

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, February 25, 2024

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Pastoral Ponderings

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Something hit me while reading the previous verses a few years ago. I knew that rejoicing, praying and giving thanks are things we should be doing, but it struck me that they are God's *will* for us in Christ Jesus. This is what He would have in store for us every single day of our lives.

These verses give us three simple commands: rejoice, pray, give thanks. The Apostle Paul also states the reason why we are to do these things: this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.

But what if the opposite of this was His will for us? What if we were told to, "always be discontent, negative and dissatisfied; never look to God, talk with Him or trust Him completely; complain, grumble, be bitter and irritable in most situations"? Unfortunately, this is often where we tend to reside throughout our day. I need to be reminded that this is *not* the will of God for us. I need to be reminded to Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks! And remember, these are not mere suggestions by God.

There are also two explanations of timing (always, without ceasing) and specific circumstances in which we must give thanks: all of them. But again, we often live our lives diluting the timing of these commands; "I'll rejoice *when* I feel like it, so maybe tomorrow; I'm praying to God because I need an answer from Him in the next five minutes! but I tend to forget to pray when everything is going fine; if something good happens to me I'll thank God, but that's pretty rare." Always. Without ceasing. In all circumstances.

Obedying these commands doesn't just come from self-will or choosing to have a chipper attitude. These actions are an overflow of the *heart* for those who are in Christ Jesus. And we need *God* to change our hearts. This occurs as the grace of the gospel grows deep in us as God sanctifies us to look more like His Son. Therefore, preach the gospel to yourself every day and be amazed that Jesus Christ shed His blood for you. We also need God's help to see beyond our feelings, attitudes and circumstances, knowing that it is He Who is Lord over our lives.

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Pastoral Ponderings cont.

This does *not* mean we try to ignore the brokenness of this world; this does *not* mean we are to just “put on a happy a face”; this does *not* mean we should shutdown the feelings and emotions that well up within us. Paul stated that he himself was, “...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;” (2 Corinthians 6:10a). Often, the hurt of this world can brutally weigh us down. We live amongst a fallen world. But, *amidst* the hardships of our lives, God still calls us to rejoice, pray and give thanks. In my own life, I’ve seen how putting these three commands into practice renews my mind, lifts my soul and refocuses me onto Jesus, my Lord and Savior.

Let us approach Him as needy, helpless children (daily!) knowing that, *in* Christ Jesus, we can always rejoice, we can pray without end and give thanks in any situation. His ways are *always* for our good and for His glory.

- pastor jeff

welcome

If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months we are glad you are joining with us! If you would like to learn more about New Life be sure to stop by the Resource Center in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. In addition, you’re invited to join us for our meal after service. We would love to meet you and get to know and for you to get to know us more.

NLCC
Resource Center

Looking for a good book to give as a gift or thinking of starting a bible study? Check out our resource center and ask the resource ministry team for some good suggestions. In addition to good books for both adults and children, there are also music CD’s, DVD documentaries, bible concordance, systematic theology books, and much more. Take a look today after service.

Ministry Directory

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837
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Coffee Ministry

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Immerse Ministry

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Meal Relief Ministry

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Music Ministry

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Newsletter Administration

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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
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Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

This Week's Schedule of Events

Mon	Prayer Night/Barton's-- 6:30 pm
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

3/3	Meal Team 7
3/10	Meal Team 8

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

Fellowship Tip for February

Consider the needs of the elderly, widows/widowers and those homebound in our fellowship. Consider reaching out to someone this week with a phone call, visit, invite to your home, or inquire perhaps about a need that can be shared for the body to come alongside in meeting.

February Memory Verse

Romans 5:1

"Therefore since we have been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Pastoral Eldership Team

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982 galatiansii20@yahoo.com
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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

Women of New Life!: You are invited to join us for a 2-part book discussion of Andrew Naselli and J. D. Crowley's book "*Conscience: What it is, How to Train it, and Loving Those Who Differ*". We will meet Tuesday, March 5, to discuss chapters 1-4 and Tuesday, March 19, chapters 5-7. Both meetings will take place at Julie's house, 2212 73rd Ave, Osceola, at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please reach out to Julie 715-417-1981 or Megan 715-553-8369

Men, Save the Date: 2024 St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat is on the horizon. Coming up April 12-13 men, young and old, from all over the valley will gather at Oak Forest Retreat Center in Frederic for a rich time in receiving the preaching of the Word, engaging the text in group discussions, and enjoying fellowship with one another in Christ. Keep your eye out for a brochure and registration in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about the retreat or registration just talk to Pastor Paul.

Genesis Study: this Tuesday at Fawn Bland's home, 6:30pm. Address: 18099 Franconia Trl. Shafer MN 55074. Bring your bibles, an instrument, a friend, and a heart ready to learn and grow in the Word.

Monday night Prayer: is back at the Barton's! 6:30pm each week: 2489 Beede Lake Trail St. Croix Falls.

Hall of Men: tonight 6:30pm. Men young and old, let's look again at the mighty redeeming work of Jesus in the life of another man of the Faith in history.

Today's Passage



Jesus

According to Samuel

Pastor Tony will be teaching from
the book of Samuel.

Our passage for today is 1 Samuel 19:1-10.

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newlifechristiancommunity.org

Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • nlcc.dresser@gmail.com

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com