



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

October 11, 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

October 11, 2026

Reflection – K. Scott Oliphant, *The Battle Belongs to the Lord* (p. 23)

“Since God is and always will be invisible, and since it is our duty to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, minds and strength, our priority must be, in all circumstances, to set our minds on the invisible first of all. Paul, while experiencing persecution himself, reminds the Corinthian saints that it is the invisible things that are eternal (II Corinthians 4:18). It is the invisible things that should shape our view of the visible, and not the other way around.”

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Romans 11:33-36

Elder Will Pope

Minister: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

People: How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

Minister: For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?

People: Or who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid?

Minister: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

All: To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Prayer of Praise

Come Thou Almighty King

1. Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing,
 2. Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword,
 3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4. To the great One in Three e - ter - nal prais - es be,

help us to praise, Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour, Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in
 hence ev - er - more. His sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

He Will Hold Me Fast

Verse 1

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 2

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 3

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

Chorus 2x

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

"He Will Hold Me Fast" words and music by Ada Ruth
Habershon, Matthew Merker
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Affirmation of Faith – Belgic Confession (1561), Article 26: The Intercession of Christ

We believe that we have no access to God except through the one and only Mediator and Intercessor: Jesus Christ the Righteous. He therefore was made man, uniting together the divine and human natures, so that we human beings might have access to the divine Majesty. Otherwise we would have no access. But this Mediator, whom the Father has appointed between himself and us, ought not terrify us by his greatness, so that we have to look for another one, according to our fancy. For neither in heaven nor among the creatures on earth is there anyone who loves us more than Jesus Christ does.

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 3:14-21

Sue Vester

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession – from Martin Luther

O God, where is there another like you? You forgive our sin and forgive the iniquity of the lowest of your people. You do not stay angry forever, for you are merciful and you pardon our transgressions and cast all our sins into the deep sea. Do continue forever to be merciful, so that we may walk in the light of your Word, and escape every trap of Satan and of the world through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Redeemer. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Hebrews 10:22-23

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart
 2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my true Word
 3. Rich - es I heed not nor man's emp - ty praise
 4. High King of hea - ven my vic - to - ry won

5 Naught be - all else to me save that Thou art
 I ev - er in with Thee and Thou with me Lord
 Thou mine I reach her - it - ance now O bright heav - en's ways
 May I sun

9 Thou my best thought by day or by night
 Thou my great Fa - ther and Thy true son
 Thou and of Thou my own heart ly in my heart
 Heart of my my own heart what - ev - er be - fall

13 Wa - king or sleep - ing Thy pres - ence my light
 Thou in me dwell - ing and I with Thee one
 High King of hea - ven my trea - sure Thou art
 Still be my vis - ion, O Rul - er of all

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

All: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

Ministry Moment – Keystone Family Alliance

Micah Raine

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 6:24-7:20

²⁴ Afterward Ben-hadad king of Syria mustered his entire army and went up and besieged Samaria. ²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria, as they besieged it, until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and the fourth part of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver. ²⁶ Now as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" ²⁷ And he said, "If the LORD will not help you, how shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the winepress?" ²⁸ And the king asked her, "What is your trouble?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' ²⁹ So we boiled my son and ate him. And on the next day I said to her, 'Give your son, that we may eat him.' But she has hidden her son." ³⁰ When the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his clothes—now he was passing by on the wall—and the people looked, and behold, he had sackcloth beneath on his body— ³¹ and he said, "May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today."

³² Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. Now the king had dispatched a man from his presence, but before the messenger arrived Elisha said to the elders, "Do you see how this murderer has sent to take off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold the door fast against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?" ³³ And while he was still speaking with them, the messenger came down to him and said, "This trouble is from the LORD! Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

7 But Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD: thus says the LORD, Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria." ² Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned said to the man of God, "If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" But he said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

³ Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴ If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us

go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die.” ⁵ So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there. ⁶ For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, “Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come against us.” ⁷ So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives. ⁸ And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent and ate and drank, and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and went and hid them. Then they came back and entered another tent and carried off things from it and went and hid them.

⁹ Then they said to one another, “We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell the king’s household.” ¹⁰ So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, “We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied and the donkeys tied and the tents as they were.” ¹¹ Then the gatekeepers called out, and it was told within the king’s household. ¹² And the king rose in the night and said to his servants, “I will tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry. Therefore they have gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the open country, thinking, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.’” ¹³ And one of his servants said, “Let some men take five of the remaining horses, seeing that those who are left here will fare like the whole multitude of Israel who have already perished. Let us send and see.” ¹⁴ So they took two horsemen, and the king sent them after the army of the Syrians, saying, “Go and see.” ¹⁵ So they went after them as far as the Jordan, and behold, all the way was littered with garments and equipment that the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. And the messengers returned and told the king.

