

Join us as we celebrate only 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

Sun, January 1, 2023

Vol. 16, Issue 12

## Pastoral Ponderings

### A New Year

New Year’s Day is the first day of a new calendar. In some cultures it’s the day when everyone celebrates their birthdays no matter when they were born in the year. (That would make it easy for a husband to remember his wife’s birthday, but it also gives no excuse for forgetting. They would still need to remember their wedding anniversary.)

We make a big deal about that one day and celebrate. But what are we actually celebrating? It would be premature to celebrate a year when we have no idea what it will bring? How many of us would have celebrated 2020 on New Year’s Day if we had known what that year would bring? In some cases, like 2020, we celebrate when the year is over.

New Year’s Day is just one day. It’s only 1/365<sup>th</sup> of most years. Why make a big deal about it?

Once New Year’s Day is past, we start our new membership at the gym. We still have a “few” pounds to deal with after the Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts. (Yes, we call them “holidays,” but the ancient Hebrews had the right idea when they called their “holidays” “feasts.”) We plan to go to the gym five days a week. We quickly realize five days is too much work, too tiring, and makes for sore muscles, so we scale it back to three days a week. It becomes zero days a week very quickly. The workout-at-the-gym resolution only lasts a couple weeks. Two weeks is only about 1/26<sup>th</sup> of the year. Why make a big deal about it?

The Bible has a much better perspective.

*Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!* [Psalm 105:4, ESV]

“Continually” means all 365 days of each year and all 24 hours of each day, including New Year’s Day. It’s more impressive if we think of it as 1,440 minutes or 86,400 seconds of each day. That’s what “continually” means; it doesn’t end. A good synonym is “unceasingly.” This represents quite a contrast with emphasizing one day or a couple weeks.

Did you notice that the word, “seek,” is in the verse twice? The repetition in most modern translations obscures the fact that the Hebrew uses two different words.

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## Pastoral Ponderings cont.

The NIV and the Jewish Publication Society translation (JPS) distinguish the two with “look to” and “seek” (NIV) and “turn to” and “seek” (JPS).

The second “seek” (Hebrew *baqash*) is the simpler word as far as meaning goes. It means simply *seek* or *look for*.

The first “seek” (Hebrew *darash*), however, is more nuanced in its meaning. Depending on the context and the understanding of the translator, it can be translated *seek*, *inquire about*, *care about*, *worship* (when God is the object), *be intent on something*, *seek a word* [from the Lord], and more. There’s a greater intensity with this word.

The two objects of this kind of seeking, what we are to seek so intensely, are the Lord and His strength. Therefore, *worship* or *be intent on* would be good translation options. Even if we seek the Lord and His strength continuously and intensely, both the Lord and His strength are incomprehensible. We will never comprehend their depths. Yet as we seek to grasp *something* about them, we gain understanding and increasing desire to continue seeking. We cannot exhaust this kind of seeking.

May this new year be one in which we truly seek the Lord and His strength in all the fullness of what that means. If we do, it will be a blessed year in spite of any bad things that may happen.

Oh, yes: Happy New Year from your brother, Jay Swisher



## New Life Directory

If you would like to be included in our directory or have additions or changes, please send your information to: [nlccdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:nlccdirectory@gmail.com)

## Ministry Directory

### Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837  
[oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com](mailto:oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com)

### Coffee Ministry

Sandy Moe, 715.417.1812  
[sandy.klj@hotmail.com](mailto:sandy.klj@hotmail.com)

### Finance Administration

Bruce Gilliland (Treasurer),  
715.338.2580  
[financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org](mailto:financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org)

### Greeting Card Ministry

Lynn Nelson, 651.373.1426  
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### GriefShare Ministry

Robin Mattson, 715.566.1945  
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### Immerse Ministry

Ana Smith, 715.566.3740  
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### Meal Relief Ministry

Kristin Stephan, 651.235-1681  
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### Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner, 715.557.0661  
[lrmliner@gmail.com](mailto:lrmliner@gmail.com)

### Music Ministry

Jeff Warren, 316.308.0833  
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### Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm, 715.472.8453  
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### Resource Center

Cory Mattson, 715.417.0945  
[cory79mattson@hotmail.com](mailto:cory79mattson@hotmail.com)

### Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins,  
309.269.0556  
[bjdarnell@hotmail.com](mailto:bjdarnell@hotmail.com)

### Transportation Services

Art Behr, 715-557-1890  
[behrden1@charter.net](mailto:behrden1@charter.net)

### Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172  
[jmabee@centurytel.net](mailto:jmabee@centurytel.net)

## Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

### This Week's Schedule of Events

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Women's Precepts– 6:30-8 pm
Tues	Young Adult Study– 6:30 pm
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Wed	No Immerse-Resumes 1/11
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:00 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

### Meal Teams

1/8	Meal Team 7 (sloppy joes)
1/15	Meal Team 8 (Soup, salad)

Contact *Barbara Judkins* if interested in joining a meal team.

### Fellowship Tip for January

Often January is a time for new beginnings, make sure to share with someone this month the "new beginning" you have in Christ by sharing your testimony. Share of your coming to saving faith in Jesus, and by his grace, what He is currently doing each day in your life to draw you to treasure Him above all things and to call you pursue making Him known to others.

### January Memory Verse

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! ~Psalm 105:4, ESV

### Pastoral Eldership Team

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982 galatiansii20@yahoo.com
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581 pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com
Pastor Jeff Warren	316.308.0833 pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com
Cory Mattson, Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Matt Leko	651.465.3154
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

## Announcements

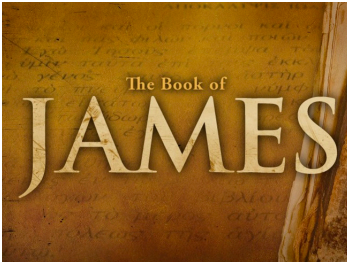
**All New Life women and young girls,** Please come celebrate the bride-to-be Margo Richter! We will be having a devotion, dessert, games, and showering the bride with gifts. Your gift doesn't have to be big, your presence is present enough. *When:* January 15, 2023, 2-4 pm *Where:* New Life Christian Community Church *RSVP at:* margosweddingshower.rsvpify.com

This is a new ministry to shower brides-to-be and mom's-to-be with fellowship, prayer, and encouragement. This was a wonderful blessing to many young women at my former church and I wanted to share it with the New Life Community. Would you like to help out (occasionally or more)? I would love your help in blessing our young women! Thanks, Jenny Steward Please contact me with any questions or help at: 612-860-6148

**Partners, Save the Date:** New Life Partners make sure to add to your calendars our Annual Partners Meeting Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 12:30pm. Items that will be voted on include the 2023 Budget, Colleen Firkus filling the Treasurer position, Phil Rice being added to audit committee, and the elder board would like to recognize Brian Nelson as a new elder. If you haven't gotten to meet these brothers and sisters we encourage you to take a moment and connect with them before the meeting in Jan.

**Bible Reading Plan:** You are encouraged to join us in reading through the Robert Murray M'Cheyne bible reading plan this year 2023. There are printed copies on the welcome that you can take and additionally you can follow along on the New Life App under the bible tab. The plan is nicely laid out for individual and family study with about 4 chapters to read each day. As a body, whether in through this plan or another pattern, lets encourage each other to keep in the Word.

## Today's Passage



Pastor Paul will be teaching from  
the book of James.  
Our passage for today is James 4:1-10.

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Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • [nlcc.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:nlcc.dresser@gmail.com)

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at [pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com)