



RESPONSIBLE LIVING - JOYFUL GIVING

Redefining Stewardship as "Whole Life" Stewardship

Christmas 2
January 3, 2021

New Life Lutheran Church
Pearland, Texas

8:00 AM



*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:

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

FAITH5 - GATHER

WELCOME & NEWS



Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in
 3. This flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as those of old have
 mind; with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor our dark - ness eve - ry -

sung. It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 kind. To show God's love a - right, she bore to us a
 where. True flesh, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and shares our eve - ry load.

Words: anon. 15th Century German;
 Trans. v. 1,2 by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934
 Trans. v.3 by Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925

Music: *Alte Catholische Geistliche
 Kirchengesang*, 1599;
 Tune: *ES IST EIN ROS*, 76.76.676

All stanzas are in the public domain. Stanza 3 in *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989) is copyrighted, and is replaced here with an earlier version.

CALL TO WORSHIP



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

C: who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. 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: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION AND FORGIVENESS

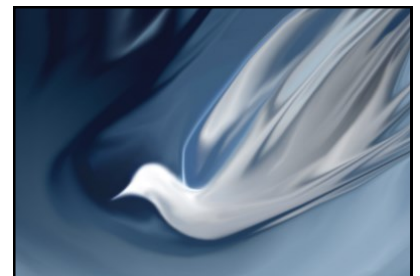
P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through ☩ Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

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.

KYRIE

Johnny: In peace, in peace,



Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Johnny: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all...

Johnny: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your Word...

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation:

2. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

Presider:

Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

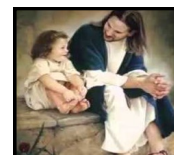
P: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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!*



First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14



- ⁷ Thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”
- ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
- ⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
- ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”
- ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
- ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
- ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
- ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Here ends the reading.



Psalm: 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

- ¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
¹³who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.
¹⁴God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.
¹⁶God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?
¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.
²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!



Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 (*Bold - verse for FAITH5*)

- ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
- ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.
- ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace
- ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight
- ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,
- ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
- ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,
- ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.
- ¹³ **In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;**
- ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

R: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

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

C: Praise to You, Lord Christ!

Gospel
READING



GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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.**

FAITH5 - PRAY

P: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God. .

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Lord of the ages, you hold our times in your hands. As we enter this year of 2021, give us, we pray, a sense of your accompanying presence and confident trust in your leading. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

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 or mailed in.

Thank you for supporting New Life's ministry.

THE OFFERTORY

Johnny Salvesen

**Giving Update: Yearly giving: \$304,545
Needed for Approved Budget Jan 2020: \$352,000
86.4% Received through Dec 29th.**

Thank You!

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious God,

C: you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is
right to give God thanks and praise.

The preface appropriate to the day or season is sung or said.

Presider: It is our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The minister continues with the eucharistic prayer.

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."

Remembering then his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

C: AMEN!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God,

C: that you have once again fed us from your very self. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

FAITH5 - BLESS

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen!

A SENDING SONG

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
~~on the way;~~ as the Light of light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,



for with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -
in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to all the
~~from the realms of end - less day,~~ comes, the pow'rs of hell to
as with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



scend - ing comes our hom-age to de - mand.
faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
~~van - quish,~~ as the dark-ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

WE GO TO SERVE THE LORD

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.





All are Welcome

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEARLAND, TEXAS

UPCOMING CHURCH ACTIVITY & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas 2 January 3rd - 8:00 am & 10:30 am 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!"**)

Epiphany of Our Lord January 6th



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

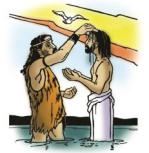
The New Life Leadership Workshop, Part 3 Saturday, January 9

from 9:00 a.m. - Noon - church sanctuary. Check-in (with a bite to eat) is at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will feature video segments of Dr. Peter L. Steinke's presentation, "Church--Making the Future Work" and will provide time for processing together some implications for the future of New Life Lutheran. There's something here for you whether or not you hold an 'elected' position! Hope to see you. RSVP to office@newlifelutheran.com

Un-Greening of the Church: Following the Leadership Workshop and to resume on Sunday if needed, we will undecorated the Church and put things in storage.

Epiphany educational lunch to follow un-decorating.

Baptism of Our Lord January 10th - 8:00 am & 10:30 am 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!"**)



Epiphany 2 January 17th - 8:00 am & 10:30 am 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!"**)

The Voices of New Life Concert on Sunday, December 27th was a "fundraiser" for Christian Helping Hands, collecting 661 pounds of food. A Thrivent card was also to purchase part of the 661 pounds of food that was delivered this week.



The New Life Angel Tree provided many families with something extra this year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to help our New Life family.

Pastor Bill and Kathleen would like to thank the congregation of New Life for your good Christmas wishes and generous gifts. This has been a blessed season, even in spite of the difficulties and challenges of the pandemic. Let's all with prayer and trust enter 2021, knowing that our Lord continues to accompany us with grace on the path!