

FOR CHRIST IS
THE END OF THE
LAW FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS
TO EVERYONE
WHO BELIEVES.

ROMANS 10:4

*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL*

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

*Pastor Andrew Bauer
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www.newlife-wels.org

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**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Labor Day Weekend
September 1, 2024**

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: Gracious heavenly Father, as our country pauses this Labor Day weekend to contemplate the freedom to work and the employment opportunities that are available to us, may we never lose sight of the fact that it is only because of Your grace and favor that we are able to work. Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of employment and work that I have had in the past and at present. May all that I do at work give glory to You and Your precious name. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whom I love and serve. Amen.

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

Today's Theme: **FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST OBEY HIS LAW FROM THE HEART**

A loving father gives his son and daughter a list of rules and regulations. Chores, curfews, civilities, dress code—the father makes his will clearly known. The son strives to follow the rules for two reasons. 1) He wants to get his allowance. 2) He is afraid that if he breaks the rules, his father will punish him. The daughter strives to follow the rules, also for two reasons. 1) She believes her father established those rules not to control her but for her safety and blessing. 2) She wants to demonstrate how much she loves and trusts her father. Those two children's actions might look almost identical. Their hearts are very different!

Likewise, following Christ is not simply a matter of outward observance of laws. It is a matter of the heart. The Law was given so we could see God's heart and demonstrate how His heart has affected our own. The followership Christ seeks flows from hearts that have been radically transformed by God's law and gospel. Christ wants His followers to be less like the son described above, and more like the daughter. This week we see that followers of Christ obey His law from the heart.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 626 “My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness”

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.

Confession and Absolution Psalm 51:2, 7, 10–12

P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

C: We confess, O Lord, that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

P: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C: Our own attempts at change will leave the stain of our previous sins.

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

C: Lord our God, You are our only hope. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we follow Your guidance alone.

P: Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

C: We come to You, confident of Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

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.

(The Pastor sings the refrain the first time. The Pastor sings the verses. The congregation sings the refrain the 2nd through 5th times.)

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Verse 1:

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

Refrain: (sung by the congregation)

Verse 2:

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

Refrain: (sung by the congregation)

Verse 3:

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

Refrain: (sung by the congregation)

Verse 4:

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

Refrain: (sung by the congregation)

The Greeting

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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: **Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9** – God is serious about His law because He knows that when His children follow the law carefully, the result is blessing and honor.

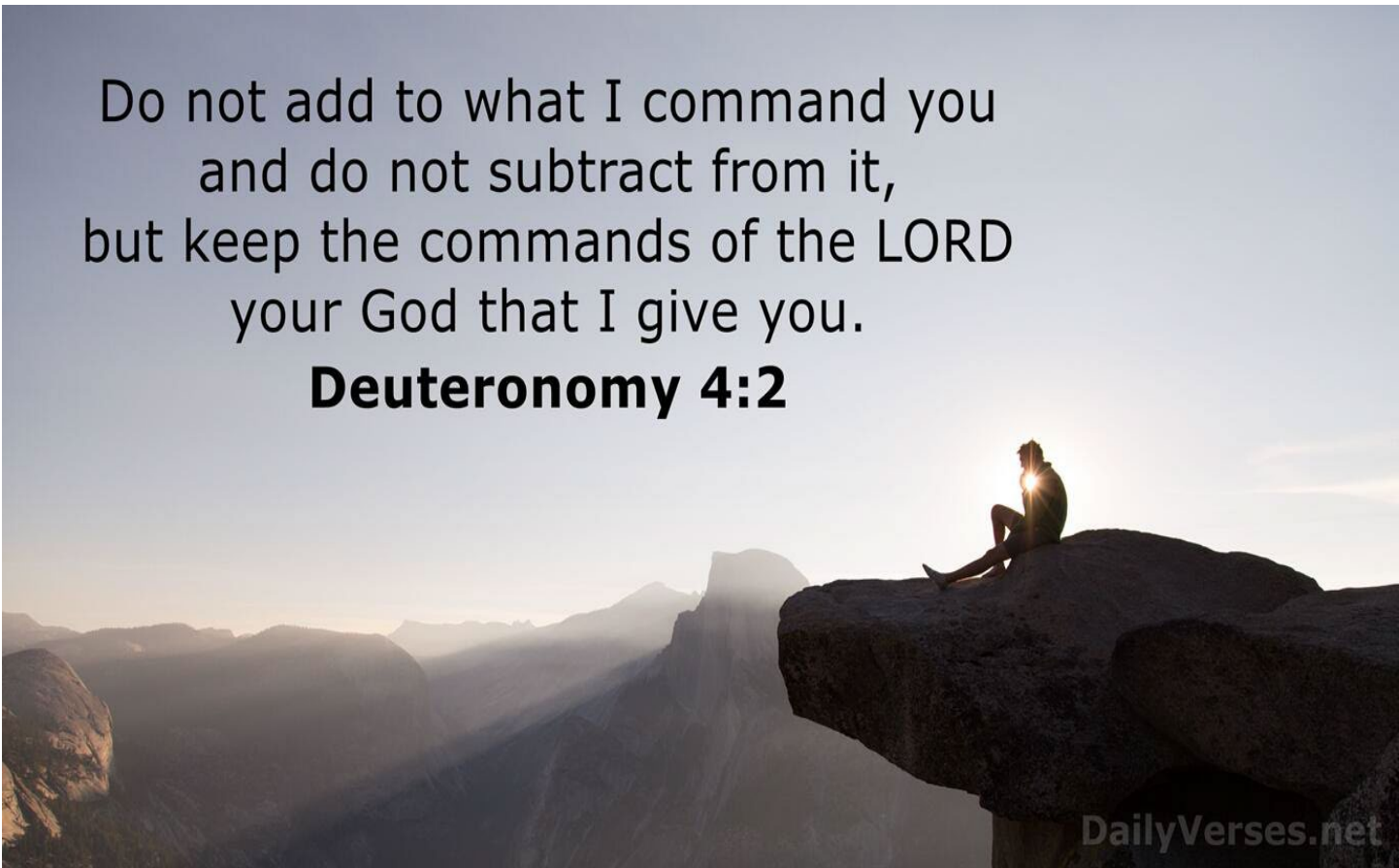
Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ² Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.

⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." ⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to Him? ⁸ And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹ Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

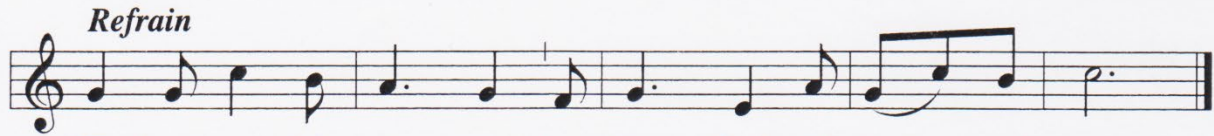
C: **Thanks be to God!**



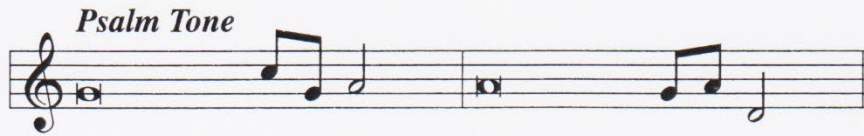
Do not add to what I command you
and do not subtract from it,
but keep the commands of the LORD
your God that I give you.

Deuteronomy 4:2

Psalm of the Day: **Psalm 148**



We have seen his glo - ry; he shines forth with truth and grace.



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

The Second Lesson: Romans 9:30–10:4 – Followers of Christ obey the law, not to attempt to become righteous, but to show heartfelt love to the God who declares us righteous through faith in Jesus.

³⁰ What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³² Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³ As it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall,
and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame.”

Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ² For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³ Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. ⁴ Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

(NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: Jeremiah 15:16

P: Alleluia! When Your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear Your name, Lord God Almighty. Alleluia!

The image shows a musical score for a liturgical piece. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is a simple melodic line. The second staff begins with the word 'C:' and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The third staff contains the lyrics 'These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.' The fourth staff is another simple melodic line, identical to the first, and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'.

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: **Mark 7:1-8,14,15,21-23** – The Pharisees established traditions which they thought safeguarded obedience to God, but they missed God’s desire for heartfelt love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the seventh chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of His disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t Your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honor Me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from Me.

⁷ They worship Me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to Him and said, “Listen to Me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.” (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: **CW 740** “O God, My Faithful God” (CW93 459)

The Sermon

Creedal Hymn

**We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host,
By whose mighty pow'r alone All is made and wrought and done.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won,
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both fore'er proceeds,
Who upholds and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessed, holy Trinity, Hear our praise eternally! (CW93 270)**

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 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.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: CW 697 "May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill" (CW93 458)

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Dall

Today—Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Monday—**Labor Day**

Tuesday—First Day of Little Sprouts and Three-Year-Old Preschool

Wednesday—First Day of Four-Year-Old Preschool

Next Sunday—Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Communion at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted for providing something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers July 2024 through October 2024.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, August 25th we have received \$28,441 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$8,231 behind the budget.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS—TEACHERS DESPERATELY NEEDED

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 8. Sunday School starts at 10:45 AM and ends at 11:45 AM on Sunday mornings. Pastor Bauer is trying to put together a rotation of as many teachers as possible to take responsibility for teaching the kids of New Life about Jesus. If you are willing to be part of that rotation, please speak to Pastor Bauer

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Adult Bible class will resume on Sunday, September 8. Adult Bible class starts at 10:45 AM and ends at 11:45 AM on Sunday mornings.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

Men's Bible class will resume on September 13 at 11:30 AM.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The first 7th and 8th grade confirmation class will be held on Sept. 8 at 6:00 PM.

BAPTISM

On Saturday, August 25, Ivy Kailani Engbrecht, daughter of Tom and Kristen Engbrecht, granddaughter of Jim and Cynthia Smith, was baptized at New Life.

SIGN PROJECT

As you recall, in early 2023 the church council researched replacing our exterior church sign. The North Shore Sign proposal we selected includes refurbishing our current metal framework and installing a programmable digital sign. The overall cost of the project is approximately \$36,000. At our July 9, 2023 annual voters meeting the sign project was presented to the voters and a conditional approval was given to move forward. The condition stated that seventy-five per cent of the total project cost must come from a grant or from a source outside our congregation. In October 2023, New Life submitted an application for a sign project grant from the Antioch Foundation. We received word in January 2024 that our grant request had been denied.

At our annual voter's meeting held on July 14, 2024 the sign project was again discussed by the voters. The voters decided that the conditional approval from 2023 should be modified to include designated offerings from the congregation. And, certainly, the church council will have latitude to allocate funding from other sources.

So, if members wish to help with the sign project through a designated gift, there is now an avenue to do that. Church council will submit a second application for a grant from the Antioch Foundation during the application period from September 15, 2024 through October 15, 2024. Once we receive a response to our grant application in January 2025, the church council will evaluate the project funding and communicate a clear fundraising goal to the congregation.

If you have questions or suggestions pertaining to the sign project, please speak with a church council member.

Mike Spangle, chairman