The background of the entire image is a teal-colored wooden surface with visible grain and texture. Two large, overlapping red hearts are positioned in the center. The heart on the left is partially obscured by the one on the right. The text is overlaid on these hearts.

By this
EVERYONE WILL KNOW
THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES,
- IF YOU -

Love One Another

John 13:35

*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

+++++

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025**

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: Lord, thank You for Your love, which is patient and kind, never envious, boastful, proud, or rude. Thank You that Your love is not self-seeking, not irritable, and that it does not keep a record of wrongs. Help me to love as You love, to be patient and kind in my interactions with others, even when it is difficult. May my actions reflect Your love, and may I not be quick to anger or offended. Lord, grant me the grace to be humble and gentle, to think more of others than of myself, and to seek their well-being above my own desires. Help me to forgive as You have forgiven me, and to let go of grudges and resentments. May Your love be my guiding principle in all that I do, and may I be a vessel of Your grace, spreading Your love to those around me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.

Today's Theme: **BECAUSE HE LIVES WE LIVE LIVES OF LAVISH LOVE**

If someone saved you from a horrible death, what would you do to thank them? Probably just about anything they asked! You would be that grateful. Jesus not only saved us from eternal death in hell, but He won for us an eternity in paradise. What shall we do to thank Him? This week we see that Jesus asks for just one thing—love. He asks us, in every interaction we have with others, to demonstrate the same selfless love that He has shown to us. That is how we thank Him.

Fortunately, Jesus doesn't just ask us to show love. Jesus empowers us to show love. The same divine power which raised Jesus from the dead now raises us up to a new and better life, enabling us to set aside our natural selfishness and self-glorification and instead live in a more excellent way. Like Christ, we strive to do everything for the benefit of others. Because He lives, we live lives of lavish love.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 730 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (CW93 494)

Invocation

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Opening Sentences Psalm 98:1-2, 4

P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P: The Lord has made known His salvation;

C: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

C: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come together to praise and thank God for His overwhelming grace and mercy. Singing and rejoicing are natural for us, but we cannot come to God with our sins and failures. Let us therefore confess our sins and ask for mercy for the sake of Christ.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: God has called you to life, He has given His Son to pay for your sins, and He has given you and all believers in Christ the faith to trust all His promises. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy on us, and help us know Your gracious forgiveness.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy on us, and open the hearts of those oppressed by sin.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy on us and on all who call out to You in faith.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy on us, and grant that Your peace permeate the lives of all who hear the Gospel in this place.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

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

(Sing as much of the Gloria as you like.)



Verse 1:

Your are God; we praise You. You are Lord; we acclaim You. You are God eternal; all creation worships You.

Refrain:

Verse 2:

All the angels in the heavens chant Your praise in endless song! Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might.

Refrain:

Verse 3:

The apostles all praise You. All the prophets acclaim You. All the martyrs and Your faithful people worship You.

Refrain:

Verse 4:

God, Creator, we praise You. Jesus the Christ we adore You. Spirit of the Living God, we worship You.

Refrain:

The Greeting

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your love for us is boundless! As we have received such love, grant us grace to speak about it in all those circumstances You arrange for us, that many may come to love You as well; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: **Acts 11:1-18** – The Lord taught Peter that racial and cultural differences are not to prevent us from showing lavish love to all people.

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶ I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷ Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

⁸ "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

⁹ "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹ "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹² The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

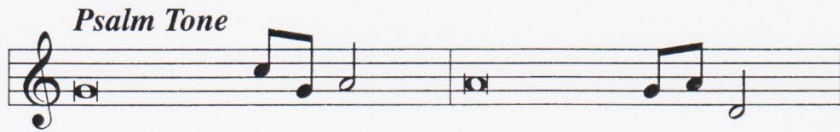
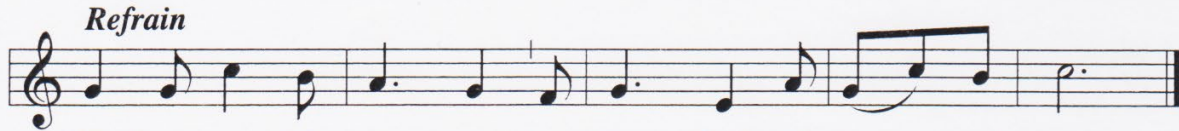
¹⁵ "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as He had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

¹⁸ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life." (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**





Praise the LORD from the heavens,
praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Refrain

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**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 Lesson: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** – The defining mark of Christians is not the spiritual gifts that they possess, but it is the lavish love that is demonstrated as they use those gifts for the benefit of others.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. Alleluia! (1 John 4:16)

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.

