

Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ Our Lord!



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, December 24, 2017

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FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." ~

Isaiah 9:6

I want to start this out by saying Merry Christmas! This is the time of year Christians and non-Christians gather together to celebrate Christmas but with very different centers of focus.

Christmas preparation for many starts in the big box stores quietly in August when the Christmas decorations are set out next to the grilling and charcoal areas. As the weather here in the Midwest begins to cool, the displays grow larger and more noticeable. The Salvation army pots show up around Thanksgiving and then comes Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday, Green Monday (2nd Monday in December coined by eBay), Free Shipping Day Dec 15th and finally Super Saturday - which, if you didn't know, is the last Saturday before Christmas. For 2017 the average family will spend \$1,008 dollars with many going into debt to fund this. It's no wonder that in a recent poll 45% of Americans would rather skip Christmas all together and 65% of people state they feel significant stress during Christmas. Christmas makes the top 50 list of life stressors.

How then are we to deal with the stress of Stress-mas? I went to the authority, Huffington Post, for advice on this matter and their recommendations are: prioritizing activities so you aren't rushed, practice breathing to help melt anxiety away, cutting back on caffeine (Tony), and not being afraid to delegate duties. If these are done, then Stress-mas will be much better until it all starts again next August.

Even for Christians, Christmas can be clouded by the hustle and bustle of the season, gift giving, office parties etc. Loneliness, financial burdens and

continued ...

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health issues can cause worsening despair, but I want to refocus our attention - as Tony preaches weekly - on the Cross. *"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given;"* God gave us the ultimate gift in his Son. It was given freely without strings attached. It doesn't matter that we are mostly naughty not nice. The gift doesn't break or become old and obsolete but rather satisfies for eternity. The gift supplies all our needs including comfort, protection, health, and most importantly salvation, *"and the government shall be upon his shoulder."*

Most of the world doesn't believe a gift like this exists but, if it did, what would you name it? *"His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor."* Wonderful in this verse is the same word meaning "miracle." God came miraculously in a virgin birth as the perfect sacrifice offering perfect counsel for his bride the church and his children. He is *"Mighty God, Everlasting Father,"* all powerful, ever present and our all-knowing Father. He has been present from the beginning to eternity. He will never forsake us!

Lastly, He is our *"Prince of Peace"* in times of trial and persecution. There is no amount of money or fame that can purchase this gift. As noted it is undeserved and given freely. It's a gift like no other that has no earthly comparison, yet it's one that many haven't received.

I am hoping that, as the body of New Life gathers with family members, that prior to tearing into presents that will become old, broke and obsolete, we take time to meditate on this truth that God came to earth as man, the perfect sacrifice, and died and rose again for our sins so that we can spend eternity with our ultimate gift - God Himself. This is the only cure for stress-mas.

Merry Christmas, Greg Mattson

December Memory Verse

Isaiah 40:3-5

"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'"

(ESV)

Announcements and Upcoming Events

SHOE COLLECTION

You may have noticed the cardboard box in the entry way - Emily Snider is raising money for a school trip by collecting gently used shoes. Would you consider donating towards this cause? It would be a great help to Valley Christian School and the students who attend there. We will be collecting through the month of December.



Tonight, is our third and final *The Coming King* Sunday evening service. Come (even if you missed the first) to the New Life building at 6:30 pm with an eye on Jesus ready to consider how Jesus fulfills the long-awaited expectations of Israel. With the services, make sure to participate with the devotional eBook "The Coming King" available through our website, newlifechristiancommunity.org/thecomingking. Download it today.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

A great opportunity is coming your way. Beginning **January 3rd at 6:15 pm** we are starting a *Financial Peace University* class at New Life. If you have never heard of *Financial Peace University*, then I suggest you come to the informational meeting and check it out. It is a 9-week study on various aspects of finance driven at getting control of your money before it gets control of you all taught from a biblical perspective. If you don't think this is the right fit for you then tell your family, tell your friends, tell your neighbors. This is a great way to minister to others. If you have already heard of *Financial Peace University* and would like to sign up or have any questions just ask Paul Gilbertson or Pastor Tony.

NEW LIFE PARTNERS, SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, January 14th at 1:00 pm will be our annual business meeting. We can't wait to celebrate all that God has done in 2017 and look forward with you to all that He will do in 2018. Until then, continue to pray with us for God's will to be done among us.

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

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

Dec 24 **The Coming King** (devotional service)
6:30 pm at NLCC

Dec 24 **Forge Ministry** (9th-12th Grade)
NO FORGE

Dec 27 **Immerse** (all ages)
6:15 - 7:30 pm at NLCC

Dec 28 **Men's Bible Study**
6:30 am at NLCC

Dec 28 **Women's Bible Study**
9:30 am at NLCC

Dec 28 **GriefShare Evening Meeting**
6:30 pm NLCC Lg Classroom

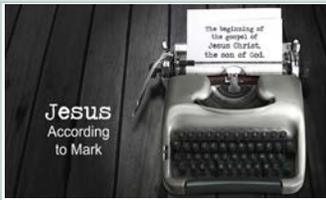
Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Dec 31 Meal Team #2

Jan 7 Potluck Team #1

Jan 14 Meal Team #3

There is No Meal Service Today.
CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL!



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
[Mark 15:40-47](#)

Sermon Notes:

