



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

Sun, September 2, 2018

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Pastoral Pondering-God's Love for Us

1 John 4:7-11 ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

In the book "The Problem of Pain" by C.S. Lewis, he takes on the question that Christians have been asking for centuries, "If God is good and all powerful why does He allow His creatures to suffer pain." It is a great question and one I have asked myself on numerous occasions. However that is not the question I am going to tackle today.

In the book C.S. Lewis talks about the love God has for us. The question I have been thinking about is another one C.S. Lewis talked about, 'Did God create us so we can love Him, or did He create us so He can love us?'

We know the love we have for God. He did create us so we can love Him. He even gave us the free will to love Him or not. We show that love by helping people in need. We show it by worshiping Him, by trying to follow His will, and living a life that is pleasing to Him. We show Him love by surrendering our lives to Him and even becoming outcasts because of His name. We show Him the same love that a child shows to a parent. But we don't always consider His love for us.

What I mean is, we do things to show our love to Him but don't always consider the things He has done to show His love for us. Take the law for example. He has given us the law to follow, but we only think it holds us down instead of showing that He loves us and doesn't want us hurt. We don't make rules for our children to hold them down, we make rules so they don't hurt themselves and to show our love for them. C.S. Lewis wrote "To ask that God's love should be content with us as we are, is to ask that God should cease to be God." God's love is displayed throughout the Bible and to have the Bible itself to read, study, and pour over shows His love. The biggest thing God did to show His love was to come down from Heaven and be crucified so to bridge the gap from our sinful state to His glorified presence. I am so thankful for a God that wants to love us and shows His love for us in so many ways.

Ephesians 2: 4-7 ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Blessings, Paul Gilbertson

Ministry Directory

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Ministry:

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Transportation Services:

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Pete Manship, 715.755.3330
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Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
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Candidate Weekend

Candidate Weekend: New Life family, the Lord has graciously provided a candidate the elders and pastors prayerfully see as a great fit as the third pastor. Bennett Anderson and His family will be visiting next weekend! On

Saturday, September 8, we are inviting the New Life voting partners to a potluck breakfast at **9:30am (@ the New Life building)** in order to meet and fellowship with Bennett and his family. We really want you to meet him! If you are not a voting partner - you are also invited! All are welcome!

If you are unable to join us for breakfast on Saturday, make every effort to be at service on Sunday. Bennett will be participating in the service and we will be encouraging interaction during lunch (as usual) after the service.

Barring any unforeseen incident we will be holding a partner vote **Sunday, September 16th** to affirm Bennett as the new Associate Pastor of Music.

Until then, please be praying with the elder board over the many changes that are taking place. May Christ be our constant anchor and the centerpiece of all we do.



Welcome Jared! Please be sure to welcome to Jared Anderson (one of our beloved missionaries who is serving the Lord in Mexico City) to our service this morning. We are so blessed to support Jared in prayer, financial and even in buckets of combs (please ask Jared to tell you about "the combs"). If you have not yet, please sign up for his prayer newsletter!

We love you McMahons! With all the changes happening at New Life, there is yet another change. We are sad to say goodbye to Diane and Mac McMahon. This will be their last Sunday with us. Diane has been instrumental in so many ministries - not least, her role in starting and running our coffee ministry. She and Mac will be very missed. We pray that the Lord would bless the McMahan's as they move closer to immediate family in Wausau. May the Lord bless and keep them in all that they do.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Immerse: Reminder that we will be starting our Immerse classes **Wednesday September 5th**. Immerse is discipleship classes for the whole family. We will be meeting Wednesday evenings from **6:15-7:30 pm**. There are more details on the website and posted on the calendar board near the coffee station.

All those who have signed up to be teachers, assistants or back-up teachers can meet with Carly after service today to talk through the details of teaching a class and have a run-down of using the curriculum. She can meet everyone in the large classroom across from the kitchen immediately after service.

Ministry Team Fair: Interested in serving and being a part of ministries at New Life? There are many ways to be involved and to serve with the gifts that God has given. The Lord supplies gifts to His Church to be used for the building up of the body in love. (Ephesians 4) This will occur after service on **September 23rd**. As you make your way through the food line you will be directed through one of the classrooms for opportunity to walk through our Ministry Team Fair and talk with our New Life ministry team leaders. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might want you to serve.

Help Moving: Karen Lammers is moving just up the road from her current place in St. Croix Falls on **September 8**. That is the same day we have a meeting over breakfast with our potential new pastor and his family. Are there some people available to lend a hand and a truck or two immediately after the meeting?

Operation Christmas Child: We are now collecting gifts for boxes at the church. There is a list at samaritanspurse.org or on the wall by the Resource Center; items must be new. Please have items to the church by **October 9th**. We will announce the date of the general congregational meeting in September. Also, we will have a sample box put together for an example. Thank you for your generosity.

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to: • Events • Sermons Online •

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Pastoral Eldership Team:

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

9.5 Women's Bible Study @ 12:30 am

9.5 Immerse @ 6:15 pm

9.6 Men's Bible study @ 6:30 am

9.6 Women's Bible study @ 9:30 am

9.6 Ezekiel Study @ 7:00 pm

Upcoming Potluck/M meal Teams:

Sep. 9th Meal Team 5

Sep. 16th Meal Team 6

September Memory Verse

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:38-39)

Today's Passage

JUDGES
Our Desperate Need for the King

Pastor Tony will be teaching from the
Book of Judges.
Our passage for today is Judges 11:29-40.

New Life has an Instagram account! Follow us @newlifechristiancommunity

Sign up in the entry way to be added to New Life Connect

201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI ~Sunday service starts at 9:30 am
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