



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, March 8, 2020

Vol. 13, Issue 21

PASTORAL PONDERING

Christianity is DONE

"And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has Life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

1 John 5:11-13

I know its human nature to ponder the meaning of one's life. When you are very young you may ask questions like "what's for dinner" or "what are we going to do today?" Those are the types of things that I focused on, not thinking much into the future. As I grew older, I began to ponder things like "what will I be when I grow up" and "will Cory go on a date with me on Valentine's Day" 40 plus years ago? SHE SAID YES! Then there were questions about which College to go to and, finally, would Cory marry me? SHE SAID YES AGAIN!

Eventually I ended up deciding to go to medical school changing my degree from marine biology. It seemed like my whole life and all my energy were focused in this one direction towards one goal. I finally made it through the crazy hours of residency being up for 36 hours every other day which seemed like forever. Cory and I were lucky enough to become parents to 3 wonderful kids and life got busier. Eventually we moved to Osceola for a job. I was blessed for 25 years to work at Osceola Medical Center.

Now I am retired, and I'm left with the question "what's next?" I must admit that I still miss seeing everyone and I remain a little lost, trying to figure out where God has me going next! Possessing more free time gives one a chance to reflect on life. The one thing I do know - and was faced with it on a daily basis - is that life is short. What's next?

Death is inevitable. Over the 25 years here in Osceola, I unfortunately have lost patients/friends from newborns to those over 100 years old. Unfortunately, it is part of the human condition which began in the Garden of Eden but was conquered on the cross!

As Christians we have comfort in knowing that our life here is only temporary, but we have an eternal life because God gave us eternal life in His Son. I read an interesting article recently which was titled "Christianity is DONE". I assumed it was an article which would be critical of Christianity, but it was stating the obvious about our eternal life and salvation. It was written by a pastor who has

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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been asked many times “how are you to know that you are saved?” Getting back to questions, this is the most important question one should ask. The article pointed out the same thing we hear every Sunday, our salvation isn’t dependent upon what we “DO” but what has been “DONE” for us. We can rest assured in our salvation and eternal life because of what Jesus our High Priest did once and for all on the cross. We are asked to believe this and then repent and thereby know that you have eternal life.

The very thought our sins have been covered by the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross should cause us to break out in Praise, Adoration and Worship of our Savior Jesus Christ. *“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no man can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

This is great news but, for many of us, we have loved ones who are rejecting the gift. We need to continue in prayer for their eyes to be opened, for ears to hear and hearts to be softened to the Good News and to accept the gift given through the ultimate sacrifice.

Blessings, Greg Mattson



God has answered prayer and now the Miron's are on their way to Ireland!! They will be having a sending off party on **Saturday March 14th**, the day before they leave. If you are interested in seeing them off here are the details for the event:

Where: Tim and Andrea Zajicek's home (close friends of the Miron's) - 5628 Garden Dr, Woodbury Minnesota 55129

When: 4 PM to 9 PM on **Saturday March 14th**. Come and go as you please.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- ❖ Starting this week, there will be an **'Open Clean Night'** from **6:30pm-8:30pm and continuing every Thursday evening** for anyone wanting to volunteer and serve in keeping our building clean. Tasks would include basic cleaning, sweeping, mopping, dusting, etc. Many hands make light work. If you're interested or know of someone that is in need of volunteer hours, please contact Kelli Carlson for more information.
- ❖ **Kid Choir!** Pastor Bennett is looking for a bunch of kids (ages 5ish - 12ish?) to start an occasional "kid choir" for Sunday services. We'll practice the next few weeks in one of the classrooms after the service. Let him know if you're interested.
- ❖ Come and support **Gospel Joy International** with a dinner and silent auction on **March 12, 2020 @ 6:00 pm** hosted at Bethlehem Baptist Church South Campus. Also, during the evening will be music and a message from Pastor Jason Meyer. One of our own missionaries Emily Pohl is the director of the ministry Gospel Joy. Check out our website under the overseas missions page for more information about the ministry Emily is doing with Gospel Joy in Africa.
- ❖ **Movie Showing:** Tri-County Options for Women is sponsoring a showing of the movie *Unplanned*. New Life will be hosting this free showing at the building **March 20th starting @ 6:30pm**. Feel free to invite others to attend. You can find a flyer for the event on the welcome table.
- ❖ **Marriage Study:** Whether you are single or have been married for 2 years or 50 years, we want to help you take time to invest in your marriage and to learn about God's glorious plan for marriage. Join us on **Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30** at the Linzmeier home **starting on March 23rd** for an 8-week study through the book *The Meaning of Marriage*. There is limited space, so please contact Pastor Paul to sign up. Childcare will be provided.
- ❖ Mark your calendars. The **St Croix Valley Men's Retreat** is set for **Friday and Saturday, April 3rd & 4th @ Oak Forest Retreat Center** in Frederic, WI. Brochures and registration are on the welcome table. Anticipate being challenged and sharpened in the faith as we study God's word and fellowship together. Be thinking and praying now about who you could invite, neighbors, co-workers, family and friends.

Upcoming Sunday Bring-a-dish/Meal Teams:

March 15	Meal Team #6
March 22	Meal Team #7
March 29	Meal Team #1

Fellowship and a meal follow our service today - Please stay and join us!

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
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Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

Schedule of Events Week of March 8-14

Tues	Men's Bible Study 5:30 am
	Our Place Café - SCF
Wed	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Wed	Immerse Family Studies 6:15 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
Thurs	Women's Bible Study 9:30/10 am
Thurs	GriefShare - Adult /Youth 6:30 pm
	Adult and Youth meet separately

March Memory Verse: **Ephesians 4:31-32**
"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." ESV

March Fellowship Tip:

Take a moment this week and reach out to one of our missionaries. You and/or your family would be such a blessing by just sending an email, card, making a phone call, or a Skype chat.

HEBREWS

JESUS
According to Scripture

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,

[Hebrews 13:7-8](#)

Sermon Notes:

201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI ~ 715.201.2295 ~ Email: info@newlifechristiancommunity.org
Sunday service starts at 9:30 am / Check out New Life online at newlifechristiancommunity.org
Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com