



# New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We  
Celebrate Only Jesus

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

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"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

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## Pastoral Pondering

### ARE YOU GRAZING OR FEASTING ON HIS WORD?

My prayer is that your life is filled with time in the word. The Bible is clear, that we are not designed to live by bread alone. And when we try to live by bread alone, we become weak - perhaps not physically (though sometimes) - weak emotionally, spiritually, and we look less and less like our Savior.

My constant prayer is that the Lord would make us a people of His word: students of His word, those who delight in the word - not for *reading's* sake, but for Who the word tells us about - our Good Shepherd. Without Him, we are like sheep without a shepherd. No matter how our earthly pursuits are going, without Christ as our shepherd, we *are* ill-fed sheep without a shepherd.

In Mark chapter 6, Jesus makes this observation in verse 34, "*when [Jesus] went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.*" What does a crowd who are aimless sheep need? They need a shepherd to feed them. So, what does Jesus do to address their plight? The very next words recorded are, "*And He began to teach them many things.*" His words are what we need. His words are what feed our aimless soul.

As this passage unfolds, we watch the disciples misunderstand the moment, when they insist that the crowd is not getting the food that they need. 'The people must be getting hungry!' They insist that Jesus "*send them away*" (verse 36), because "*the hour is now late*" (verse 35)! The disciples don't understand that THE Shepherd has come, and He will take care of their hunger (feeding is the definition of a good shepherd).

But they don't understand. The truth is, we are most satisfied when we remain near our shepherd - listening to Him - resting in Him - feeding on what He gives to us. Jesus knows what His sheep need - and so, Jesus feeds the 5,000. Unfortunately, we read the text like the disciples read the moment, and believe that the feeding took place when they passed out physical food. But this is to misunderstand the moment.

The *real* feeding of the 5000 took place *before* he broke the physical bread. All day they had been feasting upon the green grass of His words.

How do you approach time in His word? Does it feel like a hurdle to get past in order to get to the real needs of the day? As you take the time daily to get into the word, are you actually feasting - or are you, like the disciples, more interested

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## Pastoral Pondering

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in what comes after your time with Jesus' words? Are you simply interested in the physical feeding of the 5000? The disciples (I don't blame them!) were thinking in purely earthly terms about the day. But they hadn't realized that the words Jesus had been sharing were satisfying the deepest longings of every soul who had been listening that day. So much so, that no one in the crowd left! No one had become 'hangry'!

Far from the crowd dwindling because of hungry families, the crowd was steadfast - eating the words of our Savior. They refused to leave - because they were being filled. He had been satisfying their deepest hunger.

Too often we get into the mindset of the disciples and want to rush through Jesus' words (our time in His word) so that we can get to the 'what' truly matters - which is clearly - 'What's for lunch?' Brothers and sisters, students of the word, put yourself back into the crowd - seeing and hearing for the first-time what Jesus is saying - and feast on His words.

And, if you are joining us reading through the M'Cheyne reading plan (grab a copy in the entry way and jump in - please!), as you read Numbers, Psalms, Song of Songs, and Hebrews (the four passages we are currently working through), let these words be eaten to satisfy the deepest needs you have. Don't rush through.

Don't worry, after Jesus feeds your soul, Christ is there to minister to our physical needs as well - as He did even on that day. After all, *"if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"* (Matthew 6:30-31).

Feast on His word.

Blessings, tony minell



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 a meal after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### Building & Grounds Ministry

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
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### 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
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Precept Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

### April Memory Verse:

Proverbs 23:17-18 (ESV)

"Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off."

### April Fellowship Tip:

Spring is often a time where we get the itch to do a project around the home or get creative in the kitchen. Consider asking a brother or sister to join you and use everyday life activities as a way to build deeper relationships with one another bringing Jesus into each conversation.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

April 28 Meal Team 7 ~ SloppyJoe/Hotdogs  
May 5 Meal 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

➤ **Hall of Men:** Join us tonight **Sunday, April 28, 6:30pm** at the building. We've been hearing presentations on the life of men from history who have held to Christ and proclaimed Him to the end being encouraged by their example of faith and the grace of God to sustain them. This night we'll shift a little from our typical pattern and hear a sermon presented that was preached many years ago by one of the men we've already studied. If you're wondering what sermon and from what man...well you'll just have to come and find out. See you there!

➤ **Monday Evening Prayer:** **Monday** night prayer is meeting at the home of the Barton's, address 2489 Beede Lake Trl., St. Croix Falls. You're invited to join us **6:30pm**.

➤ **Bridal Shower:** New Life ladies you are invited to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Kaydence Stephan, daughter of Mike and Kristin Stephan. There will be a bridal shower for her on **Sunday, May 5th at 2 pm** in the New Life building.

Kaydence and Ethan Favre are registered on The Knot. You can find the link to their registry [www.theknot.com/...](http://www.theknot.com/...). If you have any questions or would like to contribute by providing a dessert, please feel free to reach out to Kristin at [kristin@kageinnovation.com](mailto:kristin@kageinnovation.com) or 651-235-1681.

Furthermore, if you know of any upcoming weddings or babies within our New Life family, please connect with Kristin who would be happy to help organize a New Life family shower for the bride or mother-to-be.

➤ **2024 Graduates:** Are you graduating this year? We want to celebrate with you! Please let us know when and where a celebration will occur. Just swing over to the welcome table and jot down your name, party information and a mailing address for cards. Thank you!



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resourcecenter

Are you 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. We have many choices, so be sure to take a look today after service.



# Jesus

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According to Samuel

**TODAY'S PASSAGE:**

Pastor Tony's message is from the  
Old Testament book,  
**1 SAMUEL 23:1-14**

SERMON NOTES: