



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, August 12, 2018

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Pastoral Pondering

So Much More Than Walls

"For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..." - Ephesians 2:18-19

On a recent visit with dear family friends, my family experienced something that was truly disheartening. Our friends, who are all fellow followers of Christ, had gone through some difficulties in their church. You see, just like us, they attend church with fellow humans...fellow sinners saved by grace. What was so disheartening is that they weren't communicating in a way that resembled grace, love, and loyalty, rather they communicated in such a way that it was evident that bitter roots had formed. As my wife and I were driving back home, and our children were fast asleep in the back of our van, I simply asked her, "Did that feel right to you?" Her face revealed a genuine sadness and she expressed her concern for the situation and how she also felt surprised by our interactions. Simply put, people are messy, yet as followers of Christ we find ourselves inside the fold...we are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are saints in the household of God.

I once heard a pastor say during a teaching, "If you ever find a perfect church, you better leave because you are going to ruin it." He wasn't trying to be hurtful; rather he was trying to allude to the truth that churches are so much more than the walls, traditions, emotional experiences, and budgets. Brothers and sisters, we must follow Christ's example and exist to love one another, to bear with one another, and to share and pursue Christ wholly. Consider the following verses...

"...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." - Ephesians 2:20-22

When we find ourselves challenged in our interpersonal relationships within the body, it is critical that we ask ourselves prior to any reaction, "Is my response going to bring glory to Christ and am I building my brother/sister up?" We are called to love one another differently than what we see occurring in the world. By putting Christ at the center of our relationships, we can find rest in the one and

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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only truth.

May we be a body that is committed to being built together into a dwelling place for God...that does not happen with walls, lights, and comfortable seats, but rather with love, grace, and the pursuit of Christ. There is no greater place that we can find ourselves than at the feet of our loving Savior.

Your Brother in Christ, Zack Fugate

August Memory Verse

Romans 10:9

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (ESV)

Missions Outreach Update

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It is time again to consider packing shoeboxes for Samaritan Purse! National Collection week is **November 12-19th**. We will plan a church group shoebox packing date as time approaches in October. Our goal is 84 boxes! Plus, any individual giving.

To make this day successful we need your cooperation as a congregation. This is what we need at present:

Donations:

\$9:00 per box for shipping and handling costs, placed with each completed box.

Box Contents: Grouped by Gender & Age [2-4] [5-9] [10-14]

Start with a quality "Wow" item such as a stuffed animal, soccer ball with pump, or clothing outfit that will capture the child's attention the instant he or she opens the box. Then add hygiene items and school supplies (which is a great time right now to purchase!)

Do Not Include:

Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

To see gift suggestions according to age and gender and other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to fill the shoebox with go to: www.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/. A printed copy will be placed on the welcome table soon.

Announcements and Upcoming Events



If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months, please stop by the Resource Center this morning to pick up a **welcome gift** we have for you which includes more information about who we are, what we believe, and what Jesus is doing here at New Life!

NEW LIFE PARTNERSHIP

Are you interested in becoming a partner of New Life Christian Community? Many churches have a membership. We call it partnership. We bear the load together to glorify Jesus Christ. In partnership we commit to serve alongside one another; bearing one another's burdens, holding one another accountable, actively participating in the life of the body, investing in one another's lives, praying for each other, and building one another up in the Word. If becoming a partner is a step you would like to take, please make that desire known to an elder or pastor.

NEW LIFE CONNECT

If you're new and looking for ways to connect with the body outside of Sunday service, New Life Christian Community has a secure online community called 'New Life Connect.' It is designed for sharing prayer requests quickly with the rest of the body, allows for announcements and needs to be shared among the community easily and freely, and simply makes contact information available to each of us throughout the week. To be a part of Connect, please email pastor Tony or pastor Paul.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

If you haven't yet, please consider joining us on **Sunday mornings @ 8:30-9:00am** in the large classroom for a time of prayer. Everyone is encouraged to come, as you are able. We have already been seeing ways the Lord has been working in us and in New Life through this time. We serve a gracious God who hears our prayers! Let us make every effort to gather often and pray.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Don't miss this! Join us **tonight from 5-7 pm** for a farewell party for the Wiley's at the New Life building. We will send them off with a proper Wisconsin potluck dinner. Bring your best dish, side or something fresh from your garden. Dessert will be provided.

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

• *Events* • *Sermons Online* •
New Life Connect • *Set Lists* • &
More

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

Aug 15 Women's Bible Study
12:30 pm at NLCC

Aug 16 Ezekiel Bible Study
(Men and Women)
7:00-8:30 pm at NLCC

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Aug 12 Meal Team #2
Aug 19 Meal Team #3
Aug 22 Meal Team #4
Sep 2 Potluck Team #1

**Please join us for fellowship
and a meal following our
service today!**



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
Judges 10:6-16

Sermon Notes: