

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 21, 2024

Vol. 17, Issue 16

## Pastoral Ponderings

Growing up, if I was asked, "What are your favorite Bible verses?" I would have quickly answered, "Matthew 28:18-20" our Savior's final earthly words and the exclamation point of the book of Matthew.

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

For a passage that I had memorized at a young age, the phrase "teaching them to observe" had slipped by me too easily for over 2 score and 3 years (don't calculate that). Let's look a bit more closely at those words.

What exactly does "teaching them to observe" mean?

Typically, when we read this text, we conclude that Jesus was commanding his disciples to tell people to obey His commands. We readily surmise, after all Jesus had done (spelled out in the rest of the book of Matthew), now His disciples were called to tell people to obey what He had said – In short, 'Obey... Do this... Don't do that.'

Though we want people to obey Him, this conclusion really misses the point of Jesus' words. Is Christianity meant to be a movement characterized by a list of does and don'ts? If so, Christianity sounds a lot like every other religion under heaven.

The Old Testament is filled with the commands of our Savior. In fact, every God-given command in the Old (and New) Testament (starting in the garden of Eden) – was given by the Lord. Jesus Christ is the Word of God – the means by which the commands have been given to us from God. When Moses held in his hands the ten "words" (which we westerners translate "commands"), it was Jesus who gave us those words/commands. When He told Moses, "take off your sandals," he was beholding Jesus' command.

So, when Jesus was giving His final earthly instructions, was He merely saying – once again, "Tell people to obey me!"? was that his final word to His disciples? Hey! Sinner – Obey!

Sadly, this has become the game plan for many organizations. It's attractive because it's simple and clear-cut: Just educate people and they will become holy.

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## Pastoral Ponderings cont.

What finally occurred to me, was that Jesus was not redundantly telling people to obey. No, Jesus was sending His disciples out in order to teach people *how* to obey.

This is the unique message of Christianity. This is what Christ does. He proclaims the key for us to *actually* obey. For all of history (except for two early chapters) mankind has not known *how* to obey the Lord. Until we knew Jesus, we did not have the key.

Did you notice what Jesus sends them out *with*? When He calls the disciples to go forth – He does so while giving them Himself, “Behold! *I AM with you always, to the end of the age.*” They go forth *with* Christ and are called to proclaim what *Christ* has done.

At the final exclamation point in the book of Matthew, Jesus expects that we bring the message of the life, death and resurrection of Himself to the world (which are the contents of the book that these words conclude). And as we do that, we must recognize that Jesus is with us and in us proclaiming His message to a lost world.

Thus, it is Christ (and His life) who is the key to our obedience (and our proclamation of it). *He* is the one who has “all authority” to transform sinners into obedient children. And if we don’t proclaim *Christ*, there is no hope – no matter how earnestly we call people to obey.

You want to know how to finally obey – Look and cling to Jesus.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tony

## New Life Directory Update!

If you would like to be included in our updated directory please fill out this electronic form by using the QR Code. We will also be taking photos for the next 3 weeks in the classroom by the kitchen and can assist with taking your info.



## Ministry Directory

### Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837  
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

### Coffee Ministry

Ana Smith, 715.566.3740  
anajoy87@gmail.com

### Finance Administration

Colleen Firkus (Treasurer),  
612-889-7581  
c.a.firkus@gmail.com

### GriefShare Ministry

Robin Mattson, 715.566.1945  
robinmattson27@gmail.com

### Immerse Ministry

Mindy Havlish, 715- 494-0410  
havlishm@gmail.com

### Meal Relief Ministry

Kristin Stephan, 651.235-1681  
kristin@kageinnovation.com

### Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner, 715.557.0661  
lrmilner@gmail.com

### Music Ministry

Jeff Warren, 715-553-2405  
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

### Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm, 715.472.8453  
djhholm@lakeland.ws

### Resource Center

Cory Mattson, 715.417.0945  
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

### Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins,  
309.269.0556  
bjdarnell@hotmail.com

### Transportation Services

Art Behr, 715-557-1890  
behrden1@charter.net

### Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172  
jmabee@centurytel.net

## Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

### This Week's Schedule of Events

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Wed	Immerse– 6:15 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm

(Adults & Youth meet separately)

### Meal Teams

1/28	Meal Team 2
2/4	Meal Team 3

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

### Fellowship Tip for January

Have you committed yourself to invest in the work of gospel ministry here at New Life and want to learn more about what it means to become a partner? Take a moment and talk to one of the elders or pastors and they would be glad to begin that process with you.

### January Memory Verse

Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

### 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	715-553-2405 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
Brian Nelson	651.323.4253
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

## Announcements

**Immerse Snacks Needed!:** Now that we have begun a new semester of Immerse, we are again in need of snacks for the children's classes. Granola bars, fruit snacks, small bags of chips or goldfish are just a few of the helpful snack items to donate to the Immerse cupboard. Thank you!

**Attention College & Career young adults:** Sunday, February 11, we will be grabbing coffee at 3 Arrows after church. Hope to see you there!

**Annual Partners Meeting:** today after service @ 12:00pm! Join us for a time of sharing and celebrating the work of our Lord Jesus Christ this past year and praying for His continual guidance for the year to come. Even if you are not a partner, you are welcomed to join.

**Options for Women annual Walk for Life is today @ 3pm!** The walk starts and ends at St. Josephs in Osceola with snacks and drinks afterwards. This is a great local ministry caring for the unborn and providing many services to struggling mothers. While there you can learn more about the ministry and ways to help support.

**Hall of Men** is back next Sunday 6:30pm at the building! Look forward to fellowship centered on the core confessions of the Faith and a presentation on the work of Jesus Christ in another ordinary man used mightily in history by an extraordinary God.

**Kinship of Polk County** is looking for volunteers. If you are interested or want to know more about the level of commitment or expectations of volunteers just reach out to Karalee @ karalee.polkkinship@gmail.com. There are 2 informational meeting coming up in the next 2 weeks. Fliers with more details are on the welcome counter.

## Today's Passage



# Jesus

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According to Samuel

Pastor Tony will be teaching from  
the book of Samuel.  
Our passage for today is 1 Samuel 17:40-47.

715-201-2295 • 201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI

[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

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)