



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, June 16, 2019

Vol. 12, Issue 36

PASTORAL PONDERING

Worship Matters – Part I

What is worship? How would you define or describe it? Before reading any further, think about how you might answer that question. Is worship a certain activity? Is it a particular musical genre? What is it and how should we think about it? In this and a subsequent pondering, I'd like us to ponder the topic of worship together. Our thoughts and ideas on this (as with anything else) must be formed and guided by Scripture alone, not our own experiences and preferences. That said, there are several things we can say on the issue of worship, and particularly on the organized and *corporate* worship of the gathered church.

First, our corporate worship at New Life is a **crucial part of a bigger whole**. Human beings were created as worshipers. With every thought, word, and action, we are always worshipping someone or something. Our worship did not cease at the fall; it was redirected ([Genesis 3](#)). In our sin, we naturally live our lives in worship of created things instead of the Creator ([Romans 1:25](#)). Therefore, *Christian* worship is re-centering our entire lives on the God who created us, loves us, and redeems us in Christ ([Romans 12:1](#); [Colossians 3:17](#)).

We must approach our worship as the gathered church on Sunday morning in light of this bigger context. In *Worship By the Book*, D.A. Carson asserts, "Worship becomes the category under which we order *everything* in our lives... We dare not think we gather for worship because we have *not* been worshipping all week, so also it is folly to think that only part of the 'service' is worship—everything but the sermon, perhaps, or only the singing..."

In other words, we must maintain a biblically comprehensive and thorough understanding of worship rather than restricting our approach to worship as an experience we have on Sunday morning or at special conferences or retreats. Worship is certainly not less than our time together on Sunday morning, but it is far more than that.

Secondly, our corporate worship must be **gospel centered**. It should be firmly rooted in our commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Corporate worship is not something we participate in outside of Christ our mediator but is only possible because of the finished work of Christ on our behalf.

James Torrance articulates this well in *Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace*: "[Worship is] the gift of participating through the Spirit in the incarnate Son's communion with the Father. It means participating in union with Christ, in what he has done for us once and for all, in his self-offering to the Father, in his life and death on the cross... There is only one offering which is truly acceptable to God, and it is not ours. It is the offering by which he has sanctified for all time those who come to

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Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

Coffee Ministry

Sandy Moe: 715.417.1812
sandy.klj@hotmail.com

Finance Administration

Bruce Gilliland (Treasurer):
715.338.2580
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

Greeting Card Ministry

Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426
lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com

GriefShare Adult Ministry

Connie B: 715.557.1431
conjoh1@gmail.com

GriefShare Youth Ministry

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945
robinmattson27@gmail.com

Immerse Ministry

Pastor Paul Linzmeier: 320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com

Meal Train Relief Ministry

Danielle Panik: 715.554.2214
dhischer@gmail.com

Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661
lrnilner@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Pastor Bennett Anderson:
920.395.8548
bennett.lyle86@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djholm@lakeland.ws

Resource Center

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

Sunday Meal Services

Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or
715.755.3330
barb@pbmpkmanship.com

Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.220.6882
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

PASTORAL PONDERING

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God by him ([Hebrews 2:11, 10:10-14](#))."

As we participate in elements of corporate worship, we may have the tendency to focus so much on our own efforts or experience that we actually lose sight of the fundamental truth of the gospel *in* that worship. Carson describes this danger: "It is not uncommon to be told that 'worship leads us into the presence of God' or the like. There is a way of reading that statement sympathetically but taken at face value it is simply untrue. Objectively, what brings us into the presence of God is the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus."

So, if our worship as Christ's church is only possible because of Christ, we must have a constant focus on him and his work in our salvation. Focusing less on ourselves, we must redirect our attention to Christ, our true Worship Leader. "For every Christian, at all times and in all places, there has only ever been one Worship Leader, one who is worthy to enter that sacred space and able to endure the wrath of God in our places, making us able to 'boldly enter in' with and through him. The songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the faith we confess—all of it is an echo and an amen to the perfect worship offered to God by his Son" (Mike Cosper, *Rhythms of Grace*).

