

ALL SCRIPTURE IS

GOOD
BREATHED

★ ★ AND IS USEFUL FOR ★ ★
**TEACHING, REBUKING,
CORRECTING AND TRAINING
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

———— 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 ————

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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Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany February 2, 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: Holy Spirit, help me today to learn how You gave the Bible. Let me see that since You inspired all the writers down through the centuries, there is only one author, You. Help me to trust that the Bible is God's word, not man's word, and make it possible for me to hear You today as Your word is read and preached. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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Theme for Today' Service **POPULARITY IS NOT PROOF OF SUCCESS**

In 2009, Facebook added the "like" button. That same year, Twitter added the "retweet" feature. Interestingly, reported cases of depression began to rise sharply in 2010. It is easy to think that the more people like us, the more successful our lives must be. Likewise, it is easy to believe the more people like a church, the more successful that church is. So here is an important epiphany for both individuals and churches. Popularity is not proof of success.

Though there will be times when Christ's gospel and those who proclaim it are popular, that popularity is never the goal. Nor does that popularity define success. If a church makes its central focus things like personal improvement, healing for the sick, or social justice, that church may draw a crowd. It just fails to carry out the true agenda Christ has given His Church. The gospel of forgiveness is to be the center of all our preaching and teaching. The agenda for Christ's Church is set. It's the same agenda that was followed by the Church's Christ.

Pastor's Welcome

HYMN **CW 639** “God Has Spoken by His Prophets” (CW93 281)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of God the Father,
People: **who created us and all things and invites us to worship Him in this place as His beloved children;**

Pastor: in the name of God the ✠ Son,
People: **who gave His life for our forgiveness and salvation;**

Pastor: in the name of God the Holy Spirit,
People: **who calls us in faith, gathers us together in His church, and enlightens our faith through the Word. Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 67:1–5, 7*

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,
People: **that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.**

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
People: **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
People: **God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins and hear the words of absolution that assure us of God’s forgiveness. The section on “Confession” in the Small Catechism written by Dr. Martin Luther instructs and directs us with these words:
People: **Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven.**

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
People: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
People: **Amen.**

Pastor: 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.
People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your lives reflect His forgiveness. Be at peace!
People: **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY (The congregation sings the words in bold print.)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our sal -

vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world,

for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their
 worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
 A - men. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord!

(Sing as much of the song of praise as you like.)

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

Soloist: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise you for Your glory.

All: Refrain.

Soloist: Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

All: Refrain.

Soloist: For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

All: Refrain.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord God, You know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORD

FIRST LESSON **Jeremiah 1:4-10** – The LORD called Jeremiah to fearlessly share God’s Word, even if what he said made him unpopular.

⁴ The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

⁷ But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

⁹ Then the Lord reached out His hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 63 (The pastor sings the refrain and verse 1. The congregation sings the refrain as occurs throughout the Psalm as the pastor sings the verses.)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system is labeled 'Descant' and 'Melody'. The lyrics are: 'In the morn - ing I will sing, I will sing, I will sing to you. I'll sing sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to prais - es to you, sing prais - es to you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you. you. you. you.' The score includes a repeat sign for the first system and a section labeled '1.-3. (To verses)' and '4.' for the second system.

Verse 1: O God, You are my God; for You I long; for You my soul is thirsting. My body pines for You like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on You in the sanctuary to see Your strength and Your glory. **Refrain.**

Verse 2: For Your love is better than life, my lips will speak Your praise. So I will bless You all my life, in Your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise You with joy. **Refrain.**

Verse 3: On my bed I remember You. On You I muse through the night, for You have been my help; in the shadow of Your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to You; Your right hand holds me fast. **Refrain.**

EPISTLE 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 – A temptation is for spiritual teachers to say only what people want to hear, equating personal popularity with success. St. Paul gives young Pastor Timothy a different agenda.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

CW 630 "Thy Strong Word" (CS93 280)

SERMON

CONFESSION

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)**

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.



OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9:1-13



1 Hal - low - ed be Your name. Fa - ther, hear our prayer.
2 Keep us from ev - 'ry ill, from the e - vil one.



Let Your good will be done here and ev - 'ry - where.
Grant us grace bought for us by Your ho - ly Son.



Fa - ther who art in heav'n, let Your king - dom come.
You a - lone have the pow'r and the glo - ry, Lord.



Ev - 'ry day, give us bread; thank You for the sum.
You a - lone reign as King, ev - er - more a - dored.



And for - give us our sins as we, too, for - give.
Hear us call on Your name here on earth be - low.



Lead us from all that tempts all the days we live.
Now we sing Your a - men; yes, it shall be so!

CLOSING COLLECT

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN CW 640 “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage” (CW 293)

Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this week: Sarvady

Today—Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible class at 10:45 AM

Bowling Outing at Bowlero at 12:15 PM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Tuesday—Preschool Open House from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Wednesday—Constitution Day

Friday—Men’s Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Next Sunday—Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

No Confirmation Class / Super Bowl Sunday

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 December 2024 through March 2025.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Today, the Sunday school kids will cover the Bible story “Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man,” and the adult Bible class will continue John chapter 20 which tells us about Jesus appearing to His disciples on Easter Sunday evening.

BOWLING OUTING

New Life is planning a bowling outing for today at 12:15 PM at Bowlero in Deer Park. See the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for more information and to sign-up. The subsidized cost for two hours of bowling, shoes, pizza and soda is only \$10 per person.



PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

A preschool open house is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. Tree of Life will also have a booth at the Wauconda Area Library preschool fair held on Tuesday, January 28 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Please tell any parents of preschool aged kids about our wonderful preschool program.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, January 26th we have received \$118,976 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$18,434 behind the budget, which is \$2,192 worse than the previous week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Sunday School offering for the 1st half of the school year was \$120. The offering will be used to support Native American mission work at East Fork Lutheran School.

Tree of Life Lutheran Preschool and Little Sprouts Toddler Program Open House



When: Tuesday, February 4 from 5:00-6:30 PM

Where: New Life Lutheran Church

910 S. Old Rand Road, Lake Zurich IL 60047

Come and meet the staff and tour the facility.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

February **22** Saturday

Cost: Free
8:30AM - Sign In
9:00AM - Workshop Begins
12:15PM - Lunch (provided)
2:30PM - Workshop Ends

Register at
www.smniles.org/leadership-workshop
Or scan the QR Code.



Are you in a leadership role at your church? Do you feel equipped to lead? This leadership workshop offers practical tools and skills for Christians to grow as leaders in their church. Cindy Jansen will be at St. Matthew's to lead this workshop. She is a leadership facilitator at a firm in Brookfield, WI and has worked with leadership teams at many WELS churches to develop leaders through Faith Unleashed Consulting. Join us on February 22nd to grow as a Christian leader! Learn more at:
www.smniles.org/leadership-workshop

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