

## Welcome Visitors & Newcomers

A warm welcome to visitors & newcomers! It is great to have you worship with us today. Please complete the information in the black welcome pads as they are passed and then pass it to your neighbor. Please take a welcome packet from the tables at the entrance.

At New Life we host an open table for Holy Communion. All are welcome to receive this free gift of God's grace. We believe Jesus is 'really present' in, with and under the bread and wine. Even though the bread and wine do not change in physical form, Jesus presence in, with and under the bread and wine makes this much more than a remembrance or symbol of God's love. Because of Christ's presence we also believe the real effects or benefits of this meal are; the forgiveness of sin, life with God here and the promise of life with God to come.

Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing. First communion instruction is scheduled before Holy Week for 2nd grade students. Gluten free wafers are also available for those that prefer that option. Note: The wine is red and the grape juice is white. The nursery is staffed during worship (10:30) and is located south of the worship space.

### This Week at New Life

- Sunday 12.16 - Worship 8:15 & 10:30 am; Education Hour 9:30; Youth Group to Starbucks & Jolly Holiday Lights 7 pm
- Monday 12.17 - Office Closed; Blue Christmas Evening Prayer 6:30 pm at Norwalk Christian Church
- Tuesday 12.18 - Executive Committee 6:30 pm; Church Council 7:30 pm
- Wednesday 12.19 - Food Pantry 4:30-6:30 pm; A Night of Christmas Praise 7 pm
- Friday 12.21 - Family Movie Night 6:30 pm
- Saturday 12.22 - Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30 am
- Sunday 12.23 - Worship 9:30 am; NO Education Hour



## Worship Assistants

	Today 8:15	Today 10:30	12.23.18 9:30
Ushers	Kobernusz	Porters	Pacas
Media	Ed Kuhl	John Sperry	Eugene Schultze
Reader	Ron Fels	Ben Liedtke	Greg Hayworth
Greeter	Jackson Murray	Taylor	Jean Bragg
Coffee	Allyson Seymour	Kari Luedtke & Amy Thacker	Haug
Servers	Pacas	Luedtkes	Kobernusz
Nursery	n/a	Abbie Olson & Tanner Merriman	TBD
Scrip	Kari Murray	Leslie Merriman	Kathy Weeks
Host	Connie Thompson	Laura Kimball	Abbie Olson
Counters	Abbie Olson		Ron Fels
	Jake Murray		Karen Chapman
Altar Guild	Karen Chapman		

### Recent Additions & Updates to the Prayer List\*

*Philippians 4. 6-7 - Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NRSV)*

*Illness or Injury \** (A complete Prayer List is available in the back)

The Green family - friends of Bill & Danene VanZuuk  
 Lucy Ellen Garland - Laura Kimball's grandmother  
 Wanda Vetterick  
 Tom Cahill - Sheila Taylor's father  
 Maddy Snow - young friend of Kyle Bales  
 Dave Hixenbaugh  
 Carol Shafer - Lori Prier's mother  
 Bernie Wilcox - John & Bev Wildman's friend  
 Paula Greteman - friend of Halvorsons & Hixenbaughs

Attendance last Week: (12.5 & 9) 225

### December Memory Verse

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ~ John 1:14*



We are a congregation of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[www.newlifenorwalk.org](http://www.newlifenorwalk.org)

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Rev. Nathan J. Liedtke - Pastor

Pastor Nate's email: [njliedtke@gmail.com](mailto:njliedtke@gmail.com)

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

**This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here**



**December 16, 2018**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

Each year Christmas rushes onto the scene. It is upon us again. For many we approach this season with excitement and anticipation. Still, others dread this season of hope and joy because there is not much hope or joy to go around. Christmas is upon us again and whether we like it or not, it causes a choice to be made. In short, Christmas brings a dilemma. Each week in advent, we'll meet Biblical figures who will come to life and share their dilemmas surrounding the birth of the Savior. As we move towards Christmas we will be presented with The Dilemma of Doubt (Joseph), The Dilemma of Saying "Yes" (Mary), The Dilemma of Belief (Innkeeper), and The Joy Dilemma (Shepherd).