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

Stand

The Gospel Lesson: **John 13:31-35** – The Father has glorified the Son. Christ shares that glory with us and commands us to show others the same lavish love He has shown to us.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹ When he (Judas) was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in Him. ³² If God is glorified in Him, God will glorify the Son in Himself, and will glorify Him at once.

³³ "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for Me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: **CW 728** "This Is My Will" (CW93 497)

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 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

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.

Closing Collect

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The blessing of God—the Father, who sent His Son into this troubled world; the ☩ Son, who kept all the Father's word in our stead; and the Holy Spirit, who has gifted us with words and music, sharing and responding to God's love—bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: **CW 731** “Oh, How Good It Is”

The Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: *Daugherty / Dundore*

Today—Fifth Sunday of Easter Divine Service at 9:30 AM

 Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM

 Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

 Confirmation Class at 4:00 PM

Thursday—Martin Luther College Wind Symphony Concert at Jerusalem in Morton Grove at 11:00 AM

 Green Team at 6:30 PM

Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Sunday—Sixth Sunday of Easter Divine Service at 9:30 AM

 Fellowship at 10:30 AM

 Questioning of the confirmand at 10:45 in the New Life Café

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted to provide something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers March 2025 through June 2025.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 21-25. Please mark your calendar.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Today, the Sunday School will learn the story, “The Apostles Before the Council,” and the adult Bible class will conclude our look at the Apostle Peter.

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE WIND SYMPHONY

An MLC Wind Symphony concert will be held in our area on Thursday, May 22 at Jerusalem in Morton Grove at 11:00 AM.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, May 11th we have received \$205,266 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$849 behind the budget, which is \$1,934 worse than the previous week. We received \$100 towards the sign fund. Total gifts to date are \$12,921 for the sign fund to date.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Fifth Sunday of Easter bears the traditional name of Cantate, from the Introit’s “Oh sing to the Lord a new song.” Not only people but all creation is urged to break out in song. Throughout our worship today we will do just that, for the resurrection news cannot be left to quiet contemplation. Though it was difficult for Peter to convince the others, when they realized Gentiles had received the Spirit, they rejoiced. Christians are commanded to love one another in words and actions. As we do that, what can be left but joyful singing?

Jesus’ telling the disciples to love one another seems an impossible command, but He was reminding them how greatly God has loved them. That realization can only call for singing! So much of today’s worship includes familiar hymn stanzas to share the joy inside.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today is the last day of Sunday School for the school year. Thanks to the many people who taught Sunday School: Kelly Daugherty, Joan and Toby James, Lori Dundore and Pat Dexter.

LADY’S NIGHT OUT

The Branch Connection is planning a lady’s night out for Tuesday, June 3 at 6:00 PM at Bobbers in Lake Zurich for trivia night.

CONFIRMATION

New Life has one confirmand this year, Jessa O’Mara. Jessa will be questioned after the service in the New Life Café next Sunday, May 25 at 10:45 AM. Jessa will be confirmed on Sunday, June 1.

SURVEY RESULTS

Last week a logo survey was taken. You can find the results of the survey included in the bulletin today.

DIGITAL SIGN UPDATE (Updated)

In April the church council reviewed multiple bids to refurbish and upgrade our existing church sign to incorporate digital LED color message boards. The project involves removing our sign temporarily to facilitate the refurbishment and upgrade. Internal florescent lighting will be replaced with white LED lighting behind new polycarbonate church name and logo panels, and the current message area of the sign will be replaced with 3'x8' LED color panels. DG DeSignGroup in Des Plaines was selected to do the work. The cost is \$17,801 plus permits and electrical work, approximately \$18,000-\$19,000 when complete. This is substantially less than the \$35,000 of the original bids.

The lower bid was accomplished through reduction of the LED panel size and rebidding the project. Currently, we have \$12,821 in gifts that have been given towards the project. The balance of the cost will come from our reserves. Members who wish to contribute to the project are invited to do so. Please mark sign fund on your check or envelope. Gifts given will be used for the sign project and further reduce any amounts we would otherwise have to spend from our reserves.

The council thanks John Lester for leading this effort, finding vendors, and obtaining quotes, and Patrick Dexter for helping secure the winning bid. If members have questions regarding the project, please speak with a council member.

