

New Life Presbyterian Church

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

December 21, 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 21, 2025

Reflection

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. – John 14:15-20

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude – “Lullaby of the Angels”

Children’s Choir

Hush, hush,
A baby’s asleep
Born in a holy manger;
Sweet dreams he will keep

The first Noel
The angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay

Hush,
Hear the angels on high,
Sing to the holy baby
A sweet lullaby

In fields where they
Lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night
That was so deep

Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu,
They sing a glad Noel,
For born is the King
Of Israel!

Noel, Noel,
Noel, Noel,
Born is the King
of Israel

"Lullaby of the Angels" words and music by Jill Gallina
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Call to Worship – Isaiah 25:9

Minister: It will be said on that day,

People: “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

Minister: This is the LORD; we have waited for him;

People: let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Prayer of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)

Verse 1

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth
send the shadows to flight

Verse 2

Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time
were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory
You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us

Chorus

Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Verse 3

Light of the world crown in a manger
Born for the cross to suffer to save
High King of Heaven death is the poorer
We are the richer by the price that He paid

Chorus

Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Verse 4

Light of the World soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us
straight into glory
And there He shall reign
forevermore forevermore

Chorus

Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)” words and music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash
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Prayer

Father, we know that you loved us enough to send your own Son, to be born into this world as a helpless babe, to then grow up to accomplish your redemptive work for us. Help us to grasp your love today so that we may more deeply love you and love those around us this Advent season. Amen.

(Light four advent candles.)

Scripture: Romans 5:8-11

⁸ God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Prayer of Response

All: Strengthen and Teach us to love. May we know your love and demonstrate it in our daily lives. As we are in this Advent season, prepare our hearts with your love for the world, that all those around us may see your love in the One whom you sent, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

Chorus:

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Go tell it on the mountain
(Go tell, go tell it)
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
(Go tell, go tell it)
That Jesus Christ is born

Verse 1:

While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Verse 2:

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When high above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That told of Jesus’ birth

Verse 3:

Down in a lowly manger,
The humble Christ was born;
And all bowed down to worship
That blessed Christmas morn

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain" words and music by John W.
Work and Becky Slagle Mayo
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Prayers of the People

Missions Moment

Wayne Blanding

Membership Vows

Les & Cindy Brant, Micah Raine, Ellen Metzger, Casey & Regan Kilgore, Willow Heidler

Profession of Faith Baptism

Willow Elyse Heidler

Baptisms of Covenant Children

Alexis Grace Kilgore, Audrey Danielle Kilgore, Colton Adam Kilgore

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.

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

7 B \flat C F F C F B \flat /F F C Dm C



peo - ple free; From our fears ___ and sins re - lease ___ us,
 yet ___ a King; Born to reign ___ in us for - ev - er,

13 F/A C⁷/G F F/A B \flat C F Am Dm



let us find our rest ___ in Thee. Is - rael's strength ___ and
 now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own ___ e -

19 Gm C F Dm Gm C^{sus} C



con - so - la - tion, hope of all ___ the earth ___ Thou art;
 - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all ___ our hearts ___ a - lone;

25 F/A F B \flat /F C/E F G⁷/D C/E



Dear ___ de - sire ___ of ev' - ry na - tion,
 By ___ Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,

29 F F/A B \flat F/C C⁷ F



joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.
 raise us to ___ Thy glo - rious throne.

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.**

Scripture – James 1:5-8

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

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

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

The first system of the musical score features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is marked with a fermata (r) and a first ending bracket (1) over the final measure.

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

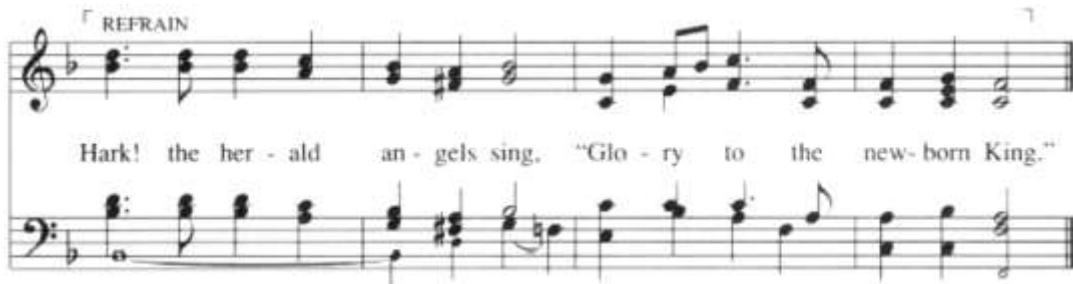
The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

The fourth system concludes the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.



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.

Hospitality Ministry Update

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. 12/21	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
Wed. 12/24	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/28	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/28	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$413,461.50	\$419,173.98
Week of 12/14/25	\$8,269.23	\$11,997.00

Announcements

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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 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.
- ❖ **Setting the Record Straight:** Last week's announcement regarding the congregational meeting had an error in it. The announcement implied that the congregation would vote on the general budget. In fact, according to the PCA's book of church order (BCO), it is the session that approves the general budget. I apologize for the error. According to the BCO, there are specific financial decisions that belong to the congregation, such as approving real estate transactions and pastors' salaries. The corrected announcement is below:
- ❖ 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, discuss the 2026 budget, and deliberate/vote on a proposed change to the senior pastor's compensation in the pastor's terms of call.
- ❖ **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.