## Order of Worship

**Gathering Song:** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* ELW 254

**Reading: Luke 2:1-7 page 832**

**Nativity Visitor:** The Inn Keeper (Eli Newland)

**Offering Song:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ELW 283  
(8.15) *Peace Has Come* (10.30)

**Message: Advent Conspiracy - Worship Fully**

**Distribution Song:** *Hark the Glad Sound*

ELW 239 (8.15) *Noel* (10.30)

**Sending Song:** *Savior of the Nations Come* ELW 263 (8.15) *Angels We have Heard on High* (10.30)



*Let's do Christmas differently this year!*

*Let's make Christmas meaningful (again).*

Our hearts are formed by what we worship. Excitement, anticipation, hope - each of these emotions swells around the object of our dearest affection. We spend our time and energy on what matters most to us. Does the way we spend our time, money, and energy testify that we worship God made flesh in Jesus Christ? Season after season, many churchgoers have learned to say the right things without allowing their words to reach their hearts. Simply saying that Jesus is the desire of our hearts doesn't make it so. This year, Advent brings another opportunity to worship the miracle of the Incarnation when God is revealed in a whole new and earth shattering way.

Spend Less. Give More. Worship Fully. Love All.

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*  
4 & 6 pm

## The New Life Giving Tree

Thanks to your incredible response, New Life has been able to adopt **FIVE** families in the Norwalk area that are in need of assistance over the holidays. There are just a few tags remaining on the tree. Please stop by the Giving Tree in the back of the worship area and choose a gift tag then return the requested item(s) to the church today.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

A Reverse Advent Calendar is a great way to get the family involved with a new advent tradition. Get a box, or tote and add a food item each day from now until Christmas & donate it to the Norwalk Area Food Pantry. Don't have time to do the shopping? Add \$35.45 to your Christmas Eve offering and we'll do the shopping for you.

## A Night of Christmas Praise

Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, December 19 at 7 pm. Our Praise Team will present a *Night of Christmas Praise*. They will sing all of our favorites and there will be cookies & hot chocolate too!

## Shop With Scrip

Looking for a last minute gift card to round out your list? Shop with Scrip! Stop by the Scrip Table following worship today to see all that is available.

## Family Movie Night

On Friday, Dec. 21 at 6:30, come enjoy a good Christmas movie at church. We'll enjoy some popcorn & soda while watching *The Star* ~ an animated telling of the first Christmas. PJ's and blankets are welcome.

## Snow Removal

Can you help with snow removal this winter? A signup sheet is on the bulletin board or contact BJ Bengard (bj@bengardroofing.com) for more information.

## Summer 2019 Youth Mission Trip

The 2019 Summer Mission Trip is going to Louisville KY. Dates of the trip (including a stop in St. Louis) will be July 27-August 2. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 6th at 11:45. A \$100 deposit will hold your spot. If you are interested in being a chaperone, please contact Pastor Nate with any questions.

## Blue Christmas Evening Prayer

For all who might struggle with the Christmas Season as a time of loneliness & sadness, New Life and Norwalk Christian Church are partnering to offer Blue Christmas Evening Prayer. The service will be hosted by the Norwalk Christian Church on Monday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome at this service of remembrance and hope.

## Youth Group Outing Today

Middle & High School Youth are invited to join us for an evening of fun touring the Jolly Holiday Lights preceded by a stop at Starbucks for some Christmas goodies. We'll leave from the church at 7 pm. Let Pastor Nate or Mike Geisler know if you can attend.

## Financial Peace University

"Debt is normal. Be weird!" If four or more families commit to Financial Peace University beginning January 22 we will host a 9 week session open to all. Sessions will be Tuesday nights from 6:30- 8 pm. Sign up today! Chat with Pastor Nate if you have questions.

## Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a plant to help decorate our worship area for Christmas Eve, please complete an order form found in the back of the church and return to the church office by December 19 or submit a form at [Newlifenorwalk.org](http://Newlifenorwalk.org). Plants may be taken home to enjoy after 6 pm Worship on Christmas eve

