

*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

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**Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 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.

Before Service Prayer: Dear Father, the time is near for me to commemorate the birth of Your Son, our Savior. I wish to receive Him into my heart. But heavenly Father, my heart is stained with sin. It is not fit as a home for one so pure and holy. There is pride, doubt, insincerity, false humility, and fleshly desire to want my will and not Yours be done. That is why I come to You and ask that You not only forgive me this uninviting heart, but that You use Your Word to root out all that makes me unfit to be called Your own. Let me look forward, not only to the arrival of the Babe of Bethlehem, but also the arrival of the King of kings as He comes in glory. Amen.

Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

Today's Theme: "Say you're sorry!" Such words are often said by a parent to a child when a wrong has occurred, usually intended to be a lesson for the child in teaching that actions have consequences. As we hear the Word of God today from Matthew 3, we also come to realize

that our actions have consequences. Yet it is not just actions, but also thoughts and inactions, and the consequences of our sinful nature. The Lord doesn't tell us to just, "Say you're sorry!" Through His Word and through His servants like John the Baptist, He calls us to repent—to not just speak an apology, but to turn away from sin and turn to Him. In this Advent season of preparation to receive our Savior born for us, we also prepare like the people of John the Baptist's time through this ongoing and continuing action of repentance. Moved to repentance by faith, we are then able to live as His people, bear fruit in His name, and continue to be united as one and "together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:6).

Pastor's Welcome

Invocation

Pastor: As we continue in this season of Advent, we begin this time of worship and recall our baptismal grace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: To the Father, who made us,

People: make us one.

Pastor: To the Son, who came to us,

People: come to us now, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: To the Holy Spirit, who unites us,

People: make us one. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Matthew 3:2, 3b; Psalm 119:105)

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, this wreath and the candles progressively lit each week remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. In this season of preparing our hearts and minds to receive the promised Savior given and born for us, we hear today John the Baptist fulfilling Scripture as he prepared the people, called many to repentance, and pointed to the Word of God made flesh.

People: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. . . . 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.' "

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, Savior and King, the true light who comes into this world, bless us as we light this candle in the beginning of our preparation for Your coming. Enter our hearts and minds with the light of Your love that we may welcome and receive You with joy as our true and eternal King; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Your word is a lamp to my feet

People: and a light to my path.

The first and second candles are lit.

Opening Hymn: CW 16 vs. 1-3 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without Your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

Confession and Absolution (Psalm 130:3-4)

Pastor: If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

Pastor: Let us heed the call of the Lord through John the Baptist to repent—to turn from our sins and turn to Jesus Christ, our Savior, through whom we find true and lasting hope.

People: Merciful Father, we have turned away from You and sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things, and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, turn us away from sin and turn us to You, that we may love and serve You and Your ways of righteousness, justice, and peace.

Hymn Response: CW 16 vs. 4 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

**Stretch forth Your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make Your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**

Pastor: God has heard our plea for forgiveness and for the sake of Jesus Christ, He answers our prayer. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Hymn Response: CW 16 vs. 5 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

**All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord of life and light, as Your Word and call to repentance was spoken by John the Baptist, so speak to us now through that same Word to prepare the way and make straight the paths to receive and welcome Your only-begotten Son that we may have life and bear fruit in Your name; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1–10 (From the stump of Jesse, the Savior will bring peace and righteousness for all.)

- ¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
- ³ and He will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes,
or decide by what He hears with His ears;
- ⁴ but with righteousness He will judge the needy,
with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth;
with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness will be His belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
- ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
- ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
- ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all My holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to Him, and His resting place will be glorious. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: **Psalm 130**

The image shows musical notation for the Refrain and Psalm tone of Psalm 130. The Refrain consists of two lines of music. The first line is labeled "Refrain" and has the lyrics "Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;". The second line has the lyrics "re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love." The Psalm tone is a single line of music labeled "Psalm tone" with an asterisk above it, indicating a specific tone.

Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;*
O Lord, hear my voice.
Let Your ears be attentive*
to my cry for mercy.
If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins,*
O Lord, who could stand?
But with You there is forgiveness;*
therefore You are feared.

Refrain

I wait for the LORD and in His Word I put my hope.*
My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning.
O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,*
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with Him is full redemption.

**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: Acts 3:19-26 (God used the miracle of the beggar's healing to capture the attention of the crowd so that Peter and John could preach a message of repentance to the people. They preached the harsh accusations of the law: "You killed the author of life, but God raised Him from the dead," to prepare the hearts of the people to repent. Then they offered the sweetest gospel message that repentance brings renewal by wiping away sins and bringing God's refreshment through Christ.)

¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. ²¹ Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets. ²² For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything He tells you. ²³ Anyone who does not listen to Him will be completely cut off from their people.'

²⁴ "Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. ²⁵ And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' ²⁶ When God raised up His servant, He sent Him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways." (NIV 2011)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4,6 cf. NIV)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for the Alleluia, with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" written below it. The second staff contains the melody for the verse, with the lyrics "These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that" written below it. The third staff contains the melody for the final phrase, with the lyrics "Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God." written below it.



Stand

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1–12 (John the Baptist prepares the way of the Lord by preaching a Baptism of repentance.)

¹ In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for Him.’”

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear his threshing floor, gathering His wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (NIV 2011)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: CWS 702 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

The Sermon

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.

The Offering

The Offertory

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.

Pastor: Almighty God, we thank You for teaching us the things You want us to believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to keep Your word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction (Matthew 3:2, 3b)

Pastor: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Prepare the way of the Lord;

People: make His paths straight.

Pastor: May the God of hope fill you with comfort, joy, and peace in the promised Savior who has come.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

People: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: **CW 19 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”**

The Announcements

Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Dressel

Today—Worship Service at 9:30 AM--**The Second Sunday in Advent**

Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class from 4:00-5:30 PM

Advent Fest Meal at 5:30 PM

Advent Fest Worship Service at 7:00 PM

Monday—Pastors’ Circuit Meeting at New Life at 9:30 AM

Tuesday—Church Council at 7:00 PM

Wednesday—Men’s Bible Class at NOON

Next Sunday—Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class 6:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the lower level.

Advent calendars and activities are located on the table just outside of the New Life Café. Feel free to take whatever you'd like from the table to be used during the holy season of Advent.

We are welcoming into membership the Follmer family--Stephan, Christine, Sabrina, Amanda and Luke—who transfer to us from Lord and Savior in Crystal Lake. If you have not already met the Follmers, be sure to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome in their new church home.

Congratulations to Jeremy and Jen LaPlante on the birth of their newborn son, Leo William. Leo was born this past Tuesday, November 29th.

AED Fundraiser

Church council would like to purchase and install an "Automated External Defibrillator" "AED". An AED is a computerized medical device used in the event someone is having a cardiac emergency. The device analyzes the heart rhythm, and delivers a defibrillating shock if necessary. You've probably seen these at stores and malls. Several members of our congregation underwent training on how to use this lifesaving device when they did CPR training for our Pre-School Accreditation. However, almost anyone can use it. We will be holding a fundraiser to collect \$1359 to purchase this lifesaving device. Check the thermometer in the lobby for progress made toward reaching this goal. All donations can be added to the collection plate notated "AED Fund" in the memo.

Work has begun on learning the songs and recitations for the Christmas Eve service. Please make sure your children are in Sunday school, not only to learn the assigned Bible story for the day, but also to learn their parts for the Children's Christmas Eve service.

Advent Fest will be held TONIGHT! The evening begins with a pot luck meal at 5:30 PM. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the lower level. Then, after the meal, everyone works on an advent craft. An Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols follows at 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendar so that you can attend this wonderful evening which highlights the importance of the season.

A Poinsettia sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the lower level if you'd like to purchase a Poinsettia to adorn the chancel on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The cost for each Poinsettia is \$8.00.

The Branch Connection will be hosting their annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 13th. For the party, please bring an appetizer to share, beverages will be provided. Also bring a gift (\$15 value) for the gift exchange. This year, instead of playing word games, the ladies will be assembling Christmas Care Packages for the students and staff at East Fork Lutheran School in Whiteriver, AZ. Please sign-up on the sheet located in the lower level. ALL women of the congregation are welcome to attend!

In recent years, your Church Council, assisted by other members, has assembled and decorated our two Christmas Trees at the conclusion of their first meeting in December. This year's December Council meeting, however, will need to be focused on reviewing the extensive draft material prepared for our congregation's very important SSA meeting in January and as a result will run longer than usual.

As a result, we plan on assembling the trees after the Advent Fest Service tonight. If you are able, please plan on staying to help assemble and decorate both trees.

"The Sunday School children have been collecting offerings to support the on-going ministry efforts in Brazil. This money will be used to purchase Bibles, technical equipment, and provide pastors the opportunity to network with one another. Our goal is \$200 and we're at \$60. Please help remind your children to bring their offerings each week so we can reach our goal! We only have two weeks left!"—Becky Freeman, Sunday School Teacher

Our Faithfulness to God's Word Last Sunday—60