

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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Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2016

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 basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entryway. 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 that is wired directly to the fire department.

<p><i><u>Before Service Prayer:</u> O Immanuel, You came as promised and ransomed all those held captive by sin and death. Prepare our hearts for Christmas. Bless our pastor with faithfulness to proclaim Your powerful Word. Lead us to repent through the preaching of the law, and then lift our hope with Your gospel. Especially in this season, move us to a greater appreciation for Your Old Testament promises. As ancient believers looked forward to Your first coming, teach us to look forward to Your second coming. Amen.</i></p>
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Today's Service: Service of Word and Sacrament, NPH; used with permission under the OneLicense.net copyright agreement #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

As We Gather: We are often tempted to think we deserve something better. If things don't go as planned, if crisis hits, or we are lacking happiness, we begin to question things. It happens in life, and it also happens as a temptation in our life of faith. We are not left alone

in our wishing or our wondering about our Savior Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. His Word of truth reminds us of His works and His ways. In today's Lessons, Isaiah gives a message of future hope to the hopeless people and in a time of questioning for the imprisoned John the Baptist, Jesus brings a message of hope and confidence in his time of need. Though we are sinful and no person deserves something "better," by God's grace, we, too, receive that same reminder and message of hope of who God is and what He's done through Christ this Advent season and each day.

Pastor's Welcome

Remain seated

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 the heavens and the earth and humanity as the crown of His creation,

People: set us free.

Pastor: To the Son, who came to be a prisoner to sin and death so that we could be free,

People: come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: To the Holy Spirit, who releases the chains of our captive souls and points us to our Savior,

People: set us free. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Matthew 11:4-5; Isaiah 35:10; 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 Advent season of preparing our hearts and minds to receive the promised Savior given and born for us, we are assured that no matter what trials we may face, Jesus' works of salvation show that He is the Promised One. "Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see:

People: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.’ ”

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 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 true and eternal King; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Your word is a lamp to my feet

People: and a light to my path.

The first, second, and third candles are lit.

Opening Hymn: CW 28 vs. 1-4 “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

**Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

**What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year
Stands fulfilled in glory here.**

**Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord --
Him of twofold race behold --
Truly came, as long foretold.**

**Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Joyful, Lord, to You I bow.
Come into my heart, I pray;
Oh, prepare Yourself a way.**

Stand

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Silence for meditation

Pastor: We come humbly before You, O Lord, recognizing that we have not always responded to Your grace in faithfulness and obedience. Often we feel we deserve more or better, forgetting and rejecting Your Word and Your works of salvation.

People: At times, we are lured by the world's deceptions, consumed by greed, passion, and desire. We fail to be thoroughly grounded in Your Word. Forgive us, dear Lord, for rejoicing in the temporal treasures on earth instead of the eternal treasures of heaven.

Pastor: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

People: Forgive my impatience and my neglect. By Your Spirit, lead me to greater faith, obedience, service, and repentance until Your call to eternal glory comes.

Hymn Response: CW 28 vs. 5 “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

**Crush for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death,**

Pastor: Our Lord invites us to come and see what He has done—He has given us solid promises that guard our faith in days of sorrow, suffering, confusion, conflict, and pain. He has sent His Son to be the Word of life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and through the work of our Savior Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Hymn Response: CW 28 vs. 6 “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

**And, when You shall come again
As a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

You came, Lord Jesus, as the Promised One when the time was fulfilled. And we know You will come again at Your time. We see that darkness overtakes the earth and causes suffering, pain, and fear. Yet in this darkness, a great light has risen up. Through Your Word and Sacraments, let the light be so clear that all people walk in it; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The First Lesson: **Isaiah 35:1–10** (*The glories to be seen at the coming of our Lord*)

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.
³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,

he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
He will come to save you.”
⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
⁸ And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
⁹ No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the Lord has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (NIV 2011)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)



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

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

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2–15 (In John the Baptist’s doubt, Jesus affirms He is the Promised One by the evidence of His ministry.)

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask Him, “Are you the One who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

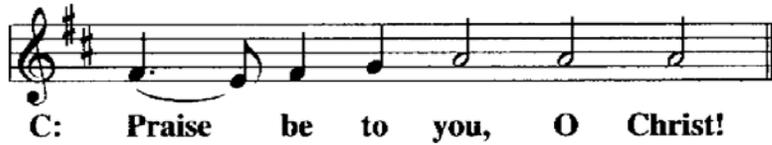
⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of Me.”

⁷ As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way before You.’”

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (NIV 2011)

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Be seated

Hymn of the Day: CW 12 “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

The Sermon

Stand

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 Offering

The Offering Hymn:

**In Bethlehem's manger God gave us His gift,
A child to redeem us, our hearts to uplift.
This gift let us cherish, this present so dear,
And praise Jesus' goodness throughout the new year.**

**Our own gifts we lay now before the Christ-child
To worship in wonder the one Undeified.
The richest of treasures would not be enough
To thank Him for giving His own gift of love.
(tune "Away in a Manger" CW 68)**

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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 Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so 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 right to give him thanks and praise.

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.
You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of six staves of music in C major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glo - ry. You are my God, and I will ex - alt you. I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal - va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glo - ry." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb).

Words of Institution

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

C: A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the "Words of Institution". It consists of a single staff of music in C major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "A - men." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb).

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



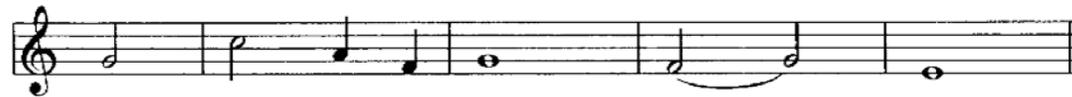
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Our Communion Practice

New Life Lutheran Church practices “close communion.” We ask that only members of New Life or other WELS or ELS churches partake of the sacrament. We ask our visitors to please respect our communion practice.

The Distribution Hymn: CWS 705 “The Night Will Soon Be Ending”

Thank the Lord



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Pastor: We give You thanks, Christ our Redeemer, that You have refreshed us through this free gift of grace. You have freed us from the chains of sin and fear with Your bonds of love in the fellowship of Your body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. Increase our faith to help us to place our lives in the truth of Your works for our salvation that we may live in Your freedom as joyful people. In Your name we pray.



C: A - - men.

Benediction (Matthew 11:4-5)

Pastor: Go and tell what you hear and see:

People: **the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.**

Pastor: The Lord is coming soon.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, come to set us free.

Pastor: 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.

Numbers 6:24-26



Closing Hymn: CW 6 “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

Announcements

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

Today— Communion Service at 9:30 AM—**The Third Sunday in Advent**

Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class 6:00 PM

Tuesday—Branch Connection Christmas Party at 7:00 PM

Wednesday—Men’s Bible Class at NOON

Next Sunday—Worship Service at 9:30 AM—**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Preschool Christmas Program at 1:30 PM

Confirmation Class from 4:00-5:30 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.

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 on 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.

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 this 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 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!

"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 one weeks left!"—Becky Freeman, Sunday School Teacher

Offering Envelopes for 2017 are located on the table in the entryway and are ready for pick up. Included with the envelopes is an updated Endowment Fund flier.

Congratulations to the winner of the Advent wreath competition that was part of Advent Fest. Kelly Daugherty won a \$50 gift certificate to Starbucks.



Our Faithfulness to God's Word
Last Sunday—52
Advent Fest—28

