



*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](http://www.newlife-wels.org)

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**CHRISTMAS DAY  
December 25, 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.

<p><u><i>Before Service Prayer:</i></u> Heavenly Father, in ages past, You spoke through the prophets. Today You have spoken to us through Your Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. Tune our ears to Your Word and nourish us with the flesh and blood of Your Son, who is always with us; through the same Jesus Christ, who rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.</p>
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**CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN**

**HOLY INFANT SO TENDER AND MILD**

From eternity, Jesus has been God, holy and majestic. When we look tenderly at the holy infant, we are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, "No one may see me and live." Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within flesh, so that he could come to us without instilling fear or dread.

A famous theologian once said, "We are to think of the Lord's birth, where the Word became flesh, not as a past event which we recall, but as a present reality on which we gaze." It's not that Christ the Savior was born. It's that Christ the Savior is born.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 362 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" (CW93 42)

Invocation

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

Opening Sentences

P: The people who walked in darkness

**C: have seen a great light!**

P: For behold, I bring you good news of great joy!

**C: Unto us is born this day a Savior!**

P: He is Christ, the Lord!

**C: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!**

Confession and Absolution

P: Today we celebrate Christmas, the incarnation of Jesus, the Word of God becoming flesh. Jesus came to bring peace and joy through all the earth, yet centuries later, our world is still filled with war and violence, hopelessness and despair. Too often, we have spread the evils of the world, rather than the joy and peace of Jesus. But our heavenly Father invites us to come before Him to ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection*

P: Heavenly Father,

**C: we confess that we have failed to live in the joy and peace of Jesus. We have taken Your salvation for granted. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may know the joy of the Lord.**

P: Our heavenly Father sent Jesus to embrace all people. Jesus comes to heal the sick, to preach good news to the poor, and to forgive sinners like me. Therefore, 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. We are joyful in Jesus. We are forgiven in Christ.**

### Hymn of Praise

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on Earth. (CW93 36)

**All:**           A great and mighty wonder, A glorious mystery;  
A virgin bears an infant Who veils His deity.  
Repeat the hymn again:  
“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds for the sky.  
Repeat the hymn again:  
“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

While thus they sing your monarch, Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.  
Repeat the hymn again:  
“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Behl'em, The Savior and the Lord.  
Repeat the hymn again:  
“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace.  
Repeat the hymn again:  
“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.” (CW 36)

### The Greeting

P: The Lord be with you!

**C: And also with you!**

### The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

The First Lesson: **Isaiah 52:7-10** – The prophet foretold that the Lord would dwell among us and do what was necessary to bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
“Your God reigns!”

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy.  
When the Lord returns to Zion,  
they will see it with their own eyes.

<sup>9</sup> Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will lay bare his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God. (NIV 2011)

The Response: (CW93 41)

C: (to be sung)

**To us a Child of hope is born,  
To us a Son is given,  
And on his shoulder ever rests  
All power in earth and heaven.  
All power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored.  
The God by all adored.**

The Second Lesson: **Hebrews 1:1-9** – In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. Now God speaks to us directly through his Son.

**1** In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;

today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup> In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,

and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;

a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions

by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

(NIV 2011)

The Response: (CW93 41)

C: (To be sung)

**A wondrous change which he does make!**

**He takes our flesh and blood,**

**And He conceals for sinners' sake**

**His majesty as God.**

**His majesty as God.**

**He serves that I a lord may be;**

**A great exchange indeed!**

**Could Jesus' love do more for me**

**To help me in my need?**

**To help me in my need?**

*Stand*

*The Christmas Gospel:* **John 1:1-14** – The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome<sup>[a]</sup> it.

**6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

**9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

**14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NIV 2011)

*The Response:* (CW93 41)

**C:** (to be sung)

**For us He opens wide the door  
Of paradise today;  
The angel guards the gate no more.  
To God our thanks we pray.  
To God our thanks we pray.**

*Sit*

*Hymn of the Day:* **CW 330** “Peace Came to Earth” (CWS 707)



Sermon: **John 1:1-14** “You’re Not Going to Understand This, But. . .”

The Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed with Meaning--Redemption

**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.**

**What does this mean?**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.**

**All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

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

P: Word made flesh, in the joyous celebration of Your nativity, we have seen Your glory. Your goodness and loving kindness have appeared to us. Grant us comfort and peace in the knowledge of Your incarnation and a blessed new year. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Word made flesh, in Your Holy Gospel we have seen your glory. Bless the preaching of the Gospel from the altars and pulpits You have consecrated for the purpose of delivering Your gift of faith through the preaching of Your Word. Bless those called to preach and those called to hear, that the light of Your Word may continue to illuminate the darkness of our world. Abide with those who suffer persecution for confessing its truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Word made flesh, by Your sacrament of Holy Baptism we have seen Your glory. Make all the baptized confident in the promise given to them in the waters of Baptism. Grant repentance to parents who have withheld the treasures of Baptism from their children. Give to all Your people hearts welcoming of children. Continue to expand Your kingdom through this blessed portal to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Word made flesh, in Your ongoing provision of daily bread we have seen Your glory. By Your Spirit, visit those who suffer: the sick, the sorrowing, the hospitalized, the poor, the destitute, the homeless, the unemployed. Remember those who have requested our intercessions. . . .that they might not be given to despair but entreat their heavenly Father's protection even in times of great need. Lord in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Word made flesh, in Your crucifixion and resurrection we have seen Your glory. Give comfort to those who grieve. Grant to all people a sure and certain hope in the resurrection of all the dead and eternal life for all believers in You on the day of Your return. Keep us steadfast and faithful until that day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Word made flesh, we give You thanks that of Your mercy and compassion, You became incarnate and have redeemed us from sin and everlasting death. Enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace and comfort ourselves by it in all tribulation and temptation and at last obtain eternal salvation; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one Lord, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### *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.**

### *Prayer for Peace*

P: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### *The Benediction*

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

**C: Amen. We rejoice in Your coming, Lord Jesus.**

P: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the Son who became one of us in order to save us, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Savior we all need, a Savior who is true God and true man—be with you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### *The Closing Hymn:* CW 350 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (CW93 61)

*The Announcements*

**Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia plant to adorn the chancel. Please take your poinsettia home today and enjoy it.**



