



# 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." 2Cor.5:17

Join Us As We  
Celebrate Only  
Jesus

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2022  
VOL. 16, ISSUE 23

## PASTORAL PONDERING

### ISAIAH 55

Over the past several months there has been a group of dedicated men, young and old, who have been studying Isaiah (Tuesday mornings, 6:30am, you are always welcome to join us!). It would take several ponderings to give ample background to get us to chapter 55 but here is a brief catch up. Isaiah is a prophet who lived 700 years before the birth of Christ. Isaiah can be a hard study as it tells of a future for Israel that will not be kind. It tells of peoples and lands that will be judged for their unbelief and completely destroyed. Isaiah 25:2 (NKJV) *"For You have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the foreigners' palace is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt."* The foreigners (unbelievers) were taking comfort and refuge and building their trust in the fortified walls and palaces, not God. There are other verses which describe the cities being brought to dust. Think of that, the cities and possessions not just destroyed but brought to dust, nothing remains. But in all of the destruction and judgement there always remained a remnant. Isaiah 10:20 (NIV) *"...the remnant of Israel, the survivors of Jacob, will no longer lean on him who struck them, but will lean on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth."* Verse after verse and chapter after chapter of judgement and discipline, which is all just, but always a remnant. And, as in all of Scripture Jesus is there as well.

Listen to how it all begins in verse 1 of Isaiah 55 (ESV), *"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come; buy wine and milk, without money and without price."* He is calling everyone, Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free. He is offering the necessity of life, water, at no cost to us, He is paying it all. We can do nothing for this gift, the invitation, or the growth- it's all free. Verse 2 goes on to clarify, *"Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"* How often do I spend my time, finances, or energy on that which ultimately does not satisfy? Verse 2 (NKJV) continues, telling us how to respond, *"Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance,"* What a beautiful reminder when we are obedient to His calling and ways, we are not just satisfied but our souls will delight in abundance. We should long for our souls to be delighted and that is found only in the Living Water Himself-Christ.

Another point that causes me to still contemplate are verses 6-7(ESV). 6 *"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while He is near; 7let the*

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## Pastoral Pondering

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*wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*” Verse 6 tells us there will be a time when the LORD will no longer be near or be able to be found. Woah, when will He not be able to be found or near? This is a great admonition that no one knows when Jesus returns. Our days are numbered, and the time is ticking. None of us is guaranteed tomorrow. If we forsake our own way, and our own thoughts, repent and turn to the LORD not only does He have compassion, but forgives, *abundantly!* How amazing and patient is our God? He will not only have compassion and forgive us but do it abundantly!

So my pondering these past few weeks has been this: Is Israel any different from us? I ask you as I ask myself; are we seeking Him in all things? Are we forsaking our own way? Do we have to return to the LORD? In what ways are we still trying to do works in our own strength? Forsake your way and go to the one who is compassionate and gives to all who come to Him... without price.

Your brother, Brian Nelson

*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. Please join us for fellowship and meal after service today. We would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

*Busy Bags*  
*Available by the Door*

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
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Brian Nelson	651.323.4253
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

### This Week's Scheduled 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– 6:15-7:30 pm
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)

### March Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

### March Fellowship Tip:

Have you begun a prayer/discipleship relationship with someone from New Life? If not, prayerfully consider whom you can be regularly meeting with for the purpose of growth and sharpening as disciples of Jesus.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Mar 19	Team 7 ~ Sloppy Joes/Hotdogs
Mar 26	Team 8 ~ Soup/Salads

Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

Check out New Life Online  
[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

- **Memorial Service:** The memorial service for Karen Lammers will be **Friday, March 24th 11:00am at Maple Plain Community Church**. (Where Karen's daughter Hillary attends) The address is: 1815 Budd Ave N. Maple Plain MN 55359. The service will also be live streamed at [mpcommunitychurch.org](http://mpcommunitychurch.org). Karen's family welcomes any friends from New Life to join. There will be a lunch meal provided afterwards.
- **Hall of Men: Sunday, March 26th** is our next Hall of Men. This announcement comes early so that you men can prepare some meat! Yes, some meat because this month we're planning to start with a potluck of sorts with the emphasis of preparing your favorite wild game or any meat of your choice to pass. We'll plan to have the dishes prepared by 5:00pm and enjoy sampling all the roasted, smoked, seared, rotisserie goodness. Then when we're good and filled we'll transition to hearing a presentation on a man of the faith in history. It's always a time of conviction and encouragement to walk as men of Christ now in our generation as we hear about the lives of men from the past where Jesus was honored and glorified.
- **St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat:** Men, don't forget the registration forms and pamphlets are here for the St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat taking place **Friday, April 14th and Saturday, April 15th. The deadline for registration is Monday, April 10th!** You can also register online too, just follow the web address on the registration form. Any questions just talk to pastor Paul. The first session on Friday begins at 7pm and the retreat ends Saturday around 5pm. Fathers are encouraged to bring their sons!



Do you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration? Please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: [lynnjimnelson@gmail.com](mailto:lynnjimnelson@gmail.com) or you can call her cell at 651-373-1426.

nlcc  
resourcecenter

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. The Resource Center is bursting with new titles! Age of Opportunity (parenting teens) by Paul Tripp; devotional books and a Bible study on the gospel of Mark for middle schoolers; 3 new books by Elisabeth Elliot; Adorned (the women's retreat book); The Princess Adelina (for young ladies & everyone); God and Me series for young kids; Crossway Short Classics; Also, The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn; and a story for kids about the parable of the Seeds and Soils by New Life's own Donna Hiller! 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.



**TODAY'S PASSAGE:**  
Pastor Tony's message is from the  
New Testament book,  
**Acts 28:17-31**

*Sermon Notes:*