



New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

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

Vacancy Pastor Steve Radunzel / Pastor Thomas Schultz
(847) 438-5018

www.newlife-wels.org

+++++

Reformation Sunday (Observed) **October 26, 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: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank You for preserving Your holy Church against the very forces of hell. For the gift of the blessed gospel we praise Your name. For the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection from the dead, and life eternal in Christ, we thank You, loving Father. Help us to treasure the rich heritage handed down from our fathers in the faith. Continue to raise up faithful pastors and teachers among us in the spirit of Martin Luther, so that we can carry on Your saving work to the end of time. All glory to Your name! Amen.

Today's Service: *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish; used with permission under the OneLicense.net copyright agreement #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.*

Today's Theme: **CAUSE / EFFECT – TRUTH / FREEDOM**

Many people believe that freedom means being able to do whatever you want. Jesus teaches that is absolutely false. "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31,32). Jesus says that living however you want does not make you free. In fact, if you take that attitude toward life you will end up a slave. You will only be free—spiritually, emotionally, eternally—"If you hold to my teaching" and therefore "know the truth." Truth is the cause that effects freedom.

A key principle Martin Luther established through the Reformation is sola scriptura, Scripture alone. Who or what is the final arbiter of the truth that provides freedom? Scripture alone. Heirs of the Reformation still bind themselves to Scripture. Does restricting ourselves in this manner curtail freedom? Just the opposite is true. God's truth brings freedom from slavery to sinful delusions and the burden of guilt. This week we celebrate this cause and effect—the truth sets us free!

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 864 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" (CW93 201)

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Opening Sentences Psalm 46:1, 7, 10-11

P: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

C: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

P: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

C: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Confession and Absolution Isaiah 35:10

P: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C: Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.

P: The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. 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.

Hymn Response: CW 643, Verse 1 "O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word" (CW93 204)

**O God, our Lord, Your holy Word
Was long a hidden treasure
Till to its place It was by grace
Restored in fullest measure.
For this today Our thanks we say
And gladly glorify You.
Your mercy show And grace bestow
On all who still deny You.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: **Jeremiah 31:31-34** – The truth of God’s new covenant of grace transforms our hearts so we freely and gladly follow God’s will.

³¹ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³² It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the Lord.

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”
(NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm of the Day: **Psalm 46** (to be sung)

**The Lord of hosts is with us, the God who Jacob loved;
Therefore, we will not tremble, though all the earth be moved.
Though mountains quake in tumult, and mighty waves appear.
The Lord of hosts is with us to shelter us from fear!**

**God breaks the spear asunder and causes war to cease.
His voice sounds forth like thunder, that we may live in peace;
“Be still! Bow down! Acknowledge that I alone am Lord,
Exalted in the heavens, by all the earth adored!”**

**God is our mighty Fortress; therefore, let fear be gone.
His blessings flow like waters, as certain as the dawn,
And so, whate’er betide us, our confidence is sure:
The Lord of hosts is with us, and we are safe, secure! (CW93 474)**

The Second Lesson: **Galatians 5:1-6** - St. Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we receive in the truth about Jesus Christ.

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

P: Alleluia. . Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia. (Luke 12:32 RSV)

Stand

Gospel Lesson: **John 8:31-36** – The truth of the gospel sets us free.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise be to You O Christ!

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day: CW 865 “O Lord, Take Pity Once You’ve Seen” (CW93 390)

Sermon: Psalm 46 – “God is Powerful. He Doesn’t Change, and His Church Will Never Close”

Confession of Faith: (The Third Article and Luther’s Explanation)

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last day He will raise me and all the dead; And He will give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

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.



Prayers of the Church

P: Let us pray to our God who has justified us by the work and grace of Jesus alone, that our faith may be strengthened and nourished by His Holy Word.

