

**RESPONSIBLE LIVING - JOYFUL GIVING**  
*Redefining Stewardship as "Whole Life" Stewardship*

**Pentecost 24**  
**November 15, 2020**

**New Life Lutheran Church**  
**Pearland, Texas**

**10:30AM**



*New Life Lutheran Church is a partner congregation of  
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**

- ROOTED *in the Word*
- REFRESHED *in the Spirit*
- REACHING *into the Neighborhood & the World!*

**TODAY @ NEW LIFE:**

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope – word, water, bread, and wine – eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Gathering Songs

New Life House Band

WELCOME & NEWS

Here I am to Worship

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness.  
Opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore you  
Hope of a life spent with you

*Chorus:*

**Here I am to worship,  
Here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that you're my God,  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.**

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,  
Glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly you came to the earth you created.  
All for love's sake became poor. *Chorus*

*Bridge:*

I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross. (3x) *Chorus (2x)*



*Words: Tim Hughes*

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
C: **in whose image we are made, who claims us and  
calls us beloved. Amen!**



P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION



P: Holy One,

**C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ABSOLUTION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**C: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

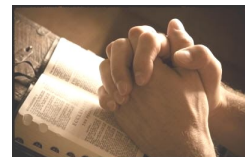
**C: And also with you.**



## GREETING

P: Grace and peace to all of you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; and may the inseparableness of the Holy Spirit be with everyone here!

**C: And also with you.**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Children's Message

Sang Kim

*Each Sunday a special message is shared with all the children ages infants through 6th grade.  
All God's children are welcome!*



### FAITH 5 - READ

#### First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

- 7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.
- 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the  
People who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.”
- 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
- 14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.
- 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
- 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.
- 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
- 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

*Here ends the reading.*



**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*(Bold - verse for FAITH5)*

- 1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,  
you do not need to have anything written to you.
- 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come  
like a thief in the night.
- 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction  
will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and  
there will be no escape!
- 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a  
thief;
- 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day;  
we are not of the night or of darkness.
- 6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do,  
but let us keep awake and be sober;
- 7 for those who sleep sleep at night,  
and those who are drunk get drunk at night.
- 8 **But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the  
breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.**
- 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live  
with him.
- 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,  
as indeed you are doing.

R: Word of God. Word of Life!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

P: The Good News of Jesus, Son of God according to St. Matthew:

C: Praise to You, Lord Christ!

# Gospel

READING

## GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

P: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.



## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*We Believe*

## FAITH5 - PRAY

P: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need

*A brief silence.*

P: Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors (*especially*). Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**



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P: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**



## THE OFFERING IS GIVEN

*Giving is good for the giver; promoting our trust in God and providing blessings to the world.*

### **TEXT GIVING is now available at New Life**

You can now tithe via text. Text to **281.864.3278**, add a \$\$ amount to the message box and send. A link will appear for a 1 time set up.

Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again.

You can also give thru the New Life website [NewLifeLutheran.com](http://NewLifeLutheran.com). There is a give page and donate options on most of the tab's main pages. Checks can also be dropped off at the Church, placed in the offering plate or mailed in.

Thank you for supporting New Life's ministry.

## THE OFFERTORY

New Life Houseband

Giving Update November giving at New Life: \$11,541.26 of \$28,248 needed for the month. (40.8%)

*Thank You!*

## THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of all goodness,

C: generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere, to give you thanks and praise O Holy Father, our eternal and ever-present God. You sent us your Son, Jesus. In his love Christ has filled us with joy as we remember his birth and celebrate his return.

**C: Amen! Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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C: Our Father, who is 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The  
LORD'S  
Prayer

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

**C: AMEN!**



### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus,

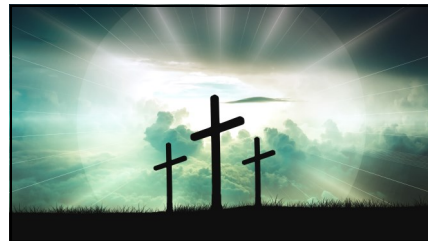
**C: in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.**

## FAITH5 - BLESS

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen!

## A SENDING SONG



### WE ARE

Every secret, every shame. Every fear, every pain.  
Live inside the dark, but that's not who we are.  
We are children of the day.

Refrain:

We are the light of the world.  
We are the city on a hill.  
We are the light of the world.  
We gotta, we gotta, we gotta let the light shine. X2

We are called to spread the news. To tell the world the simple truth.  
Jesus came to save, there's freedom in his name.  
So let His love break through. *Refrain*

*After Last Refrain:*

Let the light shine. Let the light shine.  
Let the light shine. Let the light shine.

Songwriters  
BUTLER, CHUCK / CASH, ED / THIELE, JAMES / MCBRIDE, HILLARY

## WE GO TO SERVE THE LORD

P: Beloved of God, go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.





# All are Welcome

## NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEARLAND, TEXAS

### UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

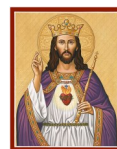


November 15th - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-Person & Livestream Worship

Confirmation Sunday

Christ the King Sunday

WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Thankoffering Sunday



November 22nd - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-Person & Livestream Worship

(Because of limited capacity, RSVPs are needed. **"Don't forget to RSVP using the Google form in the Friday New Life News email by noon on Thursday of each week!"**)

Advent 1

Greening of the Church

November 29th - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-Person & Livestream Worship

(Because of limited capacity, RSVPs are needed. **"Don't forget to RSVP using the Google form in the Friday New Life News email by noon on Thursday of each week!"**)



*In Sympathy* - We extend our Christian sympathy to Doug Barron, family, and friends, for the loss of his father, Carroll Edward Barron Jr., who died in Christ on Wednesday, November 4th.

May the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ bring comfort and consolation to all who mourn.

### Sunday Zoom Gospel Study

### Gospel Bible Study

Join Pastor Bill in an online *Zoom* virtual Adult Christian Education - Bible Study each Sunday at 9:30 am. Each 30-minute session will feature a study and discussion of the Gospel Reading of the day.

If you would like to join the class, please send your **name, phone number** and **email address** to [pastor@newlifelutheran.com](mailto:pastor@newlifelutheran.com) and Pastor Bill will send you a link to the Zoom meeting and instructions. Come join in the conversation online!

