



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

Join Us As We
Celebrate Only
Jesus

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023
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Pastoral Pondering ~

DON'T BE SUCH A DEMAS!

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." - Colossians 3:1-2

Living in Wisconsin and Minnesota, to a certain degree, means that you enjoy/don't mind/tolerate/loathe the winters. Regardless of your winter preferences, most everyone thoroughly enjoys all that summer brings. *"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."* (Genesis 1:31a); *"The heavens declare the glory of God..."* (Psalm 19:1); *"the whole earth is full of His glory."* (Isaiah 6:3b) But a problem I can have with living in such a beautiful area though, is my heart. I find that as I enjoy God's glorious creation, there can be a tendency to grow comfortable in this comfort and beauty. I think we all do. When we aren't living in present adversities, we can easily grow lethargic, taking our mind off of that which is most important.

Thankfully, there's been a particular verse in the Word of God that helps shake me out of this stupor, 2 Timothy 4:10 - *"For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica."* Paul previously mentions Demas in Colossians and Philemon as a fellow worker with him. Whoa. Someone who has been helping Paul in ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ has abandoned him, not because of a dispute or an emergency, but because of Demas' heart. He *loved* this world. And this was not something that all of a sudden, came about on a whim. This had been an ongoing pattern within Demas' life that he refused to put to death, but instead nurtured. This was an active love; an active delight that did not direct his heart to Jesus Christ, but away from Him. May our Savior guard and protect us from such dangers! We naturally are aware of physical dangers, but spiritual ones aren't as nuanced, unless we continually have Jesus in front of us. We must stay close to Him. It is literal spiritual life or death.

Do I long for our Savior's appearance or have I grown comfortable in this

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Pastoral Pondering

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world, even allowing my affections to be drawn to and focused on this present world? Do I seek after things that are on earth or things that are above where Christ is? This is why we daily need to be in the Word and in fellowship with one another, reminding each other to persevere in this world. It's easy for all of us to grow comfortable here, God did create an amazing planet for us to live in! But we must be focused (setting our minds) on the spiritual things of our lives, guarding our hearts from sin and distraction. And may God's glorious creation direct us to worship Him. So, let us press on in giving thanks to God for every good and perfect gift, acknowledging Him as Lord and Father, while remembering that this is not our home.

looking to Jesus,
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. Please join us for fellowship after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

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. 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.

Busy Bags
Available by the Door

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837
Daniel Lipp 612.229.2893
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

Coffee Ministry

Sandy Moe: 715.417.1812
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Finance Administration

Colleen Firkus (Treasurer): 612.889.7581
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Greeting Card Ministry

Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426
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GriefShare Ministry

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945
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Immerse Ministry

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Meal Train Relief Ministry

Kristin Stephan: 651.235.1681
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Music Ministry

Jeff Warren: 316.308.0833
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Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661
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Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
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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
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
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Cory Mattson – Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Matt Leko	651.465.3154
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
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

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– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

August Memory Verse:

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 (ESV)

"For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober."

August Fellowship Tip:

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

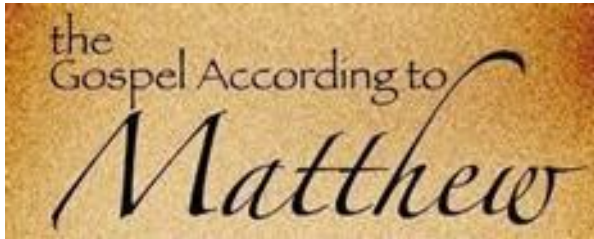
Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

August 20	Team 1 ~ Pizza
August 13	No Meal

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

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Bible Quizzing Club:** Kids in Kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to join a Bible Quizzing Club being organized by Beth Bork. The group will be **starting practice on August 31 and practices will be Thursday evenings 6:30-8:00**. Want to know more, just find Beth for further information about Bible Quizzing.
- **Ministry Team Fair:** Next **Sunday, August 27th** after service make sure to pass through our New Life Ministry Fair. Here you will find many opportunities to learn more about each of our ministries and perhaps even excite you to jump in on one of them. At the very least, this will put a missing face to the name for our ministry leaders.
- **Hall Of Men:** It's nearing the end of August already and the end of a month means Hall of Men!! Next **Sunday, August 27th**, men young and old are invited to come and hear a presentation on another man of the faith from history and the work of Christ through him. **Starts at 6:30pm** here at the building.
- **Men's Camping Weekend:** Men young and old you're invited to join a New Life camping weekend on the St. Croix River late this summer. The trip will **begin Friday afternoon September 8th and end Saturday afternoon the 9th**. This camp out is for fellowship together centered around Jesus Christ. Consider it a time to invest in one another while enjoying the outdoors. If you are interested in going just contact one of the pastors. FYI, a free camping pass is required and will need to be obtained in advance and access to the campsite is by boat or canoe only.
- **Immerse:** Immerse season is coming soon! These are our Wednesday evening bible classes for all ages. There are multiple classes for our younger ones starting from nursery age all the way up to junior high. We will also have 2 adult studies this fall where parents and their young adults can study side by side. Classes will **begin Wednesday, September 13th and go from 6:15-7:30pm**.
For those of you who have signed up for being a teacher/assistant during our Immerse classes, please join a teachers meeting this **Wednesday August 23rd, 6:30pm** at the building. Here you will receive your curriculum for the year and a time to ask questions and get acquainted with the flow of Immerse nights in preparation for September classes.
There is still need for teacher assistants for classes pre-k, 3-4th and 5-6th grade. Also, there is still need for help in the nursery. If you're interested in helping fill in for any of these roles or to be a substitute your welcome to the meeting.
- **Adult Immerse Class Intro:** This fall semester of Immerse I'm planning to lead a class to grow in a "big picture view" of the overarching storyline of scripture using a book as a resource called Christ from Beginning to End. It covers some of the basics of what is the Bible, how do we read it, understanding context, and seeing Christ and His glory being revealed from the very beginning to the end through themes such as creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. In addition we will dive into how God revealed himself in covenants through the narratives of the OT, His words spoken through the prophets and their role, then seeing Christ arriving in the flesh in the Gospels, the work of the Spirit in the Church recorded in Acts and the Epistles, and finally book ending with the anticipated restoration in the New Heavens and New Earth. Any questions just reach out to Pastor Paul. If interested to order the book just stop by the resource center. You will need the book before class **starts on September 13th**.



SERMON NOTES:

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

Elder Matt's message is from the
New Testament book,
MATTHEW 16:27-17:8