



Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
Mark 7:31-37

Sermon Notes:



201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI -Sunday service starts at 9:30 am ~ Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 236, Osceola, WI 54020 or email info@newlifechristiancommunity.org

Welcome as We Celebrate the Glory of Jesus!



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, January 8, 2017

Vol. 10, Issue 14

Pastoral Pondering

Spiritual Health

We are in the thick of it, but at least we are all in it together. It is cold season. Snot runs freely from chapped, cracked, and dried noses. Sneezes fly through the air easily working their way through the poor covering our fingers make and around the wall the crook of our elbow tries to establish. The germs are rampant and loving it. Coughing fills our homes, workplaces, and church buildings echoing from one person to the next. Throats are swollen, sore, red, and achy. Have you been tested for strep? Many have. Sleep comes with great difficulty because when we decide to rest our weary worn out bodies our sinuses decide, "Hey, this has to be the very best time to expel all that nastiness that's collected in us all day, right?" The night is difficult and so our slumber that is meant to refresh our weakened frames becomes an exhausting endeavor to aggressively blow all the goop and gunk away.

As I write this pondering, my young children and lovely wife have been stricken with the cold plague. Poor Rinna and Salem can hardly see because their eyes are crusted shut with greenish flakes that are relentlessly caking to their eyelids. My dear wife is trying to be a caring mother to these sick children when she herself is battling the woes of the cold. Sleep escaped us all last night and so we walk around as coughing zombies trying to make it through the day.

Praise be to God, though, that with modern medicine and cold-relief practices as old as time, we have been graciously given methods for coping with the nasty sickness that so easily entangles our weak bodies. My house is filled with sleek looking humidifiers that are filling the air with the moisture we so desperately need in the midst of this dry winter. If things get too bad our children can have medicine to ease their pain and to bring them more readily back to health. We have thermometers that help us monitor the temperature of our children. This information gives us wisdom on what our children need. Daytime cold medicine relieves us adults from the onslaught of side effects brought on by the virus. Nighttime cold medicine gives us some sort of shelter as we try to gain access to

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Visitor Card

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- ☐ First-Time Visitor
☐ Returning Visitor

Name:

Date:

Email:

Phone:

How to access the sermon archives:

If you would like a copy of an audio (CD) or video (DVD) of a sermon from our archives (\$2 per copy), please complete the following and drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room. Your order will be available for pick-up at the video booth the following week.

Name:

Sermon Date:

Scripture Passage:

To download sermons for free, go to
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below then drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below:

This may be added to our congregation prayer wall

Share this only with the pastor and elders

Optional:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front of the church immediately following the service.

Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry
Jim Nelson 651.283.2132
lynnjimmelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry
Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry
Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799
fugate.sara@gmail.com

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

GriefShare Ministry
conjoh1@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry
Julie Minell: 715.417.1981
mrs.minell@yahoo.com

Missions Outreach
Lorraine Milner:
715.557.0661
lrnilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration
Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djholm@lakeland.ws

Sunday Meal Services
Barb Manship:
612.804.9793 or
715.755.3330
bmanship55@hotmail.com

Transportation Services
Eve Bjork: 715.497.6418
sofiesydney@yahoo.com
and,

Art Behr: 715.220.6882
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry
Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Youth Group Ministry
Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Pastoral Pondering

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the all-important sleep we need.

When we get the cold, it's easy to tell. As I have tried to graphically depict above, signs bear witness to the invasion of a virus. The nose tells us with snot, the chest tells us with coughs and pain, the throat makes it clear as it swells, and the head proclaims it with throbbing aches.

What about our spiritual lives? What if we begin to neglect our relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and so, in a sense, become spiritually sick? Are there signs for this? What can we do to find our spiritual health again?

Pause and ask yourself a couple of questions: Does the study of God's Word seem like a chore? Do you get bored easily on Sunday mornings when the Word is taught? Do you sing the songs of the church with joy or do you open your mouth hoping no one will notice you're just lip-syncing? Does serving others come naturally or is it something that you force upon yourself so you look like a good, healthy Christian? Do you treasure the simple gospel – Jesus took on all that we deserve

Announcements & Events:

Elder Board News:

Jim Nelson has been nominated to join the New Life Elder Board. Please take some time to get to know him and pray for him as we approach our annual business meeting on January 21st.

New Life Business Meeting:

ATTN New Life Partners! Mark your calendars for this meeting as this should be a priority. Our annual business meeting is on January 21st at 11:00 AM at the building. If you are unable to attend, please provide a heads-up. We are looking forward to this meeting and hope to see all our New Life Partners there.

Ruby's Food Pantry Distribution "Sharing and Caring through Food"

Home & Away Ministries Ctr, 210 Park Ave E, Luck

Tuesday, January 17th 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

\$20 cash donation

IMPORTANT: Bring 2 laundry baskets/boxes to carry food.

Please consider helping someone who can't drive but would benefit from this opportunity to restock their own pantry.

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to give us all that He deserved – every single day? These questions can help us realize if we have a spiritual cold or not.

After Paul spoke to Timothy about the gospel and Timothy's spiritual health, he wrote, *"Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching" ~1 Timothy 4:15-16a.* Just as we keep a watch on our physical health we need to keep a consistent gauge on our spiritual health because, as the old hymn says, our hearts are prone to wander.

Do you have a spiritual cold? I have four simple suggestions. (1) Pray to God. Give thanks to God for all the blessings He has graciously given you. Beseech Him for wisdom. Ask Him for spiritual health. (2) Open His Word with drive. Don't simply read random passages or a short verse. Immerse yourself in His Word and study deeply the life-gushing fountain. (3) Worship God. Surrender the worship of other things and make much of God in word, deed, and thought. (4) Finally, and maybe most importantly, return to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remind yourself of the grace of God in the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at *Ephe'sians 2:1-10* and realize that God has saved you even when you were spiritually dead as a free gift of His loving kindness.

We may have colds, but God has given us everything we need for spiritual life. Let's pursue relationships with God that are free of coughs, goopy noses, and headaches. Let's follow hard after God. We're in this together.

In Christ, Pastor Chandler

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com	
Pastor Chandler Wiley	815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com	
Cory Mattson ~ Secretary:	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Paul Gilbertson	715.755.3517
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185

Upcoming Potlucks & Meal Teams:

Jan 15	Meal Team #7
Jan 22	Meal Team #1

Fellowship follows our service every Sunday, along with a great meal.



Please Stay and
Join Us!

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Jan 11	Immerse Family Studies 6:30-7:45 p.m. at NLCC
Jan 12	Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. at NLCC building
Jan 12	Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. at NLCC building
Jan 21	Partner's Business Meeting 11:30 a.m. at NLCC building

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

• Events • Sermons Online •
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.

January Memory Verse:

1John 4:19

"We love because he first loved us." (ESV)