



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

September 20, 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

September 20, 2026

Reflection – Carmen Imes, *Becoming God's Family*, p. 7

“Theologian Andrew Root offers a robust vision of the church, insisting that it is neither an affinity group nor an entrepreneurial venture. Instead, the church facilitates shared participation in the life of God by the Spirit, which is to say that when we gather for worship, we gather around a transcendent mystery that we can neither control nor fully understand. Root explains, ‘The church is the community that reminds the world that God is God, seeking to commune with a God who is other than us.’”

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – adapted from Micah 7:18-20

Minister: Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity!

People: And passing over our transgressions.

Minister: You do not retain your anger forever,

People: Because You delight in steadfast love.

Minister: You have compassion on us.

People: You have tread our iniquities underfoot.

Minister: You have cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

People: You show faithfulness and steadfast love to us.

Prayer of Praise

In Christ Alone

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, ful - ness of
 3 There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

3 G D/F# Em7 G/A D G D G

light, my strength my song: This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 pow'r of Christ in me; From life's first cry to fi - nal

6 A D/F# G D/F# Em7 G/A D D/F#

Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm, What heights of
 ness, scorned by the ones He came to save, Till on that
 Day, up from the grave He rose a - gain! And as He
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny, No pow'r of

9 G D/F# Asus A D/F# G Bm7

love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
 cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

12 Asus A G D G A D/F# G D/F# Em7 G/A

cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I
 fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I
 me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of
 hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll

16 D Am7 Em7 D Dsus D

stand.
 live.
 Christ
 stand!

"In Christ Alone" words and music by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
 © 2001 Thankyou Music
 Used by Permission. CCLI License #2410623

Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time;

hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:

a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 his reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me:

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flow'rs of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Affirmation of Faith – 2 Timothy 2:11-13

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

Scripture Reading – Matthew 15:29-39

Elder Wayne Blanding

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Our Father, you are Yahweh Jireh, our Lord who provides. We confess that in our need we are too often slow to remember your faithfulness towards us. Forgive our lack of contentment and our forgetfulness that you have provided us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. We cry out now with the struggles and things lacking in our lives, asking for you to provide for us according to your mercy and your wisdom. Help us to be content in the experience of spiritual growth in life's struggles. We pray in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – 1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Goodness of God

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
(REPEAT)

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God
(REPEAT)

Tag

I will sing of the goodness of God

O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home

"Goodness Of God" words and music by Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson; © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon, SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia, Fellow Ships Music, So Essential Tunes, Bethel Music Publishing; Used by Permission. CCLI License #2410623

Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment - Mercy Team

Ellen Metzger

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: 2 Kings 4

Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." ² And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." ³ Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. ⁴ Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside." ⁵ So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. ⁶ When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing. ⁷ She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

⁸ One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. ⁹ And she said to her husband, "Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way. ¹⁰ Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there."

¹¹ One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there. ¹² And he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." When he had called her, she stood before him. ¹³ And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I dwell among my own people." ¹⁴ And he said, "What then is to

be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." ¹⁵ He said, "Call her." And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. ¹⁶ And he said, "At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant." ¹⁷ But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.

¹⁸ When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. ¹⁹ And he said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." ²⁰ And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died. ²¹ And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and shut the door behind him and went out. ²² Then she called to her husband and said, "Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again." ²³ And he said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath." She said, "All is well." ²⁴ Then she saddled the donkey, and she said to her servant, "Urge the animal on; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." ²⁵ So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Look, there is the Shunammite. ²⁶ Run at once to meet her and say to her, 'Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?'" And she answered, "All is well." ²⁷ And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me." ²⁸ Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?'" ²⁹ He said to Gehazi, "Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child." ³⁰ Then the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. ³¹ Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, "The child has not awakened."

³² When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. ³³ So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. ³⁵ Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. ³⁶ Then he summoned Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, "Pick up your son." ³⁷ She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

³⁸ And Elisha came again to Gilgal when there was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, "Set on the large pot, and boil stew

for the sons of the prophets.” ³⁹ One of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered from it his lap full of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were. ⁴⁰ And they poured out some for the men to eat. But while they were eating of the stew, they cried out, “O man of God, there is death in the pot!” And they could not eat it. ⁴¹ He said, “Then bring flour.” And he threw it into the pot and said, “Pour some out for the men, that they may eat.” And there was no harm in the pot.

⁴² A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, “Give to the men, that they may eat.” ⁴³ But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred men?” So he repeated, “Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” ⁴⁴ So he set it before them. And they ate and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Sermon: Our Life-Giving God

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

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Verse 1

What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand

Chorus

O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

Verse 2

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

Chorus

O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

Verse 3

Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore

Chorus

O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death
(REPEAT)

"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death" words and music by Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
© 2020 Getty Music Publishing, Jordan Kauflin Music, Love Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns
Used by Permission. CCLI License #2410623

Benediction – Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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. 9/20	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 9/20	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 9/20	11:30 am	Called Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
Sun. 9/20	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members’ Homes
Tues. 9/22	9:30 am	Women’s Bible Study	Aquarium
Tues. 9/22	7:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study	Zoom
Wed. 9/23	9:00 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
Wed. 9/23	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 9/23	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wed. 9/23	7:00 pm	Prayer Gathering	Classroom 3
Sun. 9/27	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 9/27	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 9/27	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2026	\$323,750.00	\$348,128.02
Week of 9/13/26	\$8,750.00	\$4,801.39

Announcements

- ❖ **Called Congregational Meeting:** We are holding a congregational meeting **today** after the worship service. The purpose is to consider Pastor Justin's resignation request, which was made Sun. Aug. 16.
- ❖ **Inquirers' Class:** For those interested in learning more about New Life's history, core beliefs, practices, and membership, please consider attending an Inquirers' Class, which will meet for 5 weeks. The class begins on **Sun. Oct. 4** at 11:45am in classroom 1.
- ❖ **Parents & Youth Meeting:** On **Sun. Oct. 4** at 11:45am, parents and youth (6-12th grades) are invited to meet in the Aquarium room to discuss youth group plans for the year.
- ❖ **Annual Voices Women's Retreat:** This retreat is for women survivors of domestic abuse and will be taking place at Providence Presbyterian Church on **Sat. Nov. 7** from 9am-4:15pm. There is also a **Fri. Nov. 6** evening program which is open to everyone from 6:30-8pm. For more information, visit yorkpca.org/voices-retreat.
- ❖ **Voices Retreat Votive Gifts:** The dates scheduled for creating votive gifts for the Voices retreat have been canceled. All gifts have been assembled. Thanks to all who helped!
- ❖ **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.
 - **Scholarships available:** There are scholarships available for the marriage retreat. If you would not be able to go without scholarship help, please do apply for a scholarship. Please contact Jerry Grim for more information.



Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Adults, join us in the Aquarium for our Sunday school class focusing on Genesis 12-50: The Patriarchs, or in Classroom 2 for a class on *Christ of the Covenants*. Children and youth meet in the following rooms: PK-1st grade – Classroom 5; 2nd-5th grade – Classroom 4; 6th-8th grade – Classroom 3; 9th-12th grade – Classroom 1.

Women's Bible Study: We meet in the Aquarium room on Tuesday mornings or via Zoom on Tuesday evenings. Please contact Marlene Spark or the office 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 a group of women who meet every Wednesday morning from 9am-11am. Children are welcome as they will have their own age-appropriate class to attend. Contact Joy Swanson or the office.

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 Gathering: 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 classroom 3. Contact Sherry Rishel or the office with any questions.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Contact Elder Will Pope or the office 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.