



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

August 9, 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.

Worshipping God

August 9, 2026

Reflection

“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD,
“and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.

- Isaiah 43:10

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 66:1-4

Elder Joe Heidler

Leader: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**All: sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!**

Leader: Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

**All: All the earth worships you
and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your name.”**

Prayer of Praise

Days of Elijah

Verse 1

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days
Of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days
Of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice
In the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call
So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

Verse 2

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days
Of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the labourers
In Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call
So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

Bridge

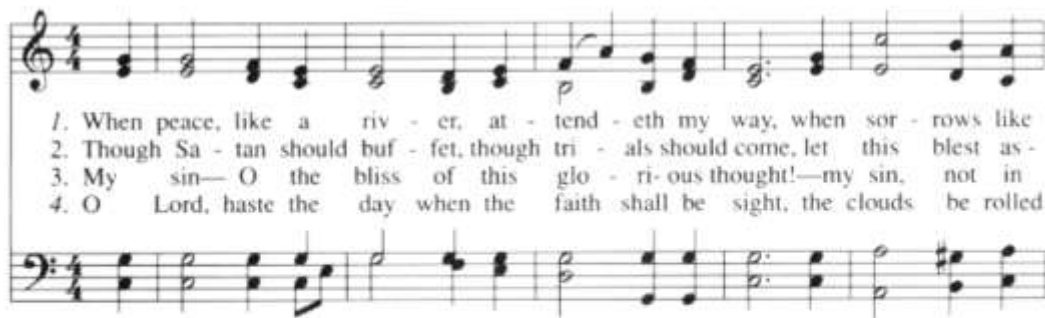
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
(REPEAT many times)

Chorus 2x

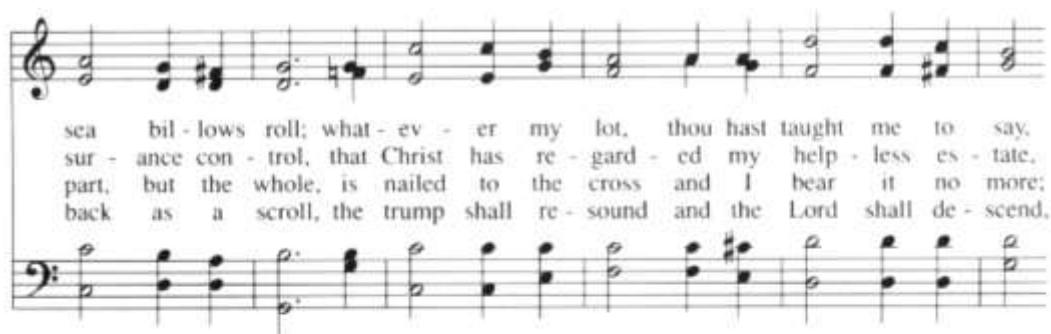
Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
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"Days of Elijah" words and music by Robin Mark
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It Is Well with My Soul



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -
 3. My sin— O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!—my sin, not in
 4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled



sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
 sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
 part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
 back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,



REFRAIN
 "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well
 praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
 "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul,



with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.
 with my soul;

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 1

Mark Deckard

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession – Adapted from Psalm 139:1-4

O LORD, you have searched us and known us!
You know when we sit down and when we rise up;
you discern our thoughts from afar.
You search out our path and our lying down
and are acquainted with all our ways.
Even before a word is on our tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
Father, forgive us and cleanse us in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Romans 10:9-13

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Completely Known, Completely Loved

Verse 1

Completely known completely loved
My heart is seen by God above
Should I now run dare hide my face
When in His eyes there is only grace

Verse 2

Completely free the shame is gone
The highest Judge took all my wrongs
And set them on His only Son
He bore my sin I bear His love

Chorus

Completely known completely loved
I'm covered by my Savior's blood
I'm robed in white and God is pleased
To see His Son when He looks on me

Verse 3

Completely His how can it be
That God would set His heart on me
Loved not for works that I have done
But long before time had begun

Chorus

Completely known completely loved
I'm covered by my Savior's blood
I'm robed in white and God is pleased
To see His Son when He looks on me

Verse 4

Completely saved the work is done
The curse the grave is overcome
For with that dawn there rose a King
Now heaven's smile shines over me

Chorus

Completely known completely loved
I'm covered by my Savior's blood
I'm robed in white and God is pleased
To see His Son when He looks on me
(REPEAT)

"Completely Known, Completely Loved" words and music Matt
Boswell, Matt Papa

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Hymns

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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 18:17-46

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" ¹⁸ And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. ²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken." ²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it." ²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. ²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." ²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. ²⁹ And as midday

passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name," ³² and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. ³³ And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." ³⁴ And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. ³⁵ And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. ³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God." ⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain." ⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. ⁴⁴ And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'"⁴⁵ And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Sermon: Will the Real God Please Act?

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

To God Be the Glory



1. To God be the glo - ry— great things He has done! So loved He the
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood— to ev - 'ry be -
 3. Great things He has taught us; Great things He has done, and great our re -

6 G A D D⁷ G D⁷ G G/B D



world that He gave us His Son, who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for
 - liev - er, the prom - ise of God. The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be -
 - joic - ing through Je - sus, the Son. But pur - er and high - er and great - er will

CHORUS

12 G G⁷ C G/D D⁷ G G



sin and o - pened the life gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord! Praise the
 - lies, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

18 G/B D/A G D D/C G/B D/A



Lord! Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re -

24 G D⁷ G G/B D



- joice! O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus, the

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. 8/9	9:00 am	Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 8/9	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 8/9	11:30 am	2 nd Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 8/9	12:00 pm	Young Adult Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 8/12	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 8/12	10:00 am	Moms+	Contact Joy Swanson
Wed. 8/12	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wed. 8/12	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 3
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

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)

- ❖ **SILVERS Picnic:** SILVERS, come enjoy a picnic at the Lomax home on **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.
- ❖ **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 - 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 on **Sun. Aug. 23** for a potluck and discussion at the home of Connie Kay. Please RSVP to Connie.
- ❖ **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.