

The Kingdom of Heaven Belongs to Children



22nd Sunday before Christ the King
Vacation Bible School Blessing Sunday
Sunday, June 25, 2023

The People of New Joy, Ministers

The Rev. Chris Duckworth, Pastor

Glenn Hoffman, Music Minister



Welcome to worship at New Joy Lutheran Church. We are blessed by your presence among us today. This bulletin contains the outline and words for worship this morning.



New to New Joy? If you'd like to get in touch with the Pastor, be added to our email list, or share a prayer request, please complete one of the welcome/prayer cards in (most of) the seatback pockets and set it in the offering plate, hand it to an usher, or leave it on the counter in the church office. Thank you!



Little children are always welcome – even and especially when they're a little noisy! We welcome children to worship God by toddling around, playing with toys, shaking tambourines, babbling and singing, and coming to the Lord's Table.

If little ones get too noisy during spoken parts of the service – the reading of Scripture, the sermon, or prayers – please try to quiet them or take them into the hallway for a moment to calm down. Thank you!

Our **nursery** is also available most Sundays for **children aged 5 and under**.



Holy Communion: At our Lord's Table Jesus gives his own body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and intimacy of his promised presence with us. All who desire to receive our Lord are welcome. Communion is shared with bread (a wafer) and cup (grape juice). If you're uncertain about receiving or how to receive, don't hesitate to ask pastor when you come forward. You are welcome to receive a blessing or to receive the sacrament, as you feel led by the Spirit.



Offering: As part of our worship we collect an offering each week. Even as many of us have set up electronic fund transfer (EFT) giving for our weekly tithes and offerings, this ritual act continually calls us to give not just our funds but our whole selves to Jesus and to the mission of love and grace to which he calls us. This QR code takes you to our giving platform, [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com), which is also available as a mobile app.



These are the basics for worship. There is more information about our church on the back cover, and announcements are found in the last few pages of this bulletin.

GATHERING



Prelude

Opening Prayer



Opening Song

Verse 1

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the
 blind
There's no one like You
None like You

Verse 2

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Chorus 1

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than
 any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God
 our God

Apostolic Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**



Our God

Bridge

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
(Then) what could stand against



Kyrie

Dm C F Gm Dm C Am

Ky - ri - e E - le - i - son Lord, have mer - cy on us

Dm C F Gm Dm C

⁵ Ky - ri - e E - le - i - son Christ have mer - cy

F Gm Dm A Dm/B^b Dm

⁸ Lord have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy on us.



Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, with a mother's love & a father's care you have blessed us with the joy & responsibility of children. As we bring them up, give us gracious love, calm strength, & patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love whatever is just & true & good, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

WORD



Children's Message



First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

A Reading from Deuteronomy:

⁶ These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.



Gospel

Matthew 19:13-15

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Matthew:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!



Gospel Acclamation



Sermon



Song of the Day

Verse 1

Love the Lord your God with all your heart
 With all your soul with all your mind
 And with all your strength

Chorus 1

With all your heart with all your soul
 With all your mind with all your strength
 Love the Lord your God with all your heart
 With all your soul with all your mind
 And with all your strength

Verse 2

I will serve the Lord
 With all my heart with all my soul
 With all my mind and with all my strength

Love the Lord

(V1x2, C1, V2x2, C2, V3x2, C3)

Chorus 2

With all my heart with all my soul
 With all my mind with all my strength
 I will serve the Lord with all my heart
 With all my soul with all my mind
 And with all my strength

Verse 3

I will love You Lord
 With all my heart With all my soul
 With all my mind And with all my strength

Chorus 3

With all my heart with all my soul
 With all my mind with all my strength
 I will love You Lord with all my heart
 With all my soul with all my mind
 And with all my strength



Vacation Bible School Blessing

P: Heroes are called to
 P: Heroes are called to
 P: Heroes are called to
 P: Heroes are called to
 P: Heroes are called to

C: Follow Jesus!
C: Help Others!
C: Work Together!
C: Listen to God!
C: Show Grace!

P: Let us pray.

