



New Life Lutheran Church
Pastor Randy Whitehead

"Disciples of Jesus Growing Disciples of Jesus"

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Deadlines: Sunday announcements - Tuesday A.M., Newsletter - 15th of month

Website: www.newlifeparish.net

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION for Pastor Randy:
701-238-1863

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Hours: Monday-Thursday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

New Life Lutheran Church

December 22, 2024

Pastor: Randy Whitehead

Reader: Julie Brenden

Organist: Joyce Peterson



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS [Leader-fine print, **Congregation-Bold Print**]

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

Amen.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (The Nelson Family)

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.
Amen.



OPENING HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

CH # 259



PRAYER OF THE DAY (In unison)

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.



First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."

⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."



Psalm 106:3-5 [Leader-fine print, Congregation-Bold Print]

³ Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

⁴ **Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help us when you deliver them,**

⁵ that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,

that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that we may glory in your heritage.



Gospel Reading: Luke 1:57-80

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰ The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR



CHILDRENS SERMON



SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

CH # 267

OFFERING (Offering will be received during the hymn of the day)
You can use the QR code to give online



OFFERTORY PRAYER (In unison)

Lord God, how full of goodness our lives have been. We praise you from the depths of our hearts. Accept the gifts of our offerings. May they lead to joy and healing. May they bring glory to your name.
Amen.



APOSTLES' CREED (In unison)

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.



THE PRAYERS



THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

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,
forever and ever. Amen.



BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.



SENDING HYMN

O Holy Night!

CH # 285



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

December 22nd - 8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany
9:00 am Coffee Hour at New Life
10:00 am Worship at New Life
1:00 pm Youth Birthday Party for Jesus

December 24th - Christmas Eve
5:00 pm Candlelight worship at New Life

December 25th - Christmas Day
Booked for a private family gathering

December 25th - January 1st - Staff will be out of the office

December 29th - 9:00 am Coffee Hour at New Life
10:00 am Worship at New Life with John Reber

December Office Manager Hours:

Dec. 23rd 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

The church office will be closed December 25th - January 5th.



*Christmas Eve
Worship*

Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 pm

At New Life Lutheran Church

Upcoming Youth Events

Birthday Party for Jesus!

December 22nd 2:30-4:00pm

6-12 grade welcome

Gift ball, Christmas themed Games, white elephant exchange and sock/hat/glove drive.

Bring a white elephant gift to exchange and if you're able socks/hats/gloves to be donate to shelters!

New Life Annual Meeting

The New Life annual meeting
will be held on
February 2nd following
worship.

Please get reports to
Patrice as soon as they are
available. The report
deadline is January 15th.

Emailed
(newlife@rtelnet.net) or
digital copies
preferred.

Details Coming Soon



Did you say "Indoor
Water Park" in Brainerd,
MN?

Winter Confirmation Retreat
January 24-26, 2025