

*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

+++++

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 29, 2017**

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: Lord Jesus, I must confess that I often feel entitled to blessings from You. I look at what I have done and feel entitled. I fail to look at my sin and fail to realize that all I'm entitled to is eternal separation from You. Today, You tell me what You want from me. You simply desire mercy, a mercy shown toward the people who sit next to me in the pew, ride the school bus with me or are on my team at work—a mercy that reflects Your great mercy to me in sending Jesus to be my Savior. Amen.

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

Today's Theme: "Have mercy!" the penitent sinner cries out. God, who is rich in mercy, pours out His mercy in Christ. Then He says, "I desire mercy. Forget everything else. This is the one thing I want from you, the very thing I have shown to you." And then Jesus adds, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Matt. 5:7)

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 84 “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Because of the tender mercy of our God;

C: those who sit in sin’s darkness and in the shadow of death find peace. *(Luke 1:78–79)*

P: Come, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: O merciful Lord, we confess that we are sinful by nature and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not done the good Your law requires and we have done the evil Your law forbids. But we are truly sorry for our sins and plead for Your mercy in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill us with faith to believe in Your forgiveness and turn our hearts by Your Spirit that we may amend our sinful ways, to love and serve You with all our heart, soul, mind, and body. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon You and has sent His only Son who suffered for you to forgive you all your sins. 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.

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



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, in His Beatitudes, Your Son taught true humility and reliance on all Your promises. Grant that we may boast in Him alone as You replace our sinful pride with loving, humble, merciful service to You and the people around us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The First Lesson: Micah 6:1–8 (God's great deeds have not been reflected in His people's lives.)

¹ Listen to what the LORD says:

“Stand up, plead My case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

² “Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the LORD has a case against His people;
He is lodging a charge against Israel.

³ “My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer Me.

⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you,
also Aaron and Miriam.

⁵ My people, remember
what Balak king of Moab plotted
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. (NIV 2011)

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 1 (hymn version, CW 475)

All: **The man is ever blest Who shuns the sinners' ways,
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorers' place.**

All: **But makes the Law of God His study and delight
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.**

Men: **He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heavenly fruit.**

Women: **Not so the wicked man, He no such blessing finds;
His hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving wind.**

All: **How will he bear to stand Before that judgment-seat
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?**

All: **God knows, and He approves, The way the righteous go;
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overflow.**

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.)

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before Him. ³⁰ It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” (NIV 2011)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on Me; He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. Alleluia. (Luke 4:18)

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: **Matthew 5:1–12** (*The Beatitudes*)

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, ² and He began to teach them.

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (NIV 2011)

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Hymn of the Day: CWS 758 “Blest Are They”

(The pastor will introduce the hymn by singing the first verse.)

Sermon Text: Micah 6:1-8

Sermon Theme: What Does the Lord Require of You?

The Second Article of the Athanasian Creed *(Read Responsively for Epiphany-tide)*

P: It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe

C: that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

(Pause for meditation)

P: Now this is the true Christian faith:

C: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son, is both God and man.

P: He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and He is man, born in time from the nature of His mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to His deity, less than the Father as to His humanity;

C: and though He is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

P: for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,

C: so God and man are one Christ.

(Pause for meditation)

P: He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

C: He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: At His coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.

C: Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

P: This is the true Christian faith.

C: Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

The Offering

The Offertory

The Offering Hymn: CW 483 “Lord of All Good”

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole life is offered to Your will.**

**We give our minds to understand Your ways;
Hands, voices, eyes to serve Your great design;
Hearts with the flame of Your own love ablaze:
Thus for Your glory all our pow'rs combine.**

**Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.**

The Prayer of the Church

Each petition ends with ...

P: let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy."**

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.

P: 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.



P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



The Closing Hymn: In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Lutheran Reformation, our closing hymn today will be an Epiphany hymn written by Martin Luther entitled “Why, Herod, Unrelenting Foe” (*tune, CW 39*)

1 Why, Her - od, un - re - lent - ing foe! Doth Christ the Lord's birth
 2 The star be - fore the Wise Men goes, This light to them the
 3 He was bap - tized in Jor - dan's flood The ho - ly, heav'n - ly
 4 And now a mir - a - cle was done: Six wa - ter - pots stood
 5 All hon - or, praise to Thee be paid, O Christ, born of the

move thee so? He doth no earth - ly king - dom crave
 true Light shows; They by the three gifts which they bring
 Lamb of God, And He who did no sin, there - by
 there of stone; Christ spake the word with pow'r di - vine,
 vir - gin maid, With Fa - ther and with Ho - ly Ghost,

Who un - to us heav'n's king - dom gave.
 De - clare this Child: God, Man, and King.
 Cleansed us from all in - iq - ui - ty!
 The wa - ter red - dened in - to wine.
 Till time in end - less time be lost.

The Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: LaPlante

Today—Worship Service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM
Swimming Outing at Noon
Confirmation at 6:00 PM

Tuesday—Tone Chime Choir Practice at 7:00 PM

Wednesday—Men's Bible Class at Noon

Tree of Life Lutheran Preschool Open House from 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Thursday—Preschool Staff Review at 11:30 AM

Next Sunday—Worship Service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM
NO Confirmation Class (Super Bowl Sunday)

New Life thanks Pastor Paul Prange for serving as our guest preacher today. Pastor Prange lives in Burlington, WI and is the Administrator for Ministerial Education.

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.

New Life will host a booth at the Lake Zurich Chamber of Commerce Community Showcase on Saturday, March 11. The activity at the booth will consist of helping kids plant tree seedlings into pots, as part of our "Tree of Life" Lutheran preschool promotion. A volunteer sign up sheet is located on bulletin board in the lower level.

A swimming outing at the Schaumburg WaterWorks has been scheduled for TODAY at noon for the entire family. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the basement. Lunch will be served before heading to the waterpark. Even if you didn't have a chance to sign-up you are still welcome to attend!

The Branch Connection will be hosting a "Ladies Night Out" at the Red Robin restaurant in the Deer Park Towne Center on **Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30 PM.** A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the lower level. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

Our Faithfulness to God's Word Last Sunday—56