



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

August 23, 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 23, 2026

Reflection – Proverbs 3:34

Toward the scorners he is scornful,
but to the humble he gives favor.

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Jeremiah 31:10-11

Leader: Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,

All: and declare it in the coastlands far away;

Leader: say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,

All: and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'

Leader: For the LORD has ransomed Jacob

All: and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

Prayer of Praise

Jesus Shall Reign

Chords: F D A7 D G C#dim D A E7 A 7 D

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc -
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - 'ner
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

Chords: G D Em D A D A7 D G D A7 D

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from shore to
 thron'g to crown his head; his name, like sweet per - fume, shall
 • love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es shall pro -
 leaps to lose his chains, the wea - ry find e - ter - nal
 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with songs a -

Chords: A F D G C#dim D Em7 D Em D A7 D 7

shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 • claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 rest, and all the sons of want are blest.
 gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me
 stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me
 fears sub - side; Bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent, Land me

with Thy pow'r - ful hand; Bread of Heav - en, Bread of Heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - 'rer, strong De - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
 Be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

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 – Psalm 9:1-12

Connie Kay

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

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 righteousness 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.

Be unto Your Name

Verse 1

We are a moment You are forever
Lord of the ages God before time
We are a vapor You are eternal
Love everlasting reigning on high

Chorus

Holy holy Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises honor and glory
Be unto Your name
Be unto Your name

Verse 2

We are the broken You are the healer
Jesus Redeemer mighty to save
You are the love song we'll sing forever
Bowing before You blessing Your name

Chorus

Holy holy Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises honor and glory
Be unto Your name
Be unto Your name
(REPEAT)

Ending

Be unto Your name

"Be Unto Your Name" words and music by Gary Sadler and
Lynn DeShazo
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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 Kings 21

Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ² Ahab said to Naboth, “Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth.”

³ But Naboth replied, “The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my ancestors.”

⁴ So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my ancestors.” He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

⁵ His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, “Why are you so sullen? Why won’t you eat?”

⁶ He answered her, “Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, ‘Sell me your vineyard; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.’ But he said, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’”

⁷ Jezebel his wife said, “Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I’ll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth’s city with him. ⁹ In those letters she wrote:

“Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. ¹⁰ But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death.”

¹¹ So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth’s city did as Jezebel directed in the letters she had written to them. ¹² They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place among the people. ¹³ Then two scoundrels came and sat opposite him and brought charges against Naboth before the people, saying, “Naboth has cursed both God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. ¹⁴ Then they sent word to Jezebel: “Naboth has been stoned to death.”

¹⁵ As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, “Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead.” ¹⁶ When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth’s vineyard.

¹⁷ Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: ¹⁸ “Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth’s vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. ¹⁹ Say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?’ Then say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’”

²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, “So you have found me, my enemy!”

“I have found you,” he answered, “because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. ²¹ He says, ‘I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. ^[a] ²² I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have aroused my anger and have caused Israel to sin.’

²³ “And also concerning Jezebel the Lord says: ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of ^[b] Jezreel.’

²⁴ “Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country.”

²⁵ (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. ²⁶ He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the Lord drove out before Israel.)

²⁷ When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

²⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹ “Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”

Sermon: Immorality and Idolatry

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

Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
 2 'Twas grace taught my heart to fear,
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me,
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,

that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost
 and grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did
 his word my hope se - cures; he will my shield
 I have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought
 bright shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days

but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 that grace ap - pear the hour - I be - lieved!
 and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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. 8/23	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
Wed. 8/26	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 8/26	10:00 am	Moms+	Contact Joy Swanson
Wed. 8/26	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wed. 8/26	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 3
Fri. 8/28 – Sun. 8/30		7 th Annual Camping Trip	Codorus State Park
Sun. 8/30	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 8/30	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2026	\$288,750.00	\$320,674.91
Week of 8/16/26	\$8,750.00	\$4,523.39

Announcements

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Ladies Summer Book Club:** We'll be meeting at 6pm **tonight Sun. Aug. 23** for a potluck at the home of Connie Kay. We will be discussing *How To Stay Married: The Most Insane Love Story Ever Told* by Harrison Scott Key. 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.
- ❖ **NEW INFO - Women's Bible Study:** Ladies, the bulk book order for Jen Wilkin's study of *Revelation* will be made **tomorrow morning**. If you would like to order the book at the discounted price of \$21.25, please notify Marlene Spark **TODAY**. Scholarships are available for the cost!
- ❖ **Sunday School Classes:**
 - **Adult Sunday School:** Beginning next week, **Aug. 30**, we will be studying Genesis 12-50: The Patriarchs.
 - **Children and Youth:** Fall Sunday school classes will begin on **Sept. 13**.
- ❖ **Called Congregational Meeting:** New Life will be holding a congregational meeting on **Sun. Sept. 20** after the worship service. The purpose of this meeting has changed. The purpose is now to consider Pastor Justin's resignation request, which was made last Sun. Aug. 16.

❖ **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.