternal hope and peace in our Savior, Christ. But we still struggle in this fallen world with many difficulties, including our own sin. Help us to hear again the words of the Angel at Christ's first coming, *"Fear not, behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people."* Let that joy be in our hearts today. Amen.

(Light two purple candles and the pink candle.)

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil....

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Prayer of Response

All: In Psalm 51:12 David received your forgiving mercy as we have, and so we pray with him that you would *"restore to us the joy of our salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit."* This Advent season, may the joy of our salvation in Christ be evident in our lives no matter our circumstances. And may that joy be apparent to all that we meet so that they may experience Joy in Christ, rather than live in despair.

How Great Our Joy

1 While by the sheep we watched at night, glad ti - dings brought an
2 There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le - hem a
3 There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall re -
4 This gift of God we'll che - rish well, that e - ver joy our

an - gel to - bright.
Child deem us shall fill.
How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

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.

Special Music – O Come O Come

Verse 1

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Verse 2

O come Thou rod of Jesse free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Interlude

Oo oo oo

Doxology:

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Verse 3

O come Thou Day-spring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel
(REPEAT)

Ending

Shall come to thee O Israel
Oo oo oo

"O Come, O Come" words and music by Barry Graul, Bart Millard, Ben Shive, Brown Bannister, Mike Scheuchzer, Nathan Cochran, Robby Shaffer
© 2015 Banistuci Music; Junkbox Music; MercyMe Music; No Sappy Music; Tunes of MercyMe
Used by Permission. CCLI License #2410623

Scripture – James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Sermon: The Testing of Your Faith

Pastor Justin Kleiner

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

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

"Christ Is Mine Forevermore" words and music by Jonny
Robinson and Rich Thompson
© 2016 CityAlight Music
Used by Permission. CCLI License #2410623

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

** Would you like to pray with someone today about a need? 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. 12/14	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/14	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/14	11:30 am	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12/14	12:00 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/14	7:00 pm	Caroling	New Life Neighborhood
Tu. 12/16	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Wed. 12/17	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 12/17	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
Wed. 12/17	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Fri. 12/19	6:45 pm	Youth Group Ice Skating	York Ice Arena
Sat. 12/20	3:00 pm	Swansons' Open House	Swanson Home
Sun. 12/21	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/21	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/21	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$396,923.04	\$395,782.98
Week of 11/30/25	\$8,269.23	\$4,596.00

Announcements, page 1 of 2

- ❖ **Welcome to Justin, Jenny, Eliana, and Lucas!**
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Youth Group Event:** Youth, join us **this Fri. Dec. 19** for ice-skating! Meet at York Ice Arena (941 Vander Ave) at 6:45pm. The cost is \$15 per person which will cover your admission and skate rental. We will skate until 8:30pm.
- ❖ **Advent and Christmas at New Life:**
 - + **Daily Advent Devotional Book:** Pick up a copy of a daily advent devotional, written by the NLPC community.
 - + **Christmas Luncheon:** In lieu of our regular 2nd Sunday lunch, **today Sun. Dec. 14** we are holding a Christmas Luncheon right after the service. Please join us!
 - + **Caroling in the Community:** Meet at NLPC **tonight Sun. Dec. 14** at 7pm to go caroling in the community around the church.
 - + **Open House at Swansons':** Come to the Swanson home **this 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 **next 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. Questions? Please talk to either Catherine Kloetzli, Ellen Metzger, Elissa Ryan, or Jenn Ryan.
 - + **Christmas Eve:** Please join us for our Lessons & Carols service at 6:30pm.
- ❖ **Please note that no Sunday school classes will meet on Dec. 28th – neither adult nor youth.**
- ❖ **New Adult Sunday School classes** to begin in January.
 - + A study on **Ezra and Nehemiah** will meet in the aquarium classroom.
 - + A study on the book **A Praying Church** by Paul Miller will meet in classroom 2.

(Announcements continue on next page.)

Announcements, page 2 of 2

- ❖ Our **annual congregational meeting** will be held on **Sun. Jan. 18** following the worship service. Please join us to reflect on 2025, look ahead in 2026, and discuss/approve the 2026 budget.
- ❖ **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