



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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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 30, 2026

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entryway 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: Eternal God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced the way of the cross to redeem us. Grant us faith to embrace the way of the cross as our way of life and to declare His redemptive presence to our world; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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Today's Theme:

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS CROSS COMES BEFORE CROWN

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. Today we see how that is nonsense. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will have bear crosses. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers.

Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 831 "Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me" (CW93 428)

Please Stand

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 72:18–19; 119:1; 116:5, 9

Pastor: Blessed are those whose way is blameless,

People: **who walk in the law of the Lord!**

Pastor: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

People: **I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

People: **Blessed be His glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!**

Confession

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on Confession in the Small Catechism informs and directs us with these words, which summarize it well.

People: **"Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven."**

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

The Kyrie—The congregation and Pastor sing...



Absolution

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

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

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
We worship You, we give You thanks we praise You for Your glory!
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

(Interlude)

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
Receive our prayer, receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
For You alone are the holy One, You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.
Glory to God, glory to God!**

The Salutation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption.
Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21 – When Jeremiah complained about carrying his cross, the Lord called on him to repent and promised salvation.

¹⁵ Lord, you understand;

remember me and care for me.

Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are long-suffering—do not take me away;

think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them;

they were my joy and my heart's delight,

for I bear your name,

Lord God Almighty.

¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revelers,

never made merry with them;

I sat alone because your hand was on me

and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unending

and my wound grievous and incurable?

You are to me like a deceptive brook,

like a spring that fails.

¹⁹ Therefore this is what the Lord says:

“If you repent, I will restore you

that you may serve me;

if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,

you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you,

but you must not turn to them.

²⁰ I will make you a wall to this people,

a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you

but will not overcome you,

for I am with you

to rescue and save you,”

declares the Lord.

²¹ “I will save you from the hands of the wicked

and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.” (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31

Refrain



Psalm tone



In you, O LORD, I have taken *ré*fuge;*
deliver me in your *ri*ghteousness.

Be my rock of *ré*fuge,*
a strong fortress to *save* me.

Into your hands I commit my *sp*irit;*
redeem me, O LORD, the *Go*d of truth.

Refrain

My times are *in* your hands;*
save me in your unfailing love.

How great is your *go*odness,*
which you have stored up for those who *fe*ar you.

You heard my cry for *me*rcy*
when I called to *you* for help.

Glory be to the *Fa*ther and *to* the *So*n*
and to the *Ho*ly *Sp*irit,
as it was in the *be*ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. *A*men.

Refrain

The Second Lesson: **Romans 8:18-25** – No cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that^[a] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

The Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 16:21-26** – Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path. First comes the cross, then comes the crown.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? (NIV 2011)

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



The Apostles' Creed

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

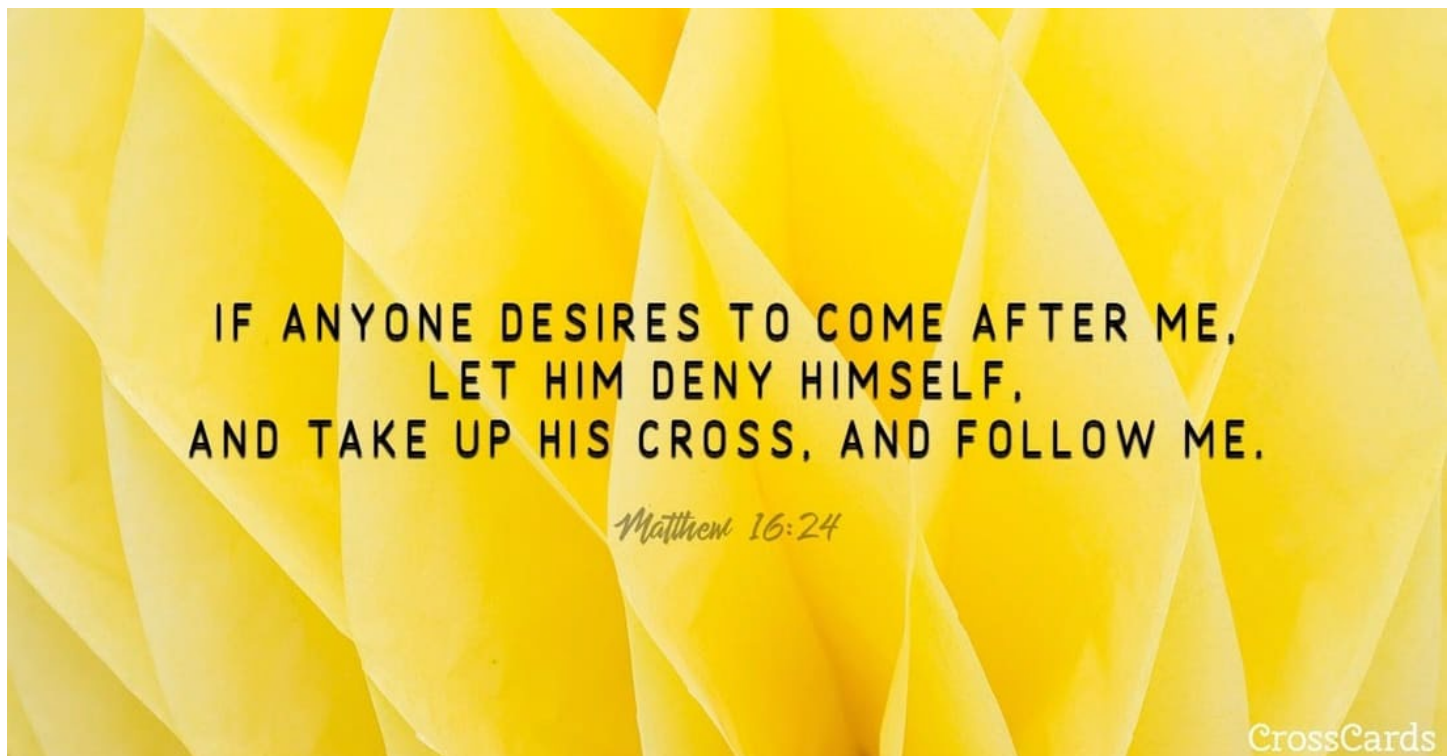
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand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

Please be seated

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

The Sermon Matthew 16:21-26 “Stay Clear of the Trap!”



After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me.
 Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or
 take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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

Pastor: The Lord bless you 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.

People: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: **CW 405** “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (CW93 319)

Announcements

Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week

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

Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM

Tuesday—First Day of School for 3-year-old Preschool and Little Sprouts

Wednesday—First Day of School for 4-year-old Preschool

Next Sunday—Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

Volunteers are needed to provide snacks for fellowship time. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall. The sheet covers the months of August through October. There are slots that need to be filled!

BACK TO BIBLE STUDY!

September means back to “school” for New Life Church. Sunday, September 13th will be the first day for Sunday School and Adult Bible Class. Class begins after fellowship, usually around 10:45. The Adult Bible Class meets upstairs in the Café. All are welcome to join this class!

CATECHISM CLASS

The confirmation class will start meeting again on Wednesday, September 16th. Please see Pastor Feldhus if you have any questions.

