



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

September 6, 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 6, 2026

Reflection

O the comfort! We are not under law but under grace. The gospel is a dispensation for sinners, and we have an Advocate with the Father. *There* is the unshakable ground of hope. A reconciled Father, a prevailing Advocate, a powerful Shepherd, a compassionate Friend, a Savior who is able and willing to save to the uttermost. He knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust; and has opened for us a new and blood-besprinkled way of access to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in every time of need. – John Newton

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 118:1-4, 25-29

Elder Wayne Blanding

*Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

**All: Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

*Leader: Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”*

**All: Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

*Leader: Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!*

**All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

*Leader: The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.*

**All: Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!**

*Leader: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.*

**All: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Prayer of Praise

O Worship the King

1 O wor - ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove,
 2 O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less Might, un - change - a - ble Love,

G D G C C D⁷ G

O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love:
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,
 • It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 in whom you do we trust, nor find you to fail,
 whom an - gels de - light to wor - ship a - bove!

D D⁷ G D G D⁷

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 • it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 Your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 Your ran - somed cre - a - tion, with glo - ry a - blaze,

G D G C G D⁷ G

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 and dark is his path on the wings of the storm,
 • and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!
 in true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise!

All Sufficient Merit

Verse 1

All sufficient merit shining like the sun
A fortune I inherit by no work I have done
My righteousness I forfeit
at my Savior's cross
Where all sufficient merit
did what I could not

Verse 2

In love He condescended
eternal now in time
A life without a blemish
the Maker made to die
The law could never save us
our lawlessness had won
Until the pure and spotless
Lamb had finally come

Chorus

It is done it is finished
No more debt I owe
Paid in full all sufficient
Merit now my own

Verse 3

I lay down my garments any empty boast
Good works now all corrupted
by the sinful host
I'm dressed in my Lord Jesus
A crimson robe made white
No more fear of judgment
His righteousness is mine

Chorus

It is done it is finished
No more debt I owe
Paid in full all sufficient
Merit now my own
(REPEAT)

Verse 4

All sufficient merit firm in life and death
The joy of my salvation
shall be my final breath
When I stand accepted
before the throne of God
I'll gaze upon my Jesus
and thank Him for the cross
Yes I'll thank Him for the cross

Chorus

It is done it is finished
No more debt I owe
Paid in full all sufficient
Merit now my own
(REPEAT)

Tag

Oh Your merit now my own
Oh Your merit now my own

"All Sufficient Merit" words and music by Bethany Barnard,
Bryan Fowler, Shane Barnard
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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 – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Mark Flaharty

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

God of everlasting love,

We confess that we have been unfaithful

To our covenant with you and with one another.

We have worshipped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience.

We have served our own self-interest

Instead of serving only you and your people.

We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded,

Nor have we rightly loved ourselves.

Forgive us, gracious God,

And bring us back into the fullness

Of our covenant with you and one another.

Through Christ, our Lord. 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.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Capo 3: F(D)

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found; dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

REFRAIN

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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: 2 Kings 2

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰ And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹ And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a

whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³ And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵ Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. ¹⁶ And they said to him, “Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men. Please let them go and seek your master. It may be that the Spirit of the LORD has caught him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send.” ¹⁷ But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, “Send.” They sent therefore fifty men. And for three days they sought him but did not find him. ¹⁸ And they came back to him while he was staying at Jericho, and he said to them, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not go’?”

¹⁹ Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” ²⁰ He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. ²¹ Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” ²² So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

²³ He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!” ²⁴ And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys. ²⁵ From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

Sermon: A Prophet Like Moses

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

Hymn of Heaven

Verse 1

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone
and mercy fills the streets
To look upon the one
who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity

Chorus 1

There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord

Verse 2

And ev'ry prayer
we prayed in desperation
The songs of faith
We sang through doubt and fear
In the end we'll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears

Chorus 1

There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord

Verse 3

And on that day we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice a thousand generations
Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Forever He shall reign

Chorus 1

There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord

Chorus 2

So let it be today
We shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the Saints
We raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God
Who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy holy is the Lord
Holy holy is the Lord
Holy holy is the Lord

"Hymn of Heaven" words and music by Bill Johnson, Brian Johnson, Chris Davenport, Phil Wickham
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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. 9/6	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 9/6	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 9/6	11:30 am	Giant cards for sale	Foyer
Sun. 9/6	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members’ Homes
Wed. 9/9	9:00 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
Wed. 9/9	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 9/9	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wed. 9/9	7:00 pm	Prayer Gathering	Classroom 3
Wed. 9/9	7:00 pm	Missions Meeting	Aquarium
Thurs. 9/10	9:00 am	SILVERS Meeting	Aquarium
Sun. 9/13	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 9/13	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 9/13	11:30 am	2 nd Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Area
Sun. 9/13	12:00 pm	Young Adult Bible Study	Classroom 1

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2026	\$306,250.00	\$328,927.85
Week of 8/30/26	\$8,750.00	\$2,848.39

Announcements

❖ **Sunday School Classes:**

- **Adult Sunday School:** We are studying Genesis 12-50: The Patriarchs. Meet in the Aquarium.
- **Sunday School Teachers:** We are looking for adults willing to serve as Sunday School teachers this coming year. We currently have openings with the Jr. High (6th-8th grade) and the Sr. High (9th-12th grade). If you are interested please contact Pastor Erik.
- **Children and Youth:** Due to a shortage of Sunday school teachers, children's Sunday School will begin on **Sept. 20**.

❖ **Missionary Report During Sunday School:** On **Sept. 13**, in lieu of the regular adult Sunday school, one of our missionaries will give an update on their ministry. Join us in the Aquarium room at 9am.

❖ **Women's Bible Study:** The bulk, pre-order of the books has been made and the books are available for pick-up. If you have not pre-ordered a book, you are still welcome to come to the study beginning on **Tues. Sept. 15**. For more information about the study or ordering a book on your own, please contact Marlene Spark or the office.

❖ **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 Sun. Aug. 16.

❖ **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:** Are you interested in helping create votive jar favors for this year's Voices Retreat at Providence Presbyterian Church? The jars will be used to decorate the lunch tables and are given to each participant. All supplies and instructions are provided. We will meet at the following times:

- Sept. 1 from 6-7:30pm @ PPC, room 1
- Sept. 16, 23, & 30 – 10am-12pm @ PPC, room 3
- Sept. 22 & 29 from 6-7:30pm @ PPC, room 3

Come join the fun as we create and pray over the completed project.

❖ **NEW INFO! 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.
- **NEW INFO: 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. Children and youth Sunday school will begin **Sept. 20**.

Women's Bible Study: Beginning **Tues. Sept. 15**, all women of the church and their friends are welcome to attend a 10-week study, *Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom*, by Jen Wilkin. Daytime group meetings occur in the church Aquarium Room on Tuesdays 9:30-11am, or you can attend at home on Zoom in the evenings from 7– 8:15pm. 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 will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 11am-12pm in classroom 1. In the evenings, prayer will meet 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.