



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 9, 2018

Vol. 12, Issue 9

PASTORAL PONDERING

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 9:6-8

We are in the midst of the best time of the year as Christians, though stores have had Christmas decorations out since September, and Black Friday and Cyber Monday have come and gone. I am not referring to the best time for shopping but rather the celebration of the advent season. The word "advent" comes from the Latin term "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming," particularly the arrival of something or someone of great significance. It is the arrival of someone so great that it changes the course of all history and ultimately is the difference between life and death. It's the greatest gift that surpasses any gift earthly imaginable and has such far reaching ramifications that people who possess it have been persecuted and even killed. Many haven't received it despite it being a free gift given for all.

The world looks at Christmas as time off from work, family get-togethers with special foods, shopping and more shopping. What more could one ask for? I have personally seen that for non-followers of Christ, despite all the hoopla, it is not a cause for celebration but many times a cause for depression and loneliness.

Considering that we have been given the greatest gift, Christ Himself, how are we to share it? Jesus has said we aren't to put it under a bushel basket! The daily news is full of stories of division due to political affiliations, skin color, economic status, etc. I believe the best way to spread the gift of Christ and heal the divide is by the example of His love. Christ working in us will cause us to love those who to the world are unlovable, will clothe those in need and take care of widows and the poor. Loving those that don't love us back is not of this world since the most common response would be one of retaliation.

This brings me back to advent. The advent wreath is a tradition dating back to the 16th century in Germany. There are four candles around the wreath representing, Hope, Love, Joy and Peace with a white candle in the center as the "Christ candle" representing Purity.

As of this writing, we are starting the second week of advent which represents Love. *"For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son"*. In this dark world here is the Good News, the Light that will expose the darkness. It's the thing which I believe is the answer to what divides us. It was this ultimate act of Love that we celebrate at Christmas. *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given."* Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

continued on next page ...

Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry

Dan Peikert 715.377.6557
dandlpeikert@yahoo.com

Children's Church Ministry

Pastor Paul Linzmeier: 320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com

Coffee Ministry

Sandy Moe: 715.417.1812
sandy.klj@hotmail.com

Finance Administration

Pete Manship (Treasurer):
715.755.3330
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

GriefShare Adult Ministry

Connie B: 715.557.1431
conjoh1@gmail.com

GriefShare Youth Ministry

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945
robinmattson27@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry

Danielle Panik: 715.554.2214
dhischer@gmail.com

Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661
lrmilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djholm@lakeland.ws

Resource Center

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

Sunday Meal Services

Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or
715.755.3330
barb@pbmpkmanship.com

Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.220.6882
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Worship Ministry

Pastor Bennett Anderson:
920.395.8548
bennett.lyle86@gmail.com

Pastoral Pondering

...continued

Corinthians 13:13 states "So now faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love." Jesus, when asked to name the greatest commandment, stated "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" ~Matthew 22:36-39. Just take a moment and imagine a world where this is the norm. This is the reason Christ came as a human, to take on the sins of the world, to be crucified and to be raised from the dead so that we can be forgiven and made acceptable to God, and be declared righteous at the time of judgement, no longer needing to fear death. When we accept this gift of love from God, He pours out His love in our hearts by His Holy Spirit (Romans.5:5) and His love begins to transform our love - and we become His light in this dark world! Oh, what an ultimate gift!

Lastly, every week pastor Tony ends the service by saying "Remember we are loved by a great and awesome God." My prayers are for New Life during this busy Christmas season that each of us will take time to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas and tell others about the greatest act of Love in the history of the World.

Merry Christmas, Greg Mattson

Announcements and Upcoming Events

VIDEO MINISTRY

New Life video ministry is looking for camera operators. This is an opportunity to serve those who are unable to join us in person to worship Jesus Christ and to study God's Word on Sunday morning. You can sit with one of the camera operators to see what is involved, talk to anyone on the team about the ministry, or contact Jim Mabee @ 651.470.4172. We'd love to have you on the team.

