

Join us as we celebrate only Jesus!



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

Sun, November 29, 2020

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Pastoral Ponderings

Thanksgiving

"Sing to the Lord, all the earth: proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens." 1 Chronicles 16:23-26

The year 2020 has been a trying year for us all! I think most of us will be glad to usher in a New Year. 2020 will be remembered for a year of protests, riots, masks, social distancing and a global pandemic. It has impacted us as a church body, causing a physical separation of our loved ones who worshiped with us regularly prior to the infection, although I'm thankful they continue to join us online each Sunday. While in conversation with someone recently we talked about gathering as a family during Thanksgiving. He mentioned that they were still trying to work out all the details in light of the recent shutdowns. He said "this is my least favorite global pandemic so far." That statement made me laugh but holds truth in that there will certainly be future pandemics.

Despite the ongoing concerns over Covid, there has been some good news circulating in the news about successful vaccines by Moderna, Pfizer and Astra Zeneca. The success rates have been touted to be between 90-95% effective. This will certainly offer assistance in combating the virus and, with time, covid will be placed in the same category of swine flu as a distant memory. This is great news but I can't help but think that the world is treating the vaccines as a modern-day savior created by the hands of masterful scientists.

The book of Hosea has been eye opening in regards to the similarities between Israel and where we find ourselves today. As pastor Tony has stated, Israel at that time was in a very prosperous period of time, considered too big and powerful to fail. In their excess they turned to the gods of their own making thereby forgetting God who delivered them from the bondage of Egypt. Essentially, they traded their bondage from Egypt for a bondage to earthly possessions. Unfortunately, as a country and a people

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Pastoral Ponderings Cont.

you might as well substitute ourselves in the place of Israel. Things really haven't changed or, as Ecclesiastes states, there is nothing new under the sun. We continue to pursue gods of our own making.

So how are we to digest the events of this past year and remain thankful and hopeful in light of the ongoing worldly events? From the world's perspective we can place all our hope on a vaccine, mask wearing, social distancing or the government to save us, or we can place our faith and hope in Jesus and "Sing to the Lord, all the earth: proclaim his salvation day after day." Matt Maher's song "Alive and Breathing" summarizes this well: "Joy still comes in the morning, hope still walks with the hurting. If you're still alive and breathing, Praise the Lord! Don't stop dancing and dreaming, there's still Good News worth repeating. So lift your head and keep singing, Praise the Lord!"

In a year like we have come through a spirit of thanksgiving and joy may seem far off for many, but for followers of Jesus this is a time to gather with family and celebrate the blessings we have been given. This space isn't large enough to list the all blessings God has granted each of us but salvation, unending love, grace, mercy, justice, family, loved ones, marriages, Jesus, the cross, health and the list goes on. I am personally speaking on behalf of the pastors and elders that we are grateful and feel truly blessed to be able to serve each and everyone of you that call New Life home. God has blessed New Life beyond belief and I believe 2021 will be a time we can all once again meet in person to "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deed among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise!"

I've heard it said that "It's not happy people who are thankful, it is thankful people who are happy." May this be true of us!

Happy Thanksgiving,
Greg.

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Video Ministry

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Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to: • Events • Sermons Online
• Set Lists • New Life Connect • & More

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Tues Men's Bible Study-6:30 am
Wed Every Man's Battle-6:00 am
Wed Immerse Studies-6:15 pm
Thurs Men's Bible Study-6:30 am
Thurs Ladies Study-Matthew-10 am
Thurs Ladies Study- 6:30 pm

Meal Teams:

December 6 Meal Team #4

December 13 Meal Team #5

Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in joining a meal team.

November Memory Verse

"...but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Ephesians 5:18-20

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Announcements

New Life Partner Meeting: On Saturday January 9th we will be holding our annual New Life Partners meeting. It will be held here at the building at 10:00am, so put this important meeting on your calendar. Following the meeting will be lunch. Being a partner means you are an active participant in this annual meeting where you have the chance to vote on other members filling certain offices/roles in the body, where the current year's budget is reviewed and next year's budget is voted on, and also where the pastors and elders reflect on the past year and share visions leading into the next year. Even if you are not a partner, you are welcome to come reflect and prayerfully seek the Lord together in the year to come.

Hall of Men: Men, our monthly Sunday night gathering will be temporarily taking a break. That means our previously planned November 29th night is postponed...Hey, turn that frown upside down, it won't be for too long, just let the anticipation build till we meet again. Keep your eye out for announcements as to our next gathering.

November Fellowship Tip: Have you committed yourself to invest in the work of gospel ministry here at New Life and want to learn more about what it means to become a partner? Take a moment and talk to one of the elders or pastors after service and they would be glad to begin that conversation with you.

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.

Today's Passage

Hosea

The Call to Return to the Savior

Pastor Tony will be teaching
from the book of Hosea.
Our passage for today is
Hosea 13:12-16.

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Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • nlcc.dresser@gmail.com

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com