

# New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

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

Pastor Andrew Bauer  
(847) 438-5018

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

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## The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Day December 25, 2016

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 basement 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 basement 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.

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.

<p><u>Before Service Prayer:</u> Dear God of all glory, through eyewitnesses You have revealed to us Your Son as the Babe of Bethlehem, as the Savior at the cross, and as the King of heaven. Help us, therefore, to praise Him properly on His birthday, to receive Him humbly in His grace, and to look for Him to come again in glory, for His name's sake. Amen.</p>
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Pastor's Welcome

Flute / Guitar Duet: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"—Holly LaPlante, Flute; Toby James, Guitar

The Hymn of the Festival: CW 58 "See in Yonder Manger Low"

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

*The Confession of Sins:* (CW 11)

**C: (to be sung)**

**Faithful Father, now before You Do I come with fervent plea.  
Though unworthy, I implore You Still be merciful to me.  
Let Your face upon me shine When before You I recline;  
Let Your sacrament give gladness, And relieve my soul's sadness.**

P: In His wonderful mercy, God promised to send His Son to be our Savior and Substitute. Again in love God accepted the perfect life and innocent death which Jesus offered on our behalf to atone for our sins. Therefore, on the basis of Christ's work and God's own promise, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**C: (to be sung)**

**Praise and thanks and adoration, Son of God, to You we give,  
For You chose to serve creation Died that Adam's heirs might live.  
Dear Lord Jesus, guide my way; Faithful let me day to day  
Follow where Your steps are leading, Find Your love and joy exceeding.**

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

**C: (CW 49)**

**Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn!  
A Savior unto us is born,  
The Christ, the Lord of glory.  
His lowly birth in Bethlehem  
The angels from on high proclaim  
And sing redemption's story.  
My soul, Extol  
God's great favor; Bless Him ever  
For salvation.  
Give Him praise and adoration.**

*The Salutation*

P: The Lord be with you:

**C: And with you also.**

*The Collect* (CW 42)

P: (to be sung)

Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.

C: (to be sung)

**Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,  
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join the angelic choir.**

Tone Chime Choir Selection: “Fanfare on Adeste Fideles”

The Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

2 The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.  
6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a Son is given,  
and the government will be on His shoulders.  
And He will be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the increase of His government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David’s throne  
and over His kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

*The Response:* (CW 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 Epistle:* **Hebrews 2:10-15**

10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the Author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the One who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12 He says,

“I will declare Your name to My brothers;  
in the presence of the congregation I will sing Your praises.”

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in Him.”

And again He says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given Me.”

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death he might destroy Him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

*The Response:* (CW 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 Gospel:* **Luke 2:1-14 (KJV)**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (*And* this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*The Response:* (CW 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 pay.  
To God our thanks we pay.**

*The Nicene Creed:*

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be Seated*

*The Sermon Hymn:* CW 54 “Where Shepherd Lately Knelt”

*The Sermon*

*Hymn:* (CW 53)

**C:** (to be sung)

**Create my nature pure within  
And make my heart averse to sin;  
Let Your good Spirit not depart,  
Nor hide Your presence from my heart.**

**I cannot live without Your Light,  
Cast out and banished from Your sight;  
Your holy joys, my God, restore  
And guard me that I fall no more.**

**Oh, may Your love inspire my tongue!  
Salvation shall be all my song;  
And all my powers shall join to bless  
The Lord, my strength and righteousness.**

*The Offering*

*The Offertory:* “Away in a Manger”—played by New Life’s Tone Chime Choir

*The Prayer of the Church*

*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.**

*The Preface*

**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 and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of His birth You have opened our eyes to the glory of Your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of Your love. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

The Sanctus: (CW 61)

**C: (to be sung)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heaven and earth cannot contain All the glory of Your name!  
Hail, Hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:  
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to You!**

The Words of Institution: (CW 38)

**C: (to be sung)**

**The night our Savior was betrayed,  
He took the bread, and when He prayed,  
He broke and gave them of the bread  
And unto His disciples said:**

P: "Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this remembrance of Me."

**C: (to be sung)**

**Then, when the sacred meal was o'er,  
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:  
He offered thanks, and lifted up,  
To give to all, the blessed cup:**

P: "Drink from it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Agnus Dei

**C: (to be sung)**

**O Lamb of God, You take away  
The sin of all; now hear us pray,  
And grant us from our sin release:  
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**



## Our Communion Practice

*At New Life we keep the ancient church's practice of offering communion to those who have been baptized and thoroughly instructed (confirmed). Members of New Life and other WELS or ELS congregations may approach the Lord's altar today. We keep this practice because we believe that Christ's true body and blood are offered in this meal, and want all who receive it to do so in a worthy manner for salvation and not condemnation.*

*If you are a visitor and desire to join us at the Lord's Table—praise be to God! Act on your desire by speaking with the pastor after the service to discuss the matter. He will be happy to work with you so that you too, after thorough instruction, can approach the Lord's Altar for this most intimate communion with God and expression of unity with fellow believers. Until that time, begin your journey by observing what the confirmed do and listening to what the pastor says in the distribution. And be assured, even if you need to wait to join us at the Lord's table, you still have the forgiveness of all of your sins through faith in Jesus. The Christ child and all His spiritual blessings are yours by faith!*

The Distribution Hymn: CW 65 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

The Thanksgiving:

**C: (to be sung)**

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,  
What He has done proclaim!  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
And proudly bear His name  
Who leads His thankful people forth  
His promises to claim.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Lord, let Your servant go in peace,  
Your word has been fulfilled.  
My eyes have seen the saving work  
Which for the world You willed:  
The glory of Your chosen race  
As Light for all revealed.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

The Collect

P: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving kindness You sent Your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through Him You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament in which we have received a body—given *for you*, and a blood—shed *for you*. We also pray that You will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Benediction (CW 55)

P: The Lord bless and keep you,  
And look with love upon you,  
Be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!

C: **All glory to Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit!  
The Savior close beside us, God's love from harm to hide us,  
The Spirit's power to guide us, Evermore!**

The Closing Hymn: LSB 393 “**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**”

**Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tiding of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child is born *for you*! Christ the child was born *for you*!**

Announcements