GRIEFSHARE "SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS" EVENT

Grieving? Know someone who is? When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our "Surviving the Holidays" event helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future. Join us **THIS Thursday, December 13th at 6:00pm** for a buffet dinner, followed by Holiday Survival DVD from GriefShare, then a time of discussion (NEVER any pressure!). A Survival Guide booklet is included. This evening of support is free. Adults and ages 12-18 welcome. Please text or call Connie at 715.557.1431 or conjoh1@gmail.com for reservations.

SING AND SHARE

Sing and Share is next Sunday evening, **December 16th**. As we enter this season of celebrating the incarnation, let's gather together to lift our voices in joy-filled song. Also, during this evening, we will have an open mic to give opportunity for all who would like to share things such as the wondrous works of the Lord in your life, how Christ has drawn your gaze towards Him more this year or share a certain text from the Word that has served you this year. This is a great opportunity to encourage and spur on your brothers and sisters in Christ to keep trusting and looking to Jesus. **Join us @ 6:30pm** at the building and with a warm cup of hot cocoa or coffee in hand, let us rejoice that our Savior has come!

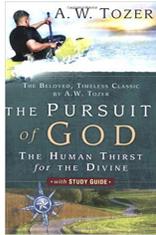
JANUARY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

With the absence of the annual Ladies Retreat, there is a new Christian Conference open to Men and Women taking place right here in the valley at Oak Forest Retreat Center in Frederic, WI **January 25th - 27th**. Do you hear my voice? Do you know my name? The **2019 Conference "He Seeks, the God of the Bible"** has limited space. For details please see the flier on the welcome table in the entrance or text Rene Germain at 715.417.4363.

Christmas Eve Service

Please join us **Monday, December 24th** for New Life's Christmas Eve service at **6:30pm** at the building. We will gather to sing, pray, and share in a short devotional. Though there will be many gifts given this month, one of the great gifts we receive being in Christ is true fellowship with Him and one another as it says in 1 John 1:3, "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." So please consider who you could invite: family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers that they too may receive Him as Lord and Savior and have true fellowship with Jesus Christ.

December News from the New Life Resource Center!



Are you familiar with the writings of A.W. Tozer? I have much enjoyed his way of communicating beautiful truths about God in a way that grabs my heart and imagination. In the Resource Center, we have his book "The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine." This book includes a study guide section at the end which includes helps for personal study and leaders, which is so useful for however you choose to read it. Chapters include topics such as: The Blessedness of Possession Nothing, Apprehending God, The Gaze of the Soul, and Meekness and Rest (and many more!). Here's a quote from the chapter "The Speaking Voice": "I believe that much of our religious unbelief is due to a wrong conception of and a wrong feeling for the Scriptures of Truth. A silent God suddenly began to speak in a book and when the book was finished lapsed back into silence again forever. Now we read the book as the record of what God said when He was for a brief time in a speaking mood. With notions like that in our heads how can we believe? The facts are that God is not silent, has never been silent. It is the nature of God to speak." This book and many others are available for purchase in the Resource Center, to help you in your own pursuit of God. ~Cory Mattson

December Memory Verse

Isaiah 9:6

"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." ESV

Fellowship Tip: Share with someone today what you have been learning as you are studying the Advent reading plan.

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

Dec 16 Meal Team #2
Dec 23 Meal Team #3

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

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com	
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com	
Pastor Bennett Anderson	920.395.8548
bennett.lyle86@gmail.com	
Cory Mattson - Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Paul Gilbertson	612.799.4865
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 @ NLCC:

Dec 12 Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Dec 12 Immerse Family Studies 6:15 pm
Dec 13 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
Dec 13 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am
Dec 13 ALL GriefShare Folks 6:00 pm
"Surviving the Holidays" Event
Dec 13 Ezekiel Bible Study 7-8:30 pm
Dec 16 Sing and Share 6:30 pm
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org
• Events • Sermons Online • New Life
Connect • Set Lists • & More

The logo for the book of Isaiah, featuring the word "Isaiah" in a white, stylized font on a dark blue background.

Today's Passage:

Pastor Bennett's message is from the Old Testament book,
Isaiah 9:1-7

Sermon Notes:

Address: 201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI ~ Email: info@newlifechristiancommunity.org
Sunday service starts at 9:30 am