



# 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, September 23, 2018

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## PASTORAL PONDERING

### Taking Jesus' Lead

*"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

~ Matthew 16:18

These are Jesus' words to the disciples. The elders here at New Life spend much time praying for God's lead in decisions affecting New Life. The most recent major decision has been how to proceed with youth ministry. It is clear that young adults are leaving the faith after graduating from high school. Recent statistics according to data from The Southern Baptist Convention demonstrate that 70% of teenagers involved in church youth groups stop attending church within two years of their high school graduation. Another study points out that 63% of teenagers attending church don't believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God. 51% don't believe Jesus rose from the dead and 68% don't believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity. Now I'm sure that isn't the case here at New Life, but it points out the crisis the church is currently facing here in America. Jesus states "He" is building the church but like everything in life we think we have a better plan. If we remain rigid, focused on programs without Christ's lead, the church will continue to see the mass exodus of the young from our churches across the US. We here at New Life believe God is calling us to change course which is admittedly difficult to do at times.

On the other hand, isn't it comforting to know that Jesus is in charge of growing His church? It can't be based on following an equation from the latest best seller on church growth or by building an impressive building. It can't be based on the pastor or a worship band with all the bells, whistles. It will only have healthy, lasting growth when the church is focused on "Only Jesus," as our sign declares.

When faced with difficult decisions here at New Life - or in our own lives - how should we proceed? Prayer is the first place we go. Jesus went to the Father in prayer continually, and certainly when faced with difficulties. Like Jesus, we must ask God for wisdom; with the help of the Holy Spirit, the decision reached shouldn't lead to anxiety or worry. Here at New Life major decisions like adding a pastor, budget decisions or changing the way youth ministry is done are backed by fervent prayer. In this way we are unified and comfortable, at peace with the direction we are moving, as it isn't based on our own lead. Secondly, we must make decisions based on Scripture. We can't base a decision on something that

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## Ministry Directory:

**Building & Grounds Ministry**  
Dan Peikert 715.377.6557  
[dandlpeikert@yahoo.com](mailto:dandlpeikert@yahoo.com)

**Children's Church Ministry**  
Pastor Paul Linzmeier:  
320.226.5581  
[pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com)

**Children's Nursery Ministry**  
Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799  
[fugate.sara@gmail.com](mailto:fugate.sara@gmail.com)

**Coffee Ministry**  
Sandy Moe: 715.417.1812  
[sandy.klj@hotmail.com](mailto:sandy.klj@hotmail.com)

**Finance Administration**  
Pete Manship (Treasurer):  
715.755.3330  
[financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org](mailto:financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org)

**GriefShare Ministry**  
Connie B: 715.557.1431  
[conjoh1@gmail.com](mailto:conjoh1@gmail.com)

**Meal Relief Ministry**  
Danielle Panik: 715.554.2214  
[dhischer@gmail.com](mailto:dhischer@gmail.com)

**Missions Outreach**  
Lorraine Milner:  
715.557.0661  
[lrmilner@gmail.com](mailto:lrmilner@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Administration**  
Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453  
[djholm@lakeland.ws](mailto:djholm@lakeland.ws)

**Resource Center**  
Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945  
[cory79mattson@hotmail.com](mailto:cory79mattson@hotmail.com)

**Sunday Meal Services**  
Barb Manship: 612.804.9793  
or 715.755.3330  
[barb@pbmpkmanship.com](mailto:barb@pbmpkmanship.com)

**Transportation Services**  
Art Behr: 715.220.6882  
[behrden1@charter.net](mailto:behrden1@charter.net)

**Video Ministry**  
Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
[jmabee@centurytel.net](mailto:jmabee@centurytel.net)

## PASTORAL PONDERING *continued from first page*

would go against God's Word, for it is our compass. So, we work together, seeking counsel in prayer, in God's Word, and in each other. *"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed"* (Proverbs 15:22), true also in marriage, where we shouldn't make major decisions without involving our spouses. I have found that Cory has better discernment regarding many issues and going against that tends to have a poor outcome. I have no peace if we don't make the decision together.

