



New Life Lutheran Church
Pastor Randy Whitehead

"Disciples of Jesus Growing Disciples of Jesus"

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Deadlines: Sunday announcements - Tuesday A.M., Newsletter - 15th of month

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Hours: Tues-Wed-Thurs, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

New Life Lutheran Church
May 2, 2021

Pastor: Randy Whitehead
Reader: Heather Reber

Outdoor services - offering bucket is near the front entry of the church.

Indoor services - offering box at the entrance and exit of the sanctuary

In the sanctuary, we ask that you move as far forward as is safely possible when finding seats. Thank you for your kind cooperation. Masks are required to be worn at all times while in the building.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Temporary Hymnal pg. 13

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



SPECIAL MIUSIC BY BROOKLYN HEIER

SERMON

SEEDS OF HOPE DEDICATION AND PRAYERS

OFFERING [The Offering can be placed in the bucket near the front entrance of the church for outdoor service and at the entrance or exit of the sanctuary for indoor service]

THE PRAYERS

HOLY COMMUNION

(During the 11:00 indoor worship we ask First Communion students to come forward for acknowledgement and to receive their First Communion certificates. These were the first 2 babies to be baptized in the new church!)

Those taking communion for the first time today are:

Kenzie Joy Jensen, daughter of Patrick & Lexie Jensen

Connor John Nelson, son of Chad & Heather Nelson

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* Temporary Hymnal pg. 23

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

We ask that people sitting in the back pews exit first to allow for less congestion near doorways. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

May 2nd - 8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany
10:00 am Parking lot worship at New Life
11:00 am Indoor worship at New Life with
First Communion
12:00 pm Youth Crochet with WELCA

May 5th - 5:30 pm Confirmation rehearsal and pictures

May 9th - Happy Mothers Day!

8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany
10:00 am Parking lot worship at New Life
11:00 am Indoor worship at New Life with Baptism

May 12th - 6:30 pm NLLC Council meeting

May 16th - Confirmation Sunday

8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany
10:00 am Parking lot worship at New Life with
Confirmation
11:00 am Indoor worship at New Life
1:00 pm Youth Grades 6-8 Minute to Win it games
2:00 pm Youth Grades 9-12 Minute to Win it games

Youth and WELCA Crochet

May 2nd

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Youth grades 6-12 will be crocheting with some
members of WELCA.

No experience needed,
teaching & all supplies will be provided.

Youth Minute to Win it

May 16th

Grades 6-8 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Grades 9-12 2:00 - 3:00 pm

These games will take place outdoors
at the church, weather permitting.

Reygan Balken is in her senior year pursuing her degree in human services to take on social work and Biblical counseling. This summer she has been given an opportunity to serve in Southern Asia with 7 fellow students. They will spend two months fully immersed in the culture, learning local language, and helping local college students with their English - all while building intentional relationships in hopes to share Jesus' word and love. She is asking for prayers and financial partnerships. If you are willing and able to donate, we will have slips available with information in the church foyer.

Her specific prayer requests are:

- That God would provide opportunities to share His Word & Truth to the people she encounters.
- For good health over the summer for her and her teammates.
- Good communication and teamwork all summer long.
- To not work out of her own strength but allow the Spirit to do His work.

She thanks you for any contributions and prayers!

Confirmation Families

Confirmation pictures & rehearsal will take place on May 5th at 5:30 pm. Please have your student come dressed in the clothes they will be wearing confirmation day.

Confirmation Sunday will be on May 16th during our 10:00 am Parking lot worship service.

Women of New Life Lutheran Church:

The WELCA officers met in early March. At that time it was decided that rather than meeting in April, we will plan on meeting two days in June. It is at that time that we hope to hold our "Love Days". Dates are yet to be determined and dependent upon the situation concerning Covid.

Until then, we are asking for donations of the following items which will be used to put together kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

Personal Care Kits:

Bath towels (20" by 40" to 52" by 27")
8-9 oz bars of soap
Toothbrushes
Combs
Nail clippers

Baby Kits: (all 6 month to 2 years)

Socks
Cotton t-shirts
Sleepers (w/o feet)
Sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets
Pants
Baby caps
Hand towels
Diaper pins

School Kits:

Notebooks (70 sheets)
Blunt scissors

Any monetary donations given towards purchasing supplies and covering the costs of shipping would also be greatly appreciated. Please have donations in by May 9th,
Thank you everyone for your support in every way!

Senior Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 23rd

9:30 am Coffee, juice, and muffins will be served outdoors.

There will be baskets available to place cards in, if you would like.

Join us for the 10:00 am outdoor worship service as we celebrate this huge accomplishment in their lives.

- *Austin Brandt*
- *Gavin Larson*
- *Tresten Petersen*
- *Lilly Wheelright*

We have some exciting news, VBS is back (tentatively)!

We hope to offer Vacation Bible School June 6th - 10th from 4:45 pm – 6:00 pm (tentatively). For anyone ages Preschool through 5th grade

However in order to have VBS we need volunteers to help us with all the kiddos and activities! These can range from helping with a small snack, helping kids get from one place to the next, being an activity leader, recording the lesson skits, and so much more! Volunteers can be anyone 8th grade and older. Please contact the church office at newlife@rtelnet.net or reach out to your favorite Sunday school teacher to let us know if you can help.

Thank you for your consideration,
NLLC Education Committee
Steph Olson, Hillary Langfeld, & Missy Amundson

Indoor Worship

We appreciate your cooperation and willingness to follow the guidance provided to us from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Without everyone's compliance the indoor worship services will not be allowed to continue. Here are the practices that will allow us to have indoor worship:

*Masks must be worn at all times inside the building along with social distancing (maintaining 6 feet between household groups, no lingering in hallways).

*Attendees will need to keep your coats and personal items with you as you enter the sanctuary and are seated.

*All people entering the building will need to sign in and provide a contact number. This is for contact tracing should the church be informed that someone attending has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

*Congregational singing will not be allowed due to added risk of the spread of COVID-19. We may incorporate some special music, but this will be very limited and highly regulated according to MDH guidelines.

Please also note that MDH continues to discourage vulnerable people from attending indoor worship services even with the above precautions. Vulnerable people are defined as those 65 years old and older, and/or those with pre-existing conditions.

This is not to say you cannot attend indoor worship if you are comfortable. We will not turn anyone away as long as the guidelines (*mentioned above) are followed.

For all those uncomfortable with the higher risk of exposing yourselves or others to COVID-19 in such an indoor group setting, we will continue our drive-in, parking lot worship services at 10 am each Sunday, and our online worship services.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding in these challenging times!