



HOPE

New Life Lutheran Church  
Pastor Randy Whitehead

*"Disciples of Jesus Growing Disciples of Jesus"*

Office: 102 Main Ave W Rothsay, MN • (218) 867-6557 • [newlife@rtelnet.net](mailto:newlife@rtelnet.net)

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

*Website: [www.newlifeparish.net](http://www.newlifeparish.net)*

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION for Pastor Randy:  
701-238-1863 or 218-238-6060.

Email: [PastorRandy@newlifeparish.net](mailto:PastorRandy@newlifeparish.net)

Office Manager: Patrice Ziegler - [newlife@rtelnet.net](mailto:newlife@rtelnet.net)

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

**New Life Lutheran Church**

**December 3, 2023**

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Pastor: Randy Whitehead

Reader: Jessica Nelson

Organist: Joyce Peterson



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS** [Leader-fine print, **Congregation-Bold Print**]

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
who opens the heavens  
and draws near to us with salvation.

**Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.  
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Everlasting God,

**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness**

**that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation's bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways**

**for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation  
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,  
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

**Amen.**



**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** (Mike & Kristen Heidecker family)

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (In unison)

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**First Reading: Genesis 18:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son."

**Second Reading: Genesis 21:1-3, 5** [Leader-fine print, **Congregation-Bold Print**]

**L:** The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said,

**C:** **and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised.**

**L:** Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him.

**C:** **Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.**

**All:** **Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.**



## Gospel Reading: Luke 1:5-25

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup> Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

<sup>11</sup> Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." <sup>19</sup> The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup> When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup> When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup> After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup> "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."



**SHADOW DRAMA**

*New Life Youth*



**CHILDRENS SERMON**



**SERMON**



## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

LBW # 34

**OFFERING** (Offering will be received during the hymn of the day)  
You can use the QR code to give online



## OFFERTORY PRAYER (In unison)

God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.  
Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.  
Amen.



## APOSTLES' CREED (In unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.



## THE PRAYERS



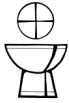
## HOLY COMMUNION

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION



## **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.**



## **THE DISTRIBUTION**



## **SENDING HYMN**

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice***

**LBW # 55**



## **BENEDICTION**

The God of peace bless you,  
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**



## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

**December 3rd** - 8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany  
9:00 am Coffee Hour at New Life  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship at New Life  
11:00 am Youth Service Event

**December 5th** - 10:30 am Bible Study

**December 6th** - 5:45 pm Pop-up Supper  
5:45 pm "Young" Women's Fellowship  
6:00 pm Confirmation  
7:00 pm WOW

**December 7th** - 3:00 pm Communion in Pelican Rapids

**December 10th** - 8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany  
9:00 am Coffee Hour at New life  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship at New Life - **Sunday School Program**  
11:00 am Youth Summer event parent meeting



### Sunday School Program

The Sunday school program will be held on Sunday, December 10th at 10:00 am, during our normal worship time at New Life. Come and support our Sunday school students!



**Mary Jo and Pastor Randy would like to invite you to a Christmas Open House at their residence near Lake Park on Sunday, December 17, from 12:30 to 3:00 pm.**

**Lunch will be served.  
All are welcome!**

**Address: 17391 Beseau Lake Road  
Lake Park, MN 56554**

**We hope to see you there!**

### Youth Service Event

December 3rd 11am - 1pm

Grades 7-12

We will be making cookies for someone meaningful in our lives and writing a letter of gratitude to go with them.



### Advent Candle Lighting

We are looking for someone or a family unit to light the advent candle on December 17th during worship. If you are interested please call or email the church office to get on the schedule. We look forward to hearing from you! 218-867-6557 or [newlife@rtelnet.net](mailto:newlife@rtelnet.net)



### **Contemporary Worship Coordinator Opening**

New Life Lutheran church is looking to hire a qualified individual to fulfill the contemporary worship coordinator duties. Job duties include but are not limited to, coordinating worship music for Contemporary worship services, consisting of 4 songs. Those interested should be knowledgeable about equipment for live music such as microphones, piano, guitar, and monitors. For a full list of duties please contact the church office at [newlife@rtelnet.net](mailto:newlife@rtelnet.net) or 218-867-6557.

If you are interested, please submit a letter of inquiry to the New Life Lutheran Church office by January 31st.

### **Christmas is coming fast!**

The Community Care Committee is looking for donations of CHRISTMAS GOODIES for Christmas gift bags that we plan to deliver - with your help - to our Senior congregational members and others in our community that are living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, as well as those living at home, to remind them that we care and wish them a blessed Christmas.

Please have your goodies to the church by our DEADLINE of Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, when we will be putting the bags together after the church service for delivery during that week.

A sign up list will be in the hallway for contributing treats as well as a separate list to sign up to volunteer to help with the deliveries.

Join us Dec. 10 for fellowship and packing bags after church!

### **Quilting Opportunity**

There will be a quilting group meeting at New Life on December 13th beginning at 1:30 pm with an inventory of supplies in the closet. The meeting will begin at 2:30 pm.

Following inventory we will be tying quilts. Anyone is welcome to join us in fellowship and making quilts!

If the weather is bad on December 13th the back up plan is to meet on December 20th. Questions, please contact Mary Brandt.

### **"Young" Women's Fellowship**

December meeting of the "Young Women's Fellowship" will coincide with the December Pop-up Dinner on Wednesday, Dec 6th.

We will have a quick "Make and Take" Nativity Advent project.

Hope to see you there!