Prosper the work of these your servants, O God, that their hands would be your hands welcoming children learning about your love; that their smiling faces would be your glorious countenance shining grace; that their words of faith and love would be your words of life that lift children to delight in the kingdom that is theirs. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, who welcomes children into his presence, we pray.

C: Amen.



The **Assisting Minister** leads this portion of the service, where we renew our shared mission, lift our prayers to God, and extend God's peace with one another.



Mission Statement

A: Let us join together the mission we share:

C: New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.



Prayers of the Church

Prayers of Intercession - Each prayer petition concludes with, "God, in your mercy." The response is, "Hear our prayer."



Sharing the Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace with those around us.

Announcements & Offering

As part of our acts of worship we share select activities and opportunities from our life together. We collect an offering for the work of New Joy and of the partners we support locally and beyond. This QR code takes you to [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly), our giving platform.



Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL



As we prepare to receive the gift of Holy Communion, we pray a table grace patterned after the great Old Testament and early church prayers that recount God's goodness and ask that such goodness would extend to us and through us now and until our Lord's promised return.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.



Pastor continues with the proper preface, appointed specifically for this season, which leads us to Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus), the angelic chorus of Isaiah 6. This version of the Sanctus, set in a language foreign to many of us, gives us a sense of the otherworldliness of God's sacred presence.



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Pastor continues with the eucharistic prayer, which includes the following response:

P: ...As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we share in the mystery and promise of faith:

**C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**



**C: 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.**



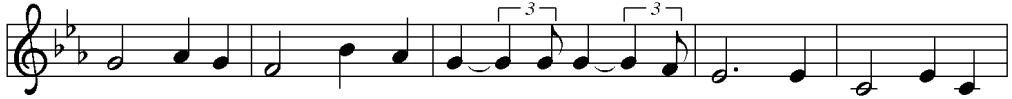
Lord's Supper *(please be seated)*

All are welcome to the communion feast, for our Lord is host and gives himself to all who desire to receive. Those not receiving Holy Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing or remain in their seats in prayer. Come, let us eat and drink at the table of the Lord.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Lord Listen to Your Children

Chorus 1

Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love send us pow'r send us grace



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



Travel Blessing

During these summer months we pause at the end of worship to bless any who are traveling in the coming week.

P: O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our home-comings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING



Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit

C: Amen



Sending Song

10,000 Reasons

(C, V1, C, V2, C, V3, Cx2, E)

Chorus 1

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day
dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies
before me
Let me be singing when the evening
comes

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to
anger
Your name is great and Your heart is
kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on
singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to
find

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is
failing
The end draws near and my time has
come
Still my soul will sing Your praise
unending
Ten thousand years and then
forevermore

Ending

Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name



Dismissal

A: Go in Peace. Share the harvest of God's bounty.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

WORSHIP LEADERS

We give thanks for all who give of themselves for service to God and to this community.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Assisting Minister :	Cana Duckworth
Reader:	Charles Studer
Acolyte	Kinzi Jones

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Kristen Abbey</i>
<i>Reader:</i>	
<i>Acolyte:</i>	<i>Anthony Abbey</i>

The band members are Glenn Hoffman, Jim Gregory, Karen Archbold.

The Altar Guild members are Judy Moon, Kristi Kittilstved, Nancy Trullinger, Morgan Studer, and Shawna Harouff

The Livestream team is Phil Havlik, Rich Kittilstved and Naaman Duckworth.

The audio is run by Steve Castle.

MINISTRY BOARD MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Becky Suchomel	President	January 2025
Laurie Cupp	Vice President	January 2026
Kristi Kittilstved	Secretary	January 2025
Chuck Studer	Treasurer	January 2024
Andy Clark	Co- Treasurer	January 2026
Gail Castle	Member at Large	January 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- None this week

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- None this week

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY OUR SCRIPTURE READINGS deviate from the lectionary, the cycle of readings shared across many Christian denominations. As we kick off our Vacation Bible School week we are turning to Scripture that lifts up children's role in the faith, and the call of the community to nurture faith across generations.