Cory and I have been blessed to be a part of the original group of people who initially met with a God-stirred desire for a church that was different from ones we had come from. We knew nothing about church planting, had no financial backing, no business experience, no seminary degrees and no pastor. We met at El Salem Baptist Church on Saturday nights using videos to study the Word and enjoyed a meal following the service with the people who came (which we still do!).

When the time came to consider a pastor, a group of us sat down and listed the characteristics of the future pastor we would like. We quickly concluded we wanted Jesus to be our pastor. Only Jesus.

Our gracious God has blessed New Life from the beginning. We have never been short of finances. When we outgrew our second meeting space, this current building was given to us in a deal that only God could have orchestrated. We've been blessed with great pastors and are able to give ongoing support to several wonderful missionaries. In the time that New Life has been in existence, we've had to say goodbye to 3 pastors, most recently Pastor Chandler who is greatly missed. We continue to be blessed by the arrival of Pastor Paul and, soon, Pastor Bennett. God continues to orchestrate every move. Pastor Bennett's house has already sold as he prepares for the impending move. It's almost like God had something to do with this?

Lastly, I come to you here today. We thank God for every one of you, for He has called you here. He has given each of you specific gifts like music ministry, hospitality, teaching, finance, building knowledge, prayer, missions, encouragement, etc. to be used for His Glory and to build up His church. Look around you as you read this and see that we are a healthy church body made up of all ages young and old. It is our desire that we be one body centered in Jesus alone and without division. Now what does that look like to the outside world?

As a nation we are much like Israel of the book of Judges. We are turning further and further from God. We have taken for granted what God has done in this nation, removing him from our schools. We have turned to gods like self, money, fame, etc. Oh, how we need a Savior. May New Life be known for eternity as the church built by Jesus so that gates of hell shall not prevail against it!

In Christ, Greg Mattson

*“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.’” (ESV)*

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

### MINISTRY TEAM FAIR

Reminder, the Ministry Team Fair is **after service today!** If you're interested in serving and being a part of the various ministries at New Life, check out the many ways to be involved. Just pass through the tables in the large classroom on your way to the kitchen after service. These ministries are a great opportunity to put into practice the gifts that God has given each one of us.

### CALL TO PRAYER

**Every Sunday morning @ 8:30-9:00am** in the large classroom we have a time of prayer. Everyone is encouraged to come, as you are able. We have already seen much fruit in God graciously answering many prayers and working in our own hearts. We serve a great and awesome God who hears our prayers! Let us make every effort to gather often and pray.

### MOP SEED TREE

This is designated as a fundraiser to help support the MOPS meetings. If you feel lead to support, take an envelope and put the designated amount in it or the number of envelopes that equals the amount you chose to donate, fill it and place in slot in the middle base of the tree. This tree will be here until **October 7th** then will go visit another church. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

**FELLOWSHIP TIP:** During the welcome today, try to greet/introduce yourself to someone a generation younger and a generation older than you.

#### Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

Sep 30 Meal Team #1  
Oct 7 Potluck Team #2

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

#### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
<a href="mailto:galatiansii20@yahoo.com">galatiansii20@yahoo.com</a>	
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581
<a href="mailto:pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com">pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com</a>	
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:

Sep 26	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm at NLCC
Sep 26	Immerse Family Studies 6:15-7:30 pm at NLCC
Sep 27	Men's Bible Study 6:30 am at NLCC
Sep 27	Women's Bible Study 9:30 am at NLCC
Sep 27	Adult & Youth GriefShare (meet separately) 6:30-8:30 pm at NLCC
Sep 27	Ezekiel Bible Study 7-8:30 pm at NLCC

Check out New Life Online  
[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

Find Links to:

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



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,  
**Judges 14:1-20**

Sermon Notes: