

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like ...”



17th Sunday before Christ the King
Sunday, July 30, 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, share a prayer request, or more, simply fill out 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.



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

Gather Us In

Verse 1

Here in this place the new light is
streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our
dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this
day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our
name.

Verse 2

We are the young, our lives are a
myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your
face;
we have been sung throughout all of
hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human
race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Verse 3

Here we will take the wine and the
water,
here we will take the bread of new
birth,
here you shall call your sons and your
daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of
compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to
fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are
true.

Verse 4

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years
away—
but here in this place the new light is
shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the
day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.



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.**



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.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

WORD



Children's Message



First Reading

Psalm 119:129-136

R: A reading from the Book of Psalms:

- ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
- ¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.
- ¹³¹ With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.
- ¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.
- ¹³³ Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.
- ¹³⁴ Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.
- ¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept

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 13:31-33, 44-52

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Matthew:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!



Gospel Acclamation



Sermon



Song of the Day

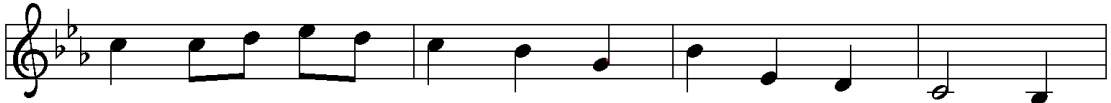
Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*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 say 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, 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.

The Pastor continues with 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.

Seek Ye First

Verse 1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things
Shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia

Verse 2

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds
From the mouth of God
Allelu alleluia

Verse 3

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door
Shall be opened unto you
Allelu alleluia



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

Everytime I Feel the Spirit

(C, V1, C, V2, C, V3, C)

Chorus:

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Verse 1

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke
Looked all around me, it looked so fine
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Verse 2

Jordan river, is chilly an' cold
It chills the body but not the soul
There ain't but one train, upon this track
It runs to heaven, an' right back.

Verse 3

Down in the valley, when I feel weak
It's when the devil, use'ly speaks
Because he's crafty, and full of lies
I need the Spirit to keep me wise.



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 : | Kristen Abbey |
| Reader: | Alexa Helm |
| Acolyte | Kinzi Abbey |

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Assisting Minister:</i> | <i>Norm Springer</i> |
| <i>Reader:</i> | <i>Jessicah Duckworth</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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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING All school children are invited to bring something from school to church next Sunday – a backpack, an athletic bag, a musical instrument, or something else! We will bless these items and the kids who carry them, speaking God’s word of promise for our children and their call to learn and grow.

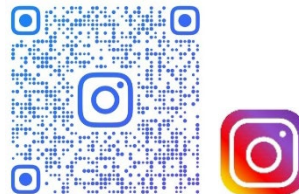
YOUTH GATHERING & CONFIRMATION MINISTRY The school year – and here at church, the program year – resumes next month! On **Sunday, August 13**, following worship, we will have an information session for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans (youth completing 8th-12th grade next spring are eligible). That evening, we will have our first Confirmation Class of the year (7th and 8th graders). Want to invite a friend or neighbor to Confirmation Class or to the Youth Gathering? Think about it, pray about it, talk with Pastor Chris or Pastor Jessicah.

COFFEE HOUR is shifting to a monthly celebration, on the first Sunday of the month. Additional coffee hours will be shared on special occasions.

UPCOMING KEY DATES:

- August 6 VBS Volunteer Appreciation Cookout and Post-Game Analysis, Duckworth home
- August 13 ELCA Youth Gathering interest session
- August 13 Confirmation Ministry Kick-Off
- August 28/29 First Day of New Joy Preschool Classes

NEW JOY IS ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM These QR codes take you to our pages - @newjoy on your Facebook app, and @newjoywestfield on your Instagram app. On Facebook, we also have a private group. Search for “New Joy Partners” to join our group.



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. Pastor Jessicah Duckworth is our Confirmation Ministry coordinator.

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 (on July hiatus). 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.

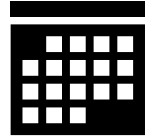
MEN'S GROUP hosts breakfasts and Bible Studies about twice/month on Saturday mornings at 8am. During the summer they host a few cookouts. Questions? Contact Tony Trullinger or Wes Harouff.

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, Alexa Helm, 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, July 30

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

Monday, July 31

- BSA Troops 1910 & 1920, 7pm

Tuesday, August 1

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

Wednesday, August 2

- Band Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday, August 3

Friday, August 4

Saturday, August 5

- BSA Troops 1910 & 1920, 10am-4pm

Sunday, August 6

- Worship, 9:30am, with Back to School Blessing
- Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under
- Westfield Pride, 1pm
- VBS Volunteer Appreciation Cookout @ Duckworth Home, 5pm

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).