



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

August 16, 2026

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 be with their children who need to wiggle while still being able to watch the livestream.

Please be aware that we livestream our services.

Worshiping God

August 16, 2026

Reflection – Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 29:1-2

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
All: ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Leader: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
All: worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Prayer of Praise

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A might - y for - tress is _____ our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2. Did we in our _____ own strength _____ con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3. And tho' this world, _____ with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4. That word a - bove _____ all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a

4 Dm G C C/E C G Em Am D G Am Em F C Am

fail - ing; Our help - er He _____ a - mid _____ the flood of mor - tal ills pre -
los - ing, were not the right _____ man on _____ our side, the man of God's own
-do _____ us, we will not fear, _____ for God _____ hath willed His truth to tri - umph
-bid - eth; The Spir - it and _____ the gifts _____ are ours through Him who with us

8 Dm G C Am G/B D G C G/B C F G⁷/D Am E/G[#]

-vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe - His
choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He - Lord
thru _____ us. The prince of dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him - His
sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so. The

13 Am E/B Am/C D G F F/A C A/C[#] Dm

craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cru - el
Sab - a - oth His name, from age to age the
rage we can en - dure, for lo, his doom is
bod - y they may kill; God's truth a - bid - eth

16 E Am Em F C Am Dm G C

hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
same, and He must win the bat - tle.
sure: One lit - tle word shall fell _____ him.
still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Battle Belongs

Verse 1

When all I see is the battle
You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain
You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow
Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now
For I am safe with You

Chorus

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

Verse 2

And if You are for me
Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing
Impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes
You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross
God You see the empty tomb

Chorus

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

Bridge 3X

(An) Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
You shine in the shadows
You win every battle
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God

Chorus

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

Tag

O God the battle belongs to You

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Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism, Question and Answer 26

Question: What do you believe when you say: I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Answer: That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and all that is in them, and who still upholds and governs them by His eternal counsel and providence, is, for the sake of Christ His Son, my God and my Father. In Him I trust so completely as to have no doubt that He will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul, and will also turn to my good whatever adversity He sends me in this life of sorrow. He is able to do so as almighty God, and willing also as a faithful Father.

Scripture Reading – Luke 4:1-13

Mark Flaharty

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession – Adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much of the schemes and desires of our own hearts,
and we have broken your holy laws.
We have left undone what we ought to have done,
and we have done what we ought not to have done.

But you, O Lord, have mercy on us;
restore those who repent,
according to the promises declared to us through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Grant, merciful Father, for his sake, that from now on, we may live godly and
obedient lives, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness – Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)

Verse 1

O come behold the works of God
The nations at His feet
He breaks the bow and bends the spear
And tells the wars to cease
O Mighty One of Israel You are on
our side
We walk by faith
In God who burns the chariots with fire

Chorus

Lord of hosts You're with us with us in
the fire
With us as a Shelter
With us in the storm
You will lead us
Through the fiercest battle
Oh where else would we go
But with the Lord of hosts

Verse 2

O God of Jacob fierce and great
You lift Your voice to speak
The earth it bows
And all the mountains move into the sea
O Lord You know the hearts of men
And still You let them live
O God who makes the mountains melt
Come wrestle us and win

Chorus

Lord of hosts You're with us with us in
the fire
With us as a Shelter
With us in the storm
You will lead us
Through the fiercest battle
Oh where else would we go
But with the Lord of hosts

Bridge 2x

Though oceans roar You are the Lord
of all
The One who calms the wind and waves
And makes my heart be still
Though the earth gives way
The mountains move into the sea
The nations rage
I know my God is in control

Chorus 2x

Lord of hosts You're with us with us in
the fire
With us as a Shelter
With us in the storm
You will lead us
Through the fiercest battle
Oh where else would we go
But with the Lord of hosts

"Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)" words and music by Jennie Lee
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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: 1 Kings 19

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." ⁵ And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." ⁶ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." ⁸ And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

⁹ There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹¹ And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹ And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Sermon: The God Who Sustains and Sends

Pastor Erik Swanson

Series: Elijah and Elisha: Prophets Par Excellence

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

Desert Song

Verse 1

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

Verse 2

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth
than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me
shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 3

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me
shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Bridge (4x)

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me
shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 4

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favor and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