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 2	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Matthew 10:24-39
July 9	Zechariah 9:9-12 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 16	Isaiah 55:10-13 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK



KEEP HOLD OF THIS BULLETIN and pray throughout the week. The QR code takes you to our New Joy prayer page with additional links and resources for personal prayer.

A PRAYER FOR VBS

Gracious God, bless, sustain, and prosper the work of our entire Vacation Bible School team. Stir up your Spirit in those children, that with joy and faith they may grow in love for you and for their neighbors. Transform our congregation, that through the welcome we extend we might be renewed in your grace and promise. We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE attributed to St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A PRAYER TO SHARE IN CREATION'S PRAISE

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL USE OF WEALTH

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABOUT NEW JOY'S FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING MINISTRIES

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets in two annual sessions – one in the fall and one in the winter - for 7th and 8th grade faith formation and fellowship. Classes in our winter/spring session have wrapped up.

SEASONED BELIEVERS, our seniors fellowship group, meets on Tuesdays at 9am at Chick-Fil-A on Route 32 in Westfield.

BIBLE STUDIES meet at New Joy on Tuesdays at 7pm (on summer hiatus) and on Wednesdays at 1pm. The Tuesday evening group uses a curriculum, and we all read a brief study in advance of each session. The Wednesday midday group reads the Scripture for the next Sunday, and maintains the New Joy prayer list.

NEW JOY'S MUSIC MINISTRY rehearses every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. Interested in singing or playing with the band? Please speak with our Music Minister, Glenn Hoffman, after worship, or via email at music@newjoy.org.

JOYFUL GIRLS, our women's fellowship group, gathers each month for fellowship and dinner. Contact Becky Suchomel or Lyn Nore if you have any questions.

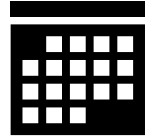
MEN'S GROUP hosts breakfasts and Bible Studies about twice/month on Saturday mornings at 8am. During the summer they host a few cookouts. Questions? Contact Tony Trullinger or Wes Harouff.

RADICAL WELCOME MINISTRY is a growing series of events, experiences, studies, and workshops dedicated to explicit welcome and support for LGBTQ+ church members and neighbors. As Pastor Chris often says, *explicit animus must be met with explicit love*. Morgan Studer, Greg Platt, Libby Dissauer are on the Core Team facilitating this work. We are always happy to discuss this work – please reach out.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is a wonderfully intense week of faith and fun for children, and for the teens and adults who accompany them.

AS WE CONTINUE TO EMERGE FROM COVID DISCOMBOBULATION, we look forward to (re)establishing more faith and fellowship events for children and youth. Reach out to Pastor Chris if you're called to support this kind of ministry.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



Sunday, June 25

- Worship, 9:30am, Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under.
- VBS, 5pm

Monday, June 26

- VBS 5pm

Tuesday, June 27

- Seasoned Believers, 9am, @ Chick-Fil-A on Route 32 in Westfield
- VBS, 5pm

Wednesday, June 28

- Wednesday Bible Study, 1pm. (Jeremiah 20:7-13, Matthew 10:24-39)
- VBS, 5pm
- Band Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday, June 29

- VBS, 5pm

Friday, June 30

Saturday July 1

Sunday, July 2

- Worship, 9:30am Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under

New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.

Extend a Radical Welcome We are a spirited community that strives to welcome, value, accept, and nurture all people wherever they are in their relationship with God. Since our founding in 2002, New Joy has been committed to welcoming people of all races, incomes, and expressions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Share a Generous Grace We are a spirited community which boldly proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

Nurture Transforming Faith We are a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

Live God's Promise We are a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.

The truth is that we don't always believe confidently, or pray wholeheartedly, or serve selflessly on our own. Yet when we come together in community we draw out the best in each other and in ourselves, lean on the faith of those around us, and seek the goodness of God for ourselves and for the world that God so loves.

Full of belief or doubt, confidence or questions? There is a place for you at New Joy. The people of New Joy are newcomers to Christianity and interfaith families, lifelong active church goers and people who have spent decades away from the church before finding their way to New Joy. There is a place for you at New Joy, too.



New Joy is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).