



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

December 28, 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 28, 2025

Reflection

And if you say, 'Lord, how shall I know that you have this goodwill towards me?' He points to the manger, and says, 'Sinner if I had not a good will towards you, would I have parted with my Son? If I had not a good will towards the human race, would I have given up my Son to become one of that race that he might by so doing redeem them from death?' - Charles Spurgeon

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 148:1-2, 13-14

*Minister: Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
Praise him in the heights!*

**People: Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!**

*Minister: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.*

**People: He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.
Praise the LORD!**

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.

Holy Forever (Christmas)

Verse 1

Held within a manger
The Son of God arrived
The one who would be called Emmanuel
The promise was delivered
Unto a virgin bride
The one who would be called Emmanuel

Pre-Chorus

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

Chorus 1

And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high holy
Holy forever

Verse 2

In the humble town of David
A Savior born today
The one who would be called Emmanuel
Behold the host of heaven
With holy roar proclaim
The one who would be called Emmanuel
The Messiah our God is with us now

Chorus 1

And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high holy
Holy forever

Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing holy
To the King of kings holy
You will always be holy
Holy forever

Pre-Chorus

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all
(REPEAT)

Chorus 1

And the angels cry holy
All creation cries holy
You are lifted high holy
Holy forever

Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing holy
To the King of kings holy
You will always be holy
Holy forever

Ending

You will always be holy
Holy forever and ever

“Holy Forever (Christmas)” words and music by Brian Johnson, Chris Davenport, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham
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Affirmation of Faith – Colossians 1:15-20

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, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 26:1-4

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession – from *Streams of Mercy*

Loving heavenly Father, you have created us to worship you alone. Your Word should delight us and your law should motivate us to obedience. Yet, Lord, we are great sinners who wander and run from you often. We regularly exchange your truth for lies, because we don't want to worship you. Rather, we want to be our own gods. Many times we turn toward idols that enchant us, bowing before them and hoping that they will make peace for us. We desire sinful things and sell our souls to get them.

Father, forgive us; have mercy on us, for we are weak and guilty of worshiping many false gods. Thank you for Jesus, who paid the price for all sin and who worshipped God alone throughout his earthly life. Holy Spirit, show us our idolatry and grant us sweet conviction and joyful repentance. Make Christ more beautiful to us than all other things and help us desire him above the trinkets and positions we crave. Grant us growing hope and faith in Christ alone until the day we bow before our victorious King, rescued by His strong arm and dressed in his righteous alone. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep - ing: shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody in the treble staff begins with a fermata over the first measure. The lyrics are printed below the staff.

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the staff.

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the staff.

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

The fourth system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the staff.

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:

**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 – Luke 2:8-15

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

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

Go Tell It On the Mountain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

VERSE



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
 2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo a - bove the earth, rang -
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and



-hold through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light. _____
 out the an - gel chor - us that hailed the Sav - ior's birth. _____
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bles - sed Christ - mas morn. _____

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. 12/28	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/28	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home
Tu. 12/30	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 1/4	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 1/4	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 1/4	11:30 am	Giant cards for sale	Foyer
Sun. 1/4	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$421,730.06	\$430,285.04
Week of 12/21/25	\$8,269.23	\$11,111.06

Announcements

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ 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.

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 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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