



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
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The Epiphany of our Lord (Observed) **January 4, 2026**

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: Lord of all creation, You announced the birth of Your Son by arranging a new star to appear. As all who saw it and believed were included in His saving work, lead us and people around the world to receive the light of Your grace with joy, becoming lights ourselves, that many others may join us to praise Your gracious love; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN

Today's Service: By Carol Geisler. Copyright 2017 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026 800-325-0414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Used with permission under the OneLicense.net copyright agreement #A-800156.

Today's Theme: **Love's Pure Light Beams From Thy Holy Face**

The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and January 6. What is special about January 6? It is the day when the Christian Church celebrates the Festival of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "reveal." When the Savior was born, he was first revealed as love's pure light to Israelites: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds. Today we see the Lord miraculously guiding foreigners across countless miles so the Savior's holy face could be revealed to them as well. The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as Christmas for the Gentiles. We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is a gift for all people, Christ the Savior of the world.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: **CW 372 "As with Gladness Men of Old" (CW93 83)**

Invocation and Call to Worship

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 made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. (*Genesis 1:16*)

C: We praise the One who created all things.

P: When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

C: What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?

P: Yet You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings

C: And crowned him with glory and honor. (*Psalm 8:3-5*)

P: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. . . behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?”

C: For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. (*Matthew 2:1-2*)

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Creator

C: Almighty God, You have given us Your Word to teach us of our salvation and to guide us according to Your will, but we confess that we often turn from Your Word and will to follow our own desires and to listen to the temptations of the world around us. We live for ourselves and we do not love and serve others as You want us to do. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

P: God has had mercy on us and sent His Son to be our Savior. Jesus suffered the penalty of death that we deserve and rose to give us eternal life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

**What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come, peasant king, to own Him.
The King of kings Salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary! (CW93 67 vs. 1, 3)**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

God and Creator of the stars, we give You thanks for all Your gifts. Today we praise You for the greatest gift, the gift of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth was heralded by a star. As that star led the wise men to find and worship Your Son, we pray that our words and actions will be a shining witness to the good news of our Savior, so that others, like those wise men of old, will come to know and worship Him as Lord. Hear our prayer in His name.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: **Isaiah 60:1-6** – The prophet foretold that one born king of the Jews would draw kings from distant nations to the light of his glory.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

(NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Psalm 72

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Endow the King with your justice, *Ó* God,*
the royal Son with your righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people*
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field,*
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him,*
and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him,*
and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

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: Ephesians 3:2-12 - Paul explains that that people from all nations are united as equals in the Savior's kingdom of grace.

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

P: Alleluia, Alleluia! Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.

Stand

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 – Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles would join Israel in worshipping Jesus as King.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise be to You O Christ!

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day: **CW 370, vs. 1-3** “How Lovely Shines the Morning Star” (CW93 79)

Sermon: **Isaiah 60:1-6 – The Light That Shines on All the World**

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.

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: O God, You have kept Your Word and delivered to us Your own Son by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin. Guide us so that we may rejoice in the Word made flesh and in the redemption He has won by His holy life, life-giving death and resurrection. Bless all pastors, that they may faithfully preach and teach this Gospel. Open the hearts of young men to hear and heed Your call to the ministry. Bless all church workers in their various vocations, that they may serve us well in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Lord, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, You raised up Joseph, a man honorable and just, to be the guardian and earthly father to Your Son. Give all earthly fathers wisdom, patience, pride of duty and, above all, faith and loyalty to Your Word, that knowing Your true Guardianship, they may head their households with godly forbearance. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, You do not bear with the tiresome flattery and unbelief of kings and rulers forever. Have mercy on us, Lord, and spare our nation. Clear away all empty shows of piety and renew genuine faith in the Virgin's Son, that His coming at the last may not be a sign against us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You are the giver of every good gift, O Lord, and You care for us in all our needs of body, mind and spirit. Give healing to the sick, relief to the suffering, peace to the dying and comfort to those who mourn [*especially _____ and those we name in our hearts*]. According to Your gracious will, sustain them all by Your grace, and give them patience and courage as they await the unfolding of Your healing grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Dayspring from on high and the splendor of light everlasting. By His coming in the flesh and by His blessed Word, enlighten our hearts with the Gospel, enlighten the hearts of those who sit in the darkness of unbelief with the light of saving faith, and enlighten those who dwell in the shadow of death with the certain hope of the resurrection through Him. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; 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 Blessing

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
C: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

P: And nations shall come to your light,
C: And kings to the brightness of your rising.

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: **CW 380** “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun” (tune CW93 152)

Announcements

Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Berg/Bolzman

Today— Epiphany of our Lord Service at 9:30 AM
Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM
Adult Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:45 AM
Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM
Next Sunday—Third Sunday after Christmas Communion Service at 9:30 AM
Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM
Adult Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:45 AM
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 January and February of the new year.

BOWLING OUTING

Mark your calendars – our annual bowling outing is scheduled for Sunday, February 1st at noon. We will meet at Bowlero in Deer Park.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Pastor Radunzel is leading a Bible study on the book of Psalms. The Adult Bible Class meets upstairs in the Café area starting at 10:45 AM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will continue to meet in the new year. We are still using a rotation of teachers to teach the lessons. Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays! All lesson materials, including the teacher’s guide, will be provided. We have a small number of students this year, so the time commitment is minimal. We would love to have some more teachers join our rotation.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

There is a table near the New Life Café with offering envelopes. Please pick up your envelopes. Included in the packet is an updated Endowment flyer.

CALL MEETING UPDATE

On Saturday, November 29, 2025, Pastor Seelow sent a call return letter to New Life. His call return letter is posted in the fellowship hall. Our synods practice is to have a Christmas / New Years call hiatus. Our next (3rd) call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 18, 2026 following the worship service.

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.