Because of the fundamental importance of the gospel for all aspects of life, we must not treat it as peripheral. It is not enough to think about the gospel as the gateway to Christianity, but not central to the entire Christian life. The story of the gospel is the defining fact for all of our past, present, and future, and we must live and worship with that in mind ([1 Corinthians 15:1-4](#)). When it comes to our time of corporate worship on Sunday morning, Bob Kauflin summarizes this best in *Worship Matters*: "The gospel is not merely one of many possible themes we can touch on as we come to worship God. It is the central and foundational theme. All our worship originates and is brought into focus at the cross of Jesus Christ."

With these things in mind, we must approach our corporate worship accordingly. May our corporate worship at NLCC be a reflection of our *lives* of worship, and may it be ever saturated with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We will pick up this discussion and explore these things further in a future pondering.

Pastor Bennett

A very special **THANK YOU** to all who so enthusiastically participated in the recent Spring Cleanup. Jim Judkins, Building & Grounds Ministry

June Fellowship Tip:

Share your favorite memory verse with someone today. If you don't have one, begin to memorize something from God's Word and practice reciting it to others.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

5-DAY CLUB

Children! You are invited to a 5-DAY CLUB! What is a 5-Day Club? It is an exciting, fun-filled Club for kids age 5-12 that meets for 90 minutes every day for five days. It includes dynamic Bible lessons, creative learning activities, inspiring missionary stories, meaningful fun songs, and life-changing Scripture memory. It will be held **June 24-28** at Janel Anderson's home and starts at 10:00am. If you have any questions, contact Janel Anderson at 715-553-3341. Invite your friends! See you there!

HALL OF MEN

Men! Please set aside **Sunday evening June 30th, 6:00pm** for a very unique men's gathering at the New Life building! We call it, "The Hall of Men." This new men's gathering will be for those men (young and old - and even middle-aged men) who are wanting to: 1) Fellowship with other men in Christ. 2) Learn about the lineage of faith as it has been displayed through men throughout Church history. 3) Eat together. The Hall of Men gathering will happen several times a year - so stay tuned for those dates. You won't want to miss it! Come prepared for a comradery and fellowship that is centered on the core confessions of our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hope Church is putting on The Armor of God Vacation Bible School this summer. VBS will be held at Hope Church in Osceola from **July 8 through the 11th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** All children ages four to 12 are welcome and there is no cost! They are planning a very engaging VBS with bible lessons, games, snacks, crafts, and music. If you're looking for a VBS this summer, this would be a great opportunity. They are also in need of several adult leaders to help run the various VBS stations. If you would be interested in serving and would like to know more, please contact Rebecca Stenberg as soon as possible (hope@hefc.org).

ANNUAL BAPTISM EVENT

There are few services throughout the year that are more meaningful than our annual Baptism service. The meaningfulness of that service has nothing to do with *how* New Life does it. Its meaningfulness has everything to do with *what* Jesus has done in the lives of those who are being baptized. As such, its meaning is eternal and infinite. If you've never been to our Baptism service, please be sure to come. Moreover, if you've never been baptized as a believer, would you consider this public proclamation of faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ?

Our Baptism Service this year will be on **Sunday August 4th**. If you are interested in being baptized – put your name on the sign up on the welcome table in the lobby and be sure to reach out to one of the pastors letting them know your desire.

***TODAY IS A SPECIAL DAY OF IMMENSE GRATITUDE FOR OUR HEAVENLY FATHER,
AS WELL AS WISHED BLESSINGS TO ALL OUR NLCC AND VISITING DADS!***

Upcoming Sunday Potluck/Meal Teams:

June 16 **HAPPY FATHERS DAY** - No Meal
June 23 Meal Team #6

Although there is no meal following today's service, consider gathering with someone new!

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com	
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com	
Pastor Bennett Anderson	920.395.8548
bennett.lyle86@gmail.com	
Cory Mattson - Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Paul Gilbertson	612.799.4865
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132

Schedule of Events Week of June 16-22:

Wed	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
Thurs	Women's Bible Study 9:30 am
Thurs	Deuteronomy Bible Study 7:00 pm
Thurs	Adult GriefShare - on Summer Break (July 18th GriefShare 'Loss of a Spouse' Event 6:15-8:30pm)
	Youth GriefShare - 6:30 pm.

June Memory Verse:

Isaiah 40:8

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." ESV

HEBREWS

JESUS
According to Scripture

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
Hebrews 6:13-20

Sermon Notes:

Address: 201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI - 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