¹⁶ Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD. ¹⁷ Now the king had appointed the captain on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. And the people trampled him in the gate, so that he died, as the man of God had said when the king came down to him. ¹⁸ For when the man of God had said to the king, “Two seahs of barley shall be sold for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria,” ¹⁹ the captain had answered the man of God, “If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?” And he had said, “You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.” ²⁰ And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate and he died.

Series: Elijah and Elisha: Prophets Par Excellence

Sermon Notes

A. Unbearable Living in the Siege, 6:24-29

B. Unlike Deliverers – Contrast of King and Elisha, 6:30-7:1

C. Unseen Deliverance – 7:1-7

B'. Unlikely Deliverers – 4 Lepers, 7:8-15

A'. Unlimited Life of Plenty after the Siege Breaks, 7:16-20

6:24-29 - **Reversals** – (1) Freedom from Syrian armies in 6:23 to bitter siege by Syrian armies (6:24), (2) Maternal caretaker love to self-preserving cannibal and (3) Powerful King of Israel (Samaria) is reduced to incompetence – unable to deliver the city and unable to help with the request of the woman seeking justice, he is unable to make wise decisions. Powerless King because not faithful to God.

7:1-7 - **Reversals** – (1) from death's door to abundant provision – (2) not a divine army (6:17), or miraculous provision of food (4:38-44) or divine provision of rain to end the drought (7:2) but a noise; (3) From Despair to Deliverance Joy.

7:8-15 - **Reversals** – (1) Excluded, despised lepers to announcers and providers of the city's deliverance, (2) World is truly turned upside down, the Upside-Down Kingdom (Donald Kraybill), (3) Hate your enemies to Love your enemies (Lepers sharing the good news with those who previously oppressed them); (4) Blessed with God's bounty = give away God's bounty to those in need.

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

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 9. The second system contains measures 10 through 18. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points: E, C#m7, A, E, C#m, B, A, B, E in the first system; A, C#m, A, B in the second system; C#m, A, C#m, A, B in the third system; and C#m, B/D# in the fourth system. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: 'We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our hearts re - stored. He has done great things, we will say to - geth - er. We will feast and weep no more.' followed by a 'VERSE' section: 'We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord, our In the dark of night, be - fore the dawn, my soul, be not a - Ev - 'ry vow we've bro - ken and be - trayed, You are the faith - ful God. We are not con - sumed by the flood; up - held, pro - tect - ed, afraid. For the prom - ised morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Ja - cob, one. And from the gar - den to the grave, bind us to - geth - er, gath - - - - - ered up. be my strength. bring sha - - - - - lom.'

We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our hearts re - stored. He has
E C#m7 A E C#m B A B E
done great things, we will say to - geth - er. We will feast and weep no more.

VERSE
A C#m A B
We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord, our
In the dark of night, be - fore the dawn, my soul, be not a -
Ev - 'ry vow we've bro - ken and be - trayed, You are the faith - ful
C#m A C#m A B
God. We are not con - sumed by the flood; up - held, pro - tect - ed,
afraid. For the prom - ised morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Ja - cob,
one. And from the gar - den to the grave, bind us to - geth - er,
C#m B/D#
gath - - - - - ered up.
be my strength.
bring sha - - - - - lom.

"We Will Feast In The House Of Zion" words and music by Joshua Moore, Sandra McCracken
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Benediction – 1 Peter 5:10-11

The God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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. 10/11	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 10/11	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 10/11	11:30 am	2 nd Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Area
Sun. 10/11	11:45 am	Inquirers' Class	Classroom 1
Sun. 10/11	11:45 am	Parents & Youth Meeting	Aquarium
Tues. 10/13	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study	Aquarium
Tues. 10/13	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
Wed. 10/14	9:00 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
Wed. 10/14	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
Wed. 10/14	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wed. 10/14	7:00 pm	Prayer Gathering	Classroom 3
Sun. 10/18	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 10/18	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 10/18	11:45 am	Inquirers' Class	Classroom 1
Sun. 10/18	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2026	\$350,000.00	\$369,286.26
Week of 10/4/26	\$8,750.00	\$10,711.19

Announcements (page 1 of 2)

- ❖ **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 **TODAY** at 11:45am in classroom 1.
- ❖ **Parents & Youth Meeting: TODAY** 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.
- ❖ **Keystone Care Team:** An information meeting will be held at New Life on **Wed. Oct. 21** at 7pm for anyone interested in joining the New Life Keystone care team. This team supports families fostering vulnerable children. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer. If you have any questions, please see Micah Raine or Sue Grim.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Encouraging the Ladies of the Voices Retreat:** Ladies, there is a box full of note cards and envelopes on the table in the hallway. I would like to encourage you to take a few and write a note of hope and encouragement to a woman who will be attending the VOICES retreat. There is a large "CARDS" box to place your completed notes in. Please turn them in by November 1. Thank you so much!

(Announcements continue on next page)

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.
- **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.

