



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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First Sunday after Epiphany January 11, 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: Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Today's Service: "Divine Service III" NPH, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

Identity Revealed Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One

"Christ" is not the family name of Jesus. It is a title. The Greek word "Christ" and the Hebrew word "Messiah" both mean the same thing: "The Anointed One." Anointing was the practice of pouring liquid over the head of someone to signify selection for some special task. When the Lord had someone anointed, he also poured his Spirit over them. It was the fulfillment of promises made over centuries.

OPENING HYMN CW 373 “Brightest and Best” (sung to the tune of CW93 92)

INVOCATION

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

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; Psalm 117*

P: I will go to the altar of God,

C: to God my exceeding joy.

P: Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

**C: For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Jesus Christ is God’s chosen one, who came and who comes again today to call everyone to salvation from sin and death and who makes all who are baptized in His name to be the chosen sons and daughters of God. Marked by the sacred waters of Holy Baptism, let us receive God’s assurance and promise of forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, our dear Father in heaven, in Holy Baptism You have marked us with the sign of the holy cross upon our foreheads and upon our hearts to mark us as people of Your choosing to be redeemed by Christ the crucified. Open our eyes to Your light of freedom and forgiveness and to Your calling of us to be Your own chosen people of Your eternal kingdom.

P: Upon this your confession, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit, has forgiven you all your sins. God strengthen you with His grace to life ☩ everlasting.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

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

**Christ when for us You were baptized, God’s Spirit on You came.
As peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame, as urgent as a flame.**

**God called You “My beloved Son”; You are God’s servant true,
Sent to proclaim the reign of heav’n, God’s holy will to do, God’s holy will to do.**

**Straightway and steadfast until death You then obeyed the call
To serve with free and willing heart, to give Your life for all, to give Your life for all.**

**Baptize us with Your Spirit, Lord; Your cross on us be signed,
That likewise in God’s service we may perfect freedom find, may perfect freedom find. (CW93 90)**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P & C: Almighty God, this day we rejoice in the anointing of the Son of God at His Baptism in the Jordan River to be Your chosen deliverer, Your Spirit-marked servant. Grant that the light of Your salvation through Him enlighten all people today, calling everyone through the waters of Holy Baptism to be Your chosen people for eternity; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON **Isaiah 42:1-7** – The Lord promises to put his Spirit on the Messiah.

42 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

² He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.

³ A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

⁵ This is what God the Lord says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:

⁶ “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,

⁷ to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 45

Refrain

Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-
lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalm tone

My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointed with grace.

Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

In your majesty ride forth victoriously;*
let your right hand display awesome deeds.

Refrain

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;*
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness;*
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.

I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;*
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

**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

EPISTLE **Acts 10:34-38** – The Holy Spirit was poured out onto Peter’s listeners as he told them how God anointed Jesus.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Alleluia.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 3:13-17** – In the waters of the Jordan River, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

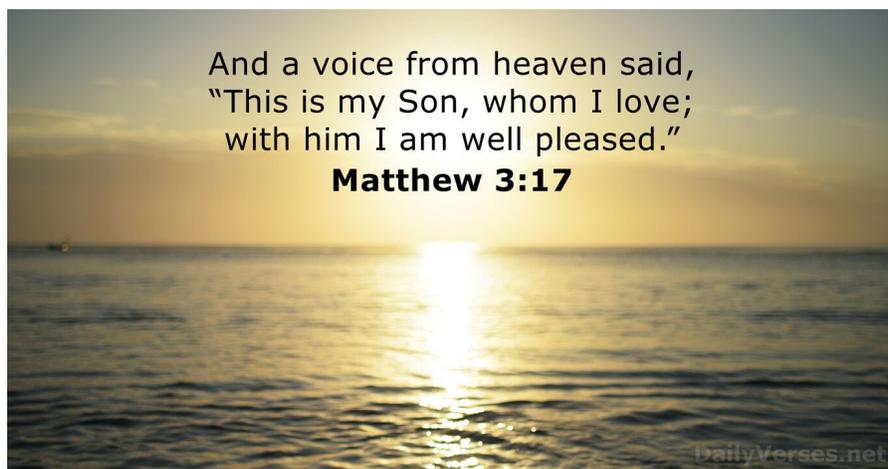
¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



