



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Traditional Service
Sept. 7, 2025

*Our mission is to raise disciples planted in God's love,
growing in faithfulness and nourishing the world.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME – Pastor Kim Little-Brooks

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

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

All: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.
Merciful God,

**All: You free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. AMEN.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

All: Amen

GATHERING HYMN *Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)*

Refrain Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

¹ Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

² All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. **Refrain**

³ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. **Refrain**

⁴ So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)*

Refrain Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!

¹ Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. **Refrain**

² Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever. **Refrain**

³ For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new. **Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

L: ¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 1

Please read responsively.

L: ¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

All: ²Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

L: ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

All: ⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

L: ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

All: ⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ²to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child,

Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

P: The holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON – Pastor Kim Little-Brooks

HYMN OF THE DAY *Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons*
(ELW 798)

¹ "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

² "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?

³ "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

⁴ "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

⁵ Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death.

God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely especially those we name before you, aloud or silently. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

A: We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The ministry of New Life Lutheran Church is made possible through the tithes, gifts, and offerings of the people. We encourage you to give as an act of worship today. You can offer a gift by texting to 281.864.3278, adding a dollar amount to the message box, and send. A link will appear for a one time set up. Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again. You can also give through our website by scanning the QR code on the pew.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – Travis Lairson

OFFERING RESPONSE – As the Grains of Wheat (ELW 465)

Refrain As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

¹ As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

² Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. **Refrain**

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting
life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Now the Feast) (ELW 191A)

Holy, holy, holy are you,
God of power and might;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**All: 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.**

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome to receive Jesus in bread and wine. This is Jesus' table and he welcomes all. Pre-filled communion packets are available in the Narthex if you would prefer to receive communion that way. Everyone else is invited to come down the center aisle maintaining two continuous lines. You will receive a piece of bread with the words, "The body of Christ given for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." Remain on the side of the section of pews you are sitting in. You will take an individual cup of either wine (red) or grape juice (clear) with the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." As you return to your seat by the side aisle there is a basket available for our empty cup.

Communion

P: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God (ELW 154)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you break the chains of hatred and fear: have mercy on,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you are the way of justice and peace: have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you are the way of mercy and love: have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant
us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG *Come to the Table (ELW 481)*

Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirsty,
come, and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation;
receive from his nail-scarred hand.
Eat of the bread of salvation;
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

REPEAT

COMMUNION HYMN *Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 685)*

¹ Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

² Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

³ Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

⁴ Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.

⁵ Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

⁶ Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, if all for thee.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING SONG *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2 Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.

3 Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Copyright permission: CCLI #3220202 and One License A-740956.
From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7, 2025, Traditional Worship 9:30 AM

Adult Summer Sunday School: Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life. Class begins at 11:00am.

Thrivent Cards Needed: If you have a Thrivent Card that you could donate, please help us purchase items for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) health care kits and school kits.

LWR School Kits Items Needed: Bring donated items that are on the sign in the Narthex: Simple 14X17 drawstring backpacks. 70 sheet notebooks. Boxed 16ct or 24ct crayons. 30 centimeter rulers. Pencil sharpeners. Fine unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers. Fine black or blue ballpoint pens [no gel ink]. 2 ½" erasers.

Altar Flowers: New price for flowers as of 6-1-25 is \$50.00 per arrangement.

Quilters: Quilters meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM. Please come for fellowship, snacks and help us tie knots!

Fellowship Hall Rental: Receptions and Other Events: Call or Email the office for more Information: 281-485-1818, office@newlifelutheran.com

Council Connections: Feel free to write the Council with ideas, suggestions, or concerns to president@newlifelutheran.com

=====

Today's Worship Leaders (9:30 AM)

Assisting Minister
Communion Assistants
Users
Tech Booth

Helen Beckman
Nancy Bryars, Cheryl Robinson
Zachary Minja, Reggie Minja
John Gestl