



FOR WHICH OF YOU, DESIRING TO BUILD A
TOWER, DOES NOT FIRST SIT DOWN AND

count the cost

WHETHER HE HAS ENOUGH TO COMPLETE IT?
LUKE 14:28 ESV

*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL*

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen. *(Luther's Morning Prayer)*

Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.

Today's Theme: **WOUNDS THAT HEAL -- COUNT THE COST**

This week Jesus' sharp words expose our desire to pursue comfort and avoid pain at all costs. Jesus explains that following Him will be hard. Jesus' disciples will be called to let go of things they love and embrace things we naturally loathe. Jesus promises that discipleship comes with crosses—a unique type of pain. So, Jesus tells us that we must count the cost of following Him. He wants us to do that now, ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. However, our calculations must not only consider what we might give up for Jesus. They also entail calculating what we get through Him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we just make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: **CW 631** "Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening" (CW93 283)

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

P: We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy and lived as though You did not matter and we mattered most of all.

C: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

P: We confess to You, O Lord, that we have done the evil Your Word prohibits and have not done the good You command.

C: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

P: We confess that we have hidden our sin from You and from one another and have not confessed honestly before You or to those whom we have hurt.

C: We are truly sorry for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done that is wrong and by our failure to do what is right. Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord Have Mercy

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from You all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of Your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in You, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await Your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for You.

C: Amen.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord. (CWS 774 “Church of God, Elect and Glorious”)

**Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race;
called as God's own special people, royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling, show to all His mighty deeds;
tell of love which knows no limits, grace which meets all human needs.**

**God has called you out of darkness into His most marvellous light;
brought His truth to life within you, turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you that God's name is glorified;
and all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified.**

**Once you were an alien people, strangers to God's heart of love;
but He brought you home in mercy, citizens of heaven above.
Let His love flow out to others, let them feel a Father's care;
that they too may know His welcome and His countless blessings share.**

**Church of God, elect and holy, be the people He intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer each command your Master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service sing His praise, His love declare.**

The Greeting

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: **Deuteronomy 30:15-20** – Prior to settling within the Promised Land, the LORD wants His people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death.

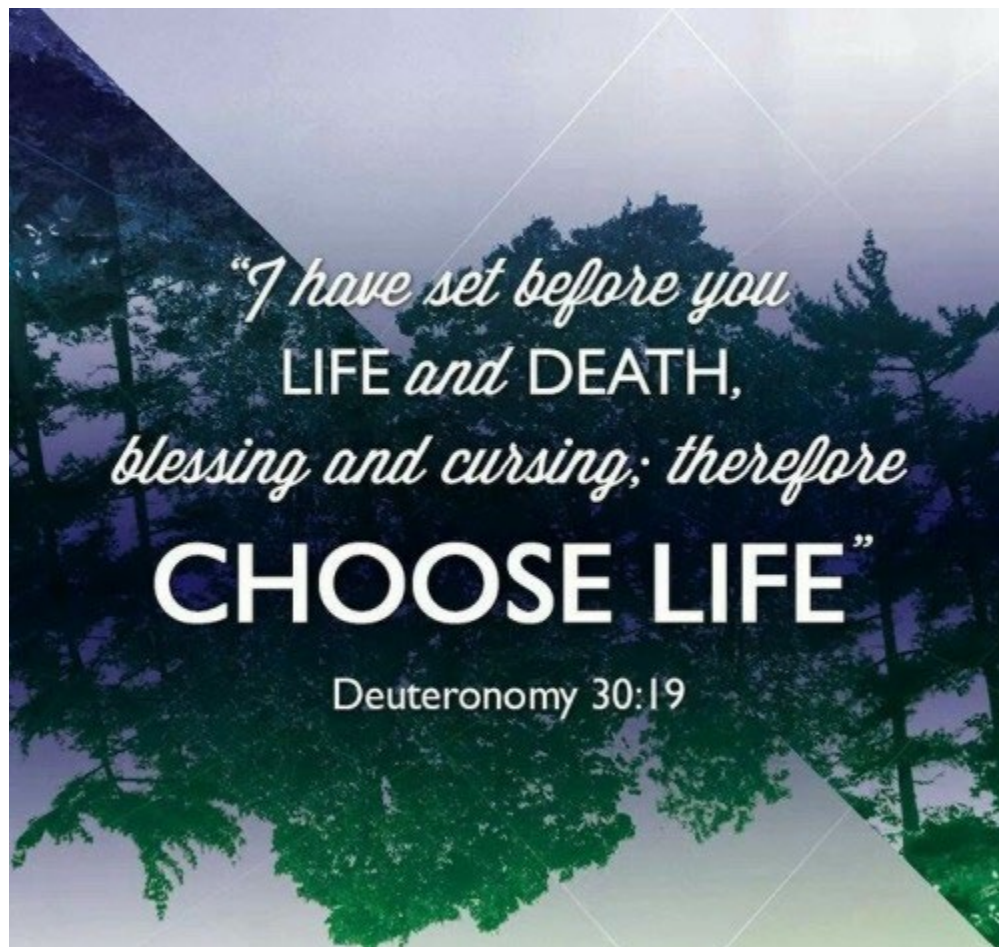
¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