HYMN OF THE DAY CW 377 “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” (CW93 89)

THE SERMON Matthew 3:13-17 “Baptism is the Right Thing to Do”

OFFERINGS

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.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, You have revealed Your Son to us in the wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan. So also You have revealed Your name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, declaring us Your beloved heirs. Grant that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, living with joy as Your baptized children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, as You have opened heaven to Your Church through Holy Baptism, give her faithful teachers to proclaim Your Son, Jesus Christ, and all that accords with godliness, that many would repent of their sins and join Him in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, preserve the family, especially all Christian homes. Turn husband and wife toward one another in love, equip fathers and mothers for their holy duty as teachers of the faith, and preserve all children in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, Your Son, Jesus, is the Christ and the true King of this world. Grant great humility to the rulers of the nations, [*especially* _____,] that they would submit to the preaching of His Holy Word for the sake of their own souls and for the good of Your holy people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty Lord, You sent Your Son to serve Your people and deliver them from sin and death. Because we long for Your salvation, bring us out of our afflictions and uphold all those bruised in spirit [*especially* _____]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, in Holy Baptism You have opened the heavens to Your children. Grant that all those baptized into Your Son would worthily receive the heavenly feast of His body and blood for their forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, our God, You have brought eternal life to us through the death of Your Son. Grant that we who have come through Baptism and have died to this world would ever more and more live in the resurrected life of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself with the Holy Spirit in the fullness of grace at the Baptism of Your dear Son. With Your voice, You directed us to the One who has borne our sins, that we may receive grace and forgiveness. Keep us, we implore You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your Son, strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; 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.

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 good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for, when He was baptized in the water of the Jordan in our place, You declared that You were well-pleased with Him, and in the water of our Baptism, You united us to His death and resurrection that we might walk before You in newness of life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

(Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9)

**Alleluia! Let praises ring! To God the Father let us bring,
Our songs of adoration.**

**To Him through everlasting days Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,
Whose hand sustains creation.**

**Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory. (CW93 241)**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. 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. Hear us now as we join in praying. .

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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

C: Amen.

ANGUS DEI

(John 1:29)

**Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Lamb of God we sing,
In whom we are elected.
He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in that blessed flood,
And as His bride selected.
Holy, holy Is our union And communion. His befriending
Gives us joy and peace unending. (CW93 241)**

DISTRIBUTUION HYMN CW 384 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (CW93 93)

NUNC DIMITTIS

(Luke 2:29-32)

**Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Holy Ghost we sing
For our regeneration.
The saving faith in us He wrought And unto us the bridegroom brough,
Made us His chosen nation.
Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, bliss supernal; There is manna,
And an endless glad hosanna.**

**Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto our triune God we sing;
Blest be His name forever!
With angel host let us adore And sing His praises evermore
For all His grace and favor!
Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory! (CW93 241)**

CLOSING PRAYER

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN CW 691, verses 1, 3 and 4 “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise and See” (CW93 177)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week
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Cleaning this Week: Casaletto

Today— First Sunday after Epiphany 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

Tuesday – Preschool Staff Meeting at 3:00 PM

Branch Connection Meeting at 4:30 PM

Wednesday – Tone Chimes Rehearsal at 7:00 PM

Next Sunday—Second Sunday after Epiphany Divine Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Third Call Meeting at 10:45 AM – No Sunday School or Adult Bible Class

Zoom Confirmation Meeting at 5:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A sign-up sheet has been posted to provide something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers January and February.

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. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. The cost is \$10 per person for pizza and bowling.

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

Our Sunday School is utilizing a rotation of teachers to teach Sunday School this year. A new sign-up sheet for the months of January, February and March 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. We have a small class this year, so the time commitment is minimal.

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 next call meeting is next Sunday (January 18th) immediately following fellowship time. Please try to attend this meeting and remember to keep New Life and the pastoral candidates in your prayers.