Holy Lord, You have given us Your Word as Your promise and washed us in Baptism to be Your own people and to live under You in Your kingdom, now and forever. Build us up in Christ, that we may hold the faith in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace as we give evidence of this faith in holiness of life. Reprove us when we are in error and reform what is lacking in us, that we may grow up into Christ, our head. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of grace, keep us steadfast in Your Word, and prevent our wayward hearts from following false gospels that lead us away from You. Provide Your Church with faithful pastors who preach in purity and joy, that we are saved by Your grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, heavenly Father, give wisdom and strength to all fathers in the home and Church. Make them faithful in teaching Your Word to the children entrusted to their care, that these little ones would come to know You as their heavenly Father and live as true children of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, when the nations are in uproar and kingdoms fall, teach us to be still and know that You are God. Guide all who govern us so that evil is thwarted, righteousness rewarded and all Your ways are upheld.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, hear our prayers for the sick, the joyful and those in any need [*especially* _____]. Answer their prayers, preserve them by Your promises and bring them safely through this world to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father in heaven, give to all who approach Your altar this day repentant hearts and firm faith in the Savior's promises. Graciously prevent us from partaking to our judgment, and grant us reverently and joyfully to receive Christ's body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, we give You thanks for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We especially bless You today for the great reformers of Your Church who call us back to the Gospel and to the righteousness we have in Christ alone. Keep us in fellowship with them, and bring us at last to our heavenly home and the joy of seeing our Redeemer face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our merciful God who desires that all might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We praise and thank You that, in Your infinite mercy, You sent Your one and only Son, Jesus, to die for the sins of the world. It is through Him, the mediator between God and man, that we come to You in boldness and confidence, knowing that You hear us and will respond to our prayers according to Your good and gracious will. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus:

Joyful, joyful we adore You, Holy, holy, holy Lord!

Heav'n and earth, yes, all creation Joy and praise to You afford.

Sing we all hosanna, hosanna Unto Christ, Your only Son.

In Your own name He is coming. Our salvation He has won! (tune CW93 169)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, O Lord of hosts, the God of Jacob, our fortress, for You have had mercy on all whom You have created by sending Your Son, Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

As we gather in Your name and the memory of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Lead us to faithfully eat and drink His body and blood. Gather us together as we celebrate the freedom we have in Christ. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution (Spoken by the Pastor)

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

C: Amen.

Angus Dei

**You are giving and forgiving, Lamb of God for sinners slain.
All the world's sin You have taken And in heaven is Your reign.
Mercy show us, mercy give us; Hear us from Your throne above.
Grant your peace to us poor sinners, Peace for this world in Your love.** (tune CW93 169)

Our Communion Practice

New Life Lutheran Church practices “close communion.” We ask that only members of New Life or other WELS or ELS churches partake of the sacrament. We ask our visitors to please respect our communion practice.

The Distribution Hymn: **CW 878** “Christ Alone the World’s Redeemer” (CW93 532)

The Song of Simeon

**All Your works with joy surround You, And we tell what You have done:
Let each one who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy.
We depart with shouts of gladness. Allelu, Alleluia!** (tune CW93 169)

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

O God of Jacob, we give You glory for sending Your Son to set us free. We thank You for setting this feast of forgiveness before us. Empower us to proclaim Your eternal Gospel to all who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The 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 640** “God’s Word is Our Great Heritage” (CW93 293)

Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Casaletto

Today—Reformation Sunday 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

Friday—Reformation Day

Saturday—Daylight Savings Time Ends—remember to turn clocks back one hour

Next Sunday— All Saints' Day (observed) Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Call Meeting at 10:45 AM (No Adult Bible Class or Sunday School)

Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

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 September 2025 through December 2025.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, October 19th we have received \$50,582 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$26,307 behind the budget, which is \$2,832 worse than the previous week.

CHURCH SIGN

The new digital electronic sign, purchased from DesignGroup Signage, remains scheduled for installation this fall. The total project cost is \$17,300 plus, still to be determined, electrician fees during the installation. To date, members have donated just under \$15,000 to the project. All labor, including refurbishment costs, have been donated by DesignGroup Signage.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School children and preschool students have been learning the hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light." They will sing this song for the congregation at the November 2nd church service.

Our Sunday School will utilize a rotation of teachers to teach Sunday School this year. A new sign-up sheet for the month of November has been posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up for this opportunity, even if you can only commit to the occasional Sunday. All teaching materials and lesson plans are provided.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Ladies Night Out, hosted by the Branch Connection, has been rescheduled. They will now meet on Wednesday, November 5th at 5:45 PM at Sorelle Italian Market and Café. It is located at 3976 IL-22 in Long Grove. A new sign-up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall. All ladies are welcome to attend. Feel free to invite friends as well!

CALL MEETING

On Monday, October 13, 2025, Pastor Liebenow returned the call to serve as New Life's Pastor. A copy of Pastor Liebenow's letter can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Our district President, Pastor Leyrer, has been notified and will prepare our next call list. Our second call meeting will be held following the service on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

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.