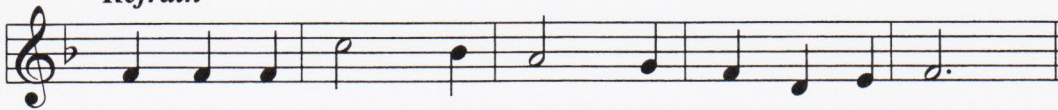
¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

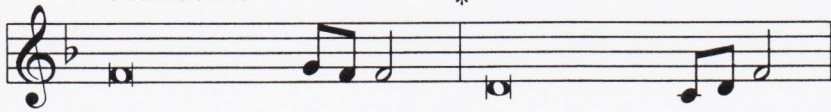


Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season*
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,*
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

The Second Lesson: **Philemon 1,7-21** – The case of the escaped slave, Onesimus, returning to his owner, Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost in following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker.

⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

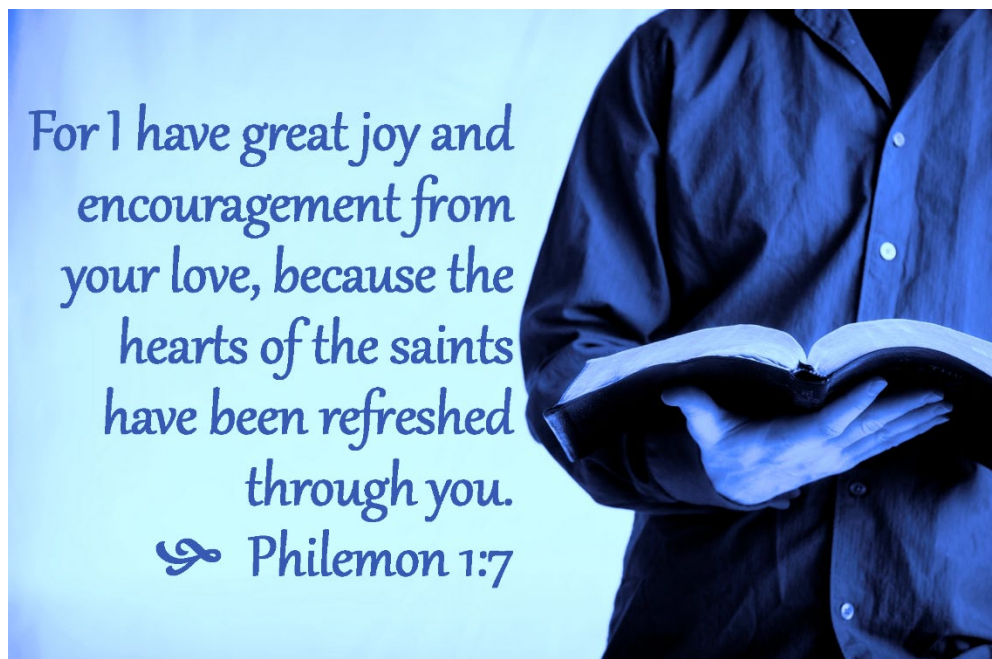
⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**



Gospel Acclamation:

P: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

The Gospel Lesson: **Luke 14:25-35** – Jesus teaches us that following Him closely will come at a cost.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.

²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be My disciples.

³⁴ "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: **CW 694** "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" (CW93 465)

Sermon: **Philemon 1, 7-21** "Following Christ Often Means Having to Do What We Don't Want to Do!"

The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

The Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Closing Collect

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: **CW 617** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (CW93 334)

The Announcements

Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Casaletto

Today—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Trial Run Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

Monday—Church Council at 7:00 PM

Tuesday—Preschool Staff Meeting at 3:15 PM

Branch Connection at 4:30 PM

Next Sunday—Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

THANK YOU

Pastor Bauer sends his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the congregation for his farewell brunch, cards and gifts. Thank you to all who attended and helped make this day a memorable occasion.

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETING

There will be a brief meeting immediately after the service today for confirmation students and their parents.

The students will receive the books and materials for the class. Pastor Radunzel will also have a short “trial run confirmation class” on Zoom today at 5:00 PM to make sure everything is ready and in place for the first official confirmation class on Sunday, September 14th.

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted to provide something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers June 2025 through September 2025.

CHURCH SIGN

Recently, the Village of Lake Zurich granted a sign permit to New Life. Soon, the sign company will come to remove the sign from the pedestal to repaint it and get it ready for the new sign boards. The electronic sign boards have been ordered.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Sunday School will begin on September 7. A rotation of teachers will once again be used to teach Sunday School. A flier, containing the schedule for the year, has been published. A sign-up sheet for teachers has been posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, August 31st we have received \$30,709 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$12,541 behind the budget, which is \$831 worse than the previous week.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, August 24, New Life welcomed into membership James Fapso, the husband of Alyssa Fapso (nee Dundore). James has completed the Adult Information class and joins New Life by way of adult confirmation. If you haven't met James, please introduce yourself to him and welcome him to New Life.

CALL MEETING

The first call meeting for calling a new pastor will be on Sunday, September 21 at 10:45 AM.

VACANCY

During the vacancy Pastor Steve Radunzel will be here on Sundays and Pastor Tom Schultz will cover any ministry needs that arise during the week.