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Benediction – 1 Peter 1:2

According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

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 platform.****

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 8/16	9:00 am	Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 8/16	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 8/16	6:00 pm	NW York Community Group	Member’s Home
Tues. 8/18	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Rishel Home
Wed. 8/19	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 8/19	10:00 am	Moms+	Contact Joy Swanson
Wed. 8/19	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
Wed. 8/19	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sat. 8/22	4:00 pm	SILVERS Picnic	Lomax Home
Sun. 8/23	9:00 am	Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 8/23	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 8/23	6:00 pm	Ladies’ Book Club Potluck	Kay Home
Sun. 8/23	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2026	\$271,250.00	\$307,661.83
Week of 8/2/26	\$8,750.00	\$13,717.00

Announcements (page 1 of 2)

- ❖ **Online Donations:** The link for online donations found on the New Life Website is now redirecting to a different online donation page. Our online donations are still received by the PCA Foundation and deposited into the church accounts within a week of the donation. Donations will continue to be processed by Blackbaud Merchant Services. As a result, donors with an existing recurring donation record are not required to make any changes.
- ❖ **SILVERS Picnic:** SILVERS, come enjoy a picnic at the Lomax home **this Sat. Aug. 22** beginning at 4pm. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided; please bring a dish to share. See the sign-up sheet in the foyer.
- ❖ **NEW INFO - Ladies Summer Book Club:** We are reading *How To Stay Married: The Most Insane Love Story Ever Told* by Harrison Scott Key. This pick is a raw and edgier read than our past selections as the author discusses, with his own brand of humor, what the journey of faith and forgiveness can look like in a messy world. Read at your own pace and then join us at 6pm **next Sun. Aug. 23** for a potluck and discussion at the home of Connie Kay. Please RSVP to Connie.
- ❖ **Camping Trip at Codorus State Park: August 28-30:** We typically book campsites in Loop C, as close to site 88 as you can get. Please go here to reserve your family's site: <https://pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/codorus-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=PA&parkId=880316>. Everyone from New Life is invited to a potluck meal on Saturday.
- ❖ **Women's Bible Study:** Please join the women of New Life for a 10-week, in-depth study of Revelation. We will be using the guide by Jen Wilkin, *Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom*, which includes thoughtful homework and video teaching to watch on your own and then getting together to share understanding and application for life. **When:** Tuesdays **Sept. 15 through Nov. 24**, mornings 9:30-11:00am at the church, and evenings 7:00-8:15pm on Zoom. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marlene Spark. A bulk order for a reduced price of \$21.25 will be made on August 24th. Don't let the price hold you back – scholarships are available!
- ❖ **Called Congregational Meeting:** We will be holding a congregational meeting on **Sun. Sept. 20** after the worship service. This meeting is to hear and act on the report from the committee that has been working with Pastor Justin on potential changes to his call.

Announcements (page 2 of 2)

❖ Save the Date for a Winter Marriage Retreat:

- **Conference Title/Theme:** Heart to Heart – Improving Communication
- **Location:** Gettysburg Hotel, hotelgettysburg.com
- **Dates:** January 22-24, 2027
- **Speaker:** William P. Smith, a pastor, counselor, author, and retreat speaker.
crossway.org/authors/william-p-smith
- **Cost per couple:** \$480 early bird registration. After Oct. 31 \$550. All reservations must be in by December 15. The cost covers two nights at the hotel and four meals (breakfasts/lunches). Not included in the cost is Saturday dinner, a "date night" for you and your spouse, and the daily (discounted) parking fee of \$6.
- **Travel times:** Arrive when you can anytime after 4pm on Friday (bring a bag dinner or buy it on the way), with the first event beginning at 7:30. Departure will be no later than 1pm, after lunch, on Sunday.
- **Kids?** While nursing moms are welcome to bring the nursing child, this retreat is for married couples and not for families with children.
- **Registration:** For more information and to register, please use this QR code. Registration closes on December 15.



Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: From June 7 through August 23, the summer Sunday school class is studying 1 John. Youth are invited to attend with their parents.

Women's Bible Study: All women of the church, and their friends, are welcome to attend a 10-week study, *Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom*, by Jen Wilkin, beginning **Sept. 15**. Group meetings occur in the church Aquarium Room on Tuesdays 9:30-11am, and also at home on Zoom in the evenings from 7– 8:15pm. 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+: We are currently on our summer schedule of 10am. All women and their children are welcome. Because location varies due to weather, please contact Joy Swanson to be added to the GroupMeet messages.

Music and Sound: Help out with worship on Sundays by joining the music and/or sound team. Contact Jenn Ryan at jenn@newlifeyorkpca.com.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: Please note that our bi-monthly Tuesday mid-day prayer meeting will take place at the Rishel home during the summer, still at the same time of 11am-12pm. The bi-monthly Wednesday evening group will continue to meet at the church from 7-8pm. Keep a close eye on “This Week at New Life” to follow the exact schedule. Contact Sherry Rishel with any questions.

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.