



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 20, 2017

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GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28: 19-20

As you read this I am hoping that you were able to attend what I feel is one of the Highlights of the New Life calendar. Last Sunday 8 people were baptized at the ARC, proclaiming their faith in Christ and their intention to follow Him as new creations.

The thing that is so remarkable about the service is the recurring theme of God's redemption. The stories that have been told by those baptized this week and the past years have a common denominator. People have found themselves broken whether through addiction, divorce, failing health, financial ruins, family strife, physical or emotional abuse only to find refuge and healing in our Messiah Jesus and therefore being given New Life!

How many times have you felt compelled to tell a person about Jesus but walked away thinking there is no way they would be receptive to the Good News? They don't look like they would be typical Christian material from a human perspective, at least from your perspective. I have on many occasions been talking to a person and felt the Holy Spirit scream at me "just open your mouth". Upon walking away silent, I am left with the feeling of another missed opportunity. My personal daily prayer is that I may become more bold proclaiming the Gospel, thereby missing fewer opportunities in the future.

Luckily, God doesn't look at any of us as typical. He knew us before we were conceived and loves us unconditionally. The stories of those baptized this past week is proof of that. The stories are very similar to the prodigal son where the son takes his father's inheritance leaving home to party and squander away all he has while the older son stays home and does the responsible thing. The prodigal son finds himself broke financially and in spirit and returns home where his father sees him coming from afar and throws a massive party. I liken the party of the prodigal son to the baptism service here at New Life. We celebrate the homecoming of our fellow brothers and sisters and revel over the work Jesus has done in their lives. There is nothing more encouraging than hearing the testimonies.

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The testimony of His people is a powerful thing. Suffering and brokenness is a universal human experience which is crying for a solution. We know that the solution doesn't lie in things of this world like riches or medications. The simple truth is Jesus is It! He is the friend and hope of sinners.

My hopes in writing this pondering is to encourage you to tell people your testimony when speaking to the lost and the hurting knowing that you were there at one time, but now you have comfort in knowing that you are truly loved by a great and awesome God who continues redeeming the lost. May our testimonies cover the river valley and fall upon receptive hearts.

Thank you to all of you for sharing your stories this past Sunday. You are a real encouragement to the body of New Life.

In Christ, Greg Mattson

EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Family Night on the Overlook

This **Wednesday, August 23rd** join our fellow believers at "Family Night on the Overlook" in St Croix Falls - hosted by the Alliance Church of the Valley. Noah Burnett, the worship pastor at Hope Evangelical Free Church, will be leading us in song. It will be a time for the body of Christ to come together for a night of worship in a great setting! The gathering will start at 6:00pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own lawn chair and invite their friends and neighbors! As an added bonus, the Holy Donuts donut truck will be there offering their delicious, fresh made donuts for sale. See you there!

IMMERSE

Our Wednesday night Immerse season is just around the corner. We will be starting our Bible Studies for every age group the first week of September (**Wednesday, September 6th @6:00pm.**) We have exciting studies planned for the whole family. The New Life Adult Bible Study will begin this year with an exciting study called *"The God Who Is There."* The second half of the year we will be offering a dearly loved study called *"Shepherding a Child's Heart"* (among other "to be determined" adult studies).

AUGUST MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," (ESV)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

New Life Video Ministry

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. New Life video ministry is looking for camera operators. 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. Check us out, we would love to have you join our team!

IMMERSE is geared up to start very soon with great teachers, however, we are still in need of helpers for the children classes as well as a few people who love to care for infants and toddlers and can set aside upcoming Wednesday evenings to do so. While the children and adults are having Bible study during Immerse, the infants and toddlers play in the nursery/family center. Is there anyone out there who would lovingly care for the young-uns during that time? For the safety of the children, all volunteers will undergo a background check. Please let Pastor Chandler know if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

MOPS KIDS Workers Needed

MOPS and MOMS Next are thrilled to be moving their home to New Life this fall! MOPS exist to encourage and equip moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women and leaders, in relationship with Jesus, and in partnership with the local church. An essential function of our ministry is child-care during meetings (which we're in great need of!) allowing our moms to be refreshed and immerse in the growth opportunities presented. Our needs are the 1st Tuesday of each month (except Sept. and Jan.) from 8:45-11:15AM, and the 3rd Tuesday each month (except December) from 5:15-7:45PM. Plans and materials are provided along with a \$25 stipend each meeting. Interested in serving? Contact Lorraine Anderson with any questions you may have, or to submit your application (located in the foyer) at your earliest convenience!

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

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

Tune into our pastors' podcast at the beginning of each week through our website, or the podcast icon on your Wi-Fi device.

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

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

Aug 24 Men's Bible Study
6:30 am at NLCC
Aug 24 GriefShare Evening Meeting
6:30 pm NLCC Lg Classroom

Upcoming Potlucks/Meal Team:

Aug 27 Meal Team #3
Fellowship follows our service every
Sunday, along with a great meal.



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
[Mark 13:3-13](#)

Sermon Notes:

