



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, November 12, 2017

Vol. 11, Issue 06

Pondering the Pastorate

New Life is far from a perfect "church." In fact, the number of our imperfections is a multiple of the number of names who call New Life home.

We are a people, like every other people, who struggle. Our struggles are both universal and diverse. Some are wrestling with the pain of loss. Others struggle with anxiety. There are financial burdens, emotional scars, physical pain and a host of other known ailments. I suppose, there wouldn't be enough space in this article to even begin to archive all the areas in which we struggle. We may say, however, much of our battle is a righteous revolt against the pains and sorrows of this fallen world. These types of struggles awaken in us an awareness that we have been made for another world.

With many of the aforementioned "struggles" we can find a cool relief that we are not our own foil. Yet, our strife is not merely circumstantial. No. Alexander Pope was right, "to err is human." We are a people who sin. A church without the recognition of its own sin is a church unable to depend on the only one who saves. Thus, we must not shrink back from this truth. Yet, at the same time, and in crescendo, we must proclaim that we are a people who have been loved and forgiven - to Jesus be all the glory.

Speaking less directly of our need for a Savior, we are also a "church" with apparent deficiencies. I will not say we are a church with *actual* deficiencies - because "church," properly understood, cannot be deficient. Jesus has given us all the tools we need for life, ministry, and godliness. The body of Christ is complete, by God's grace, for His purposes. As we come together, Jesus gives gifts to the body, supplying all our needs. The problem is when we, the people, choose to allow ministries and needs to go un-met.

Over the last few weeks New Life has been actively engaged in interviewing candidates for a potential third Pastoral role. Without going into details about what an Executive Pastor would do (don't think business executive - think more literally about the word executive), we must be clear, this pastor is not being hired to "fill in our deficiencies." No. The purpose for this pastor is to help us *execute* and coordinate the gifts that God has already given us.

We have already been perfectly equipped unto the ministry ordained for New Life Christian Community. So, I write this article as a plea. As we continue to search

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Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Nelson 651.283.2132
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Children's Church Ministry

Pastor Chandler Wiley:
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Children's Nursery Ministry

Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799
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Finance Administration

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GriefShare Ministry

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Meal Relief Ministry

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Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner:
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Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
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Sunday Meal Services

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Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.220.6882
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Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
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Youth Group Ministry

Pastor Chandler Wiley:
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Pondering the Pastorate

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for whomever the Lord would have for us, would you step forward today in order to help us in the work that God is doing among us today.

A church that is hiring a pastor to “do ministry for us” is a church that does not understand what it means to *be* the Body of Christ. We are endowed and equipped for every good work by the Spirit (which is the Word of God according to Ephesians 6:17). As such, we ought to be a people hungering and thirsting for time in the Word (Psalm 119:97) – both corporately and individually. In our probing of the Word we learn about what Christ is doing among us. Our grounding, in the Spirit, is our attention to Jesus Christ in His Word.

We wholeheartedly believe that all those who confess Jesus as Lord and believe that He has been risen from the dead are of the Lord's Priesthood – and, as such, every confessor has been equipped, by His Spirit, for every good work. You've been given the gifts that we need. Start ministering to those around you today. I'm not going to simply tell you to “reach out to someone new and invite them to dinner”, though that would be a great place to start. Get even more personal than that – start praying for the unknown among us. Go beyond the normal small chit-chat.

Let us fill this Pastoral role before we know his name.

Indeed, Christ must be understood as our one and only shepherd. As a friend and elder often reminds me, we have not hired nor, will we be hiring someone to pray for us. No. The one who advocates for us cannot be hired nor bought. In fact, the opposite is true. He has bought us with a price.

If we think we will be more complete in any other name than Jesus Christ, we will be sorely mistaken for all eternity.

So, as we wait on the Lord for this pastor, let's be sure that we never stop exalting the name above all names. And in so doing, I think we will find ourselves fully equipped to more than muddle through the struggles of life.

Indeed, in Christ, we are more than conquerors.

Serving the Name of Jesus with you, Pastor Tony

November Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 16:8

“Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!” (ESV)

Opportunities to Serve

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Osceola Open Cupboard provides backpacks of easy to fix food for children and their families for over the weekends when they don't have access to school meals. This year New Life is collecting pouches of sides--think rice, pasta, muffin mix and brownies. Please consider helping collect these inexpensive pouch items, so they fit easily in the backpacks. Many times, it's children preparing this food on the weekends, so the easier the prep, the better.

Announcements



Thank you to all the people who donated and helped with Operation Christmas Child boxes at the church Saturday, November 4th! Let us continue to pray for these children receiving the boxes that they are receptive to the gospel and continue to grow in to Christ. Those who chose to work on your own, please have your boxes dropped off at the church by **today**, Sunday, November 12th. Let Lorraine Milner know if you forgot to bring your box to church today. We also still have some boxes unsponsored for shipping and discipleship. Pastor Tony will ask for donations on behalf of missions that we can get these sent paid for as well, anything above collected will be put forth to buying items for next year's Annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Fellowship day. God bless and thank you everyone!

Upcoming Events



Pam Stratmoen's 10th annual Woman's Retreat will be held January 26-28, 2018.

Where: Oak Forest Retreat Center
2824 130th Street, Frederic, WI

Check-in Friday, January 26 is 4:00 pm

Check-out Sunday, January 28, 10:00 am

This year's study will be using Lysa Terkeurst's book, *FINDING I AM*.

You can find further details about this retreat and the registration form on the Welcome table.

WOMEN'S HARVEST TEA

Ladies, please save the date of **Saturday, November 18**, for our Women's Harvest Tea. This is an event to which we will invite friends and women from the community. The time is 1:00pm and will include tea and refreshments, music, a speaker, and fellowship. If you are interested in hosting a table (supplying dishes, decorations with harvest theme, etc.), Please let either Lorraine Milner or Sara Fugate know. More details will come later!

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

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

New Life now has an Instagram account.
Follow us @newlifechristiancommunity

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Cory Mattson ~ Secretary: 715.417.0945

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Dale Mattson 715.566.2302

Greg Mattson 715.417.2444

Rene Milner 715.557.0185

Jim Nelson 651.283.2132

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Nov 12 **Forge Ministry** (9th-12th Grade)
6:30 - 8:00 pm at NLCC

Nov 15 **Immerse** (all ages)
6:15 - 7:30 pm at NLCC

Nov 16 **Men's Bible Study**
6:30 am at NLCC

Nov 16 **Women's Bible Study**
9:30 am at NLCC

Nov 16 **GriefShare Evening Meeting**
6:30 pm NLCC Lg Classroom

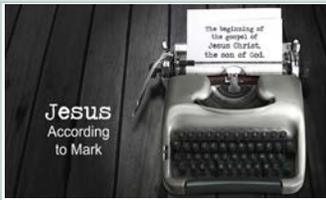
Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Nov 19 Meal Team #5

Nov 26 Meal Team #6

Dec 3 Potluck Team #2

Join us for Fellowship and a
Meal after our service today!



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
[Mark 14:66-72](#)

Sermon Notes:

