



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

Advent 2
December 6, 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: John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Gathering Songs

New Life House Band

WELCOME & NEWS



What Child Is This

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

CALL TO WORSHIP



P: Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

C: whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.**Amen!**P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as
God desires.*Silence is kept for reflection.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION AND FORGIVENESS

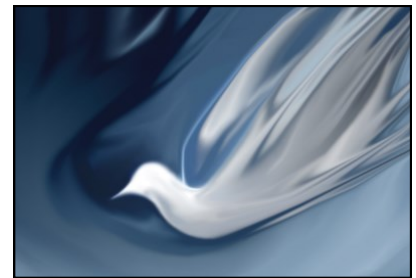
P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

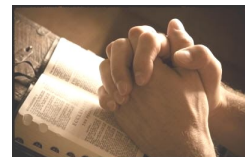
C: And also with you.



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: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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: Isaiah 40:1-11

- ¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
³A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it
together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Here ends the reading.



Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a (*Bold - verse for FAITH5*)

- ⁸ Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.
- ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.
- ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.
- ¹¹ **Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,**
- ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?
- ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
- ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;
- ^{15a} and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

R: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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

C: Praise to You, Lord Christ!

Gospel

R E A D I N G

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

P: Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. 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: \$18,357 of \$28,248 needed for the month. (65 %)

Thank You!

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God,

C: you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. 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."

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: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

C: AMEN!



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Gracious and abundant God,

C: you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

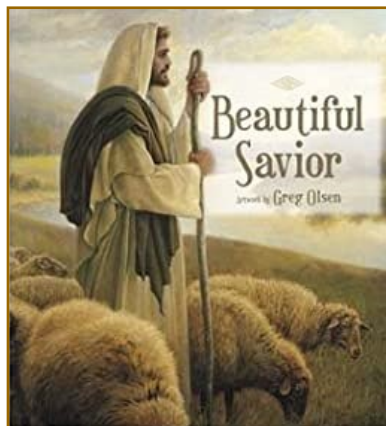
FAITH5 - BLESS

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

C: Amen!

A SENDING SONG

Beautiful Savior



1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr.
Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

WE GO TO SERVE THE LORD

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.





All are Welcome

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEARLAND, TEXAS

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Texas - Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Advent 2

December 6th - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-Person & Livestream Worship

Advent 3 December 13th - 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 4 December 20th - 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!"**)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services December 24th

3:00p.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.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 Wednesday, December 23rd!"**)

Christmas Day - Christ is Born! December 25th

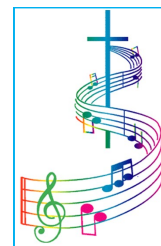


Christmas 1 December 27th - One service @ 10:30 a.m. In-Person &

Livestream Worship & the **"Voices of New Life"** will be doing a **Song Fest**

@ 3pm outside on the field next to the Sanctuary. It will not be a service, but it will include all of the hymns we didn't get to sing Christmas Eve.

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



Poinsettia orders: If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve, the order forms are in the narthex of the church. They are \$10 each. The plants can be taken home on Christmas Eve after the 7pm service.

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 and Pastor Bill will send you a link to the Zoom meeting and instructions. Come join in the conversation online!

