



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, December 1, 2019

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Advent in our Homes

It's that time of year when the world's devices can easily bait us away from the all-important simple scene in Bethlehem towards that frantic flight to get the best deals on gifts and gadgets. Have you found yourself succumbing to the pull of the world?

The great irony is that sometimes even the good things that are added to our schedule are not helpful in really remembering the simple birth of our King. There are Christmas parties to plan, secret-santa gifts to get, and family trips to organize. The very parties, gifts and pilgrimages that are meant to celebrate the coming of the King tend to overshadow the brightest light that ever came into the world.

Consider a few of individual's lives around 2019 years ago (give or take 4 years).

According to Luke 2:8-18 there was a group of shepherds whose lives would be interrupted by the same season that interrupts us. It was night. As normal as the sunset they had witnessed a few hours earlier was, the night was far from usual. Instead their normal routine was interrupted by one of the scariest moments of their lives. The angel that appeared to them was a sight to behold. More than that, to have the glory of the Lord surround them is absolutely stunning! Luke writes, "an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear" (Luke 2:9). It was this same glory in which Moses was allowed to stand (hide) on several earth altering occasions (e.g. see Exodus 24:17-18).

At that moment and at hearing the words of the Angel of the Lord, these shepherds could not constrain themselves to their normal routine. They up and went to meet this new child. We are not told what happened to their sheep. The point being, meeting the "Savior...Christ the Lord" was all that mattered to them.

Consider that faithful man, Simeon, and that faithful woman, Anna, in Luke 12:25-38. Imagine if Simeon had found himself overrun by the hustle and bustle of life in Jerusalem. What if he had thought, "I'm too tired to go to the temple today..." He would have missed what Luke calls, "the consolation of Israel" – Simeon may have missed the coming of the One that his entire Bible had told him would come.

In like manner, had Anna been bound up with the things of this world, she may have missed the opportunity to proclaim the "redemption of Jerusalem!"

Not to mention the interruption Christ's birth had on Mary and Joseph. Their lives would never be the same. Nor do we have time to consider the Wise Men from the east. This journey to meet "the king of the Jews" (Matt 2:2) would have taken them

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Advent Highlight Cont.

months. This was a suspension of life to simply visit a baby who had been born. Moreover, the gifts that they had brought Him may have had a significant impact upon their livelihood. These were not white elephant gifts. They were gifts that would impress the wealthiest of kings.

Their wisdom is illustrated in their abandonment of everyday life for the pursuit of a baby born in Bethlehem.

It is not wrong that our everyday life has been interrupted by this time of year, however, the content of our interruption must be entirely wrapped up in Jesus Christ – the Consolation of Israel, the Redemption of Jerusalem, the Glory of the Lord. He deserves all of our attention.

As such, we are asking that each of you consider allowing your everyday routine to be disrupted by a daily advent reading. You should be getting, **with this newsletter**, a half page Advent reading guide for the first 25 days of December.

Each day there are a few passages marked out to read (some short and others a bit longer). Our purpose in giving you this advent reading is not to add craziness to the routine of life, nor is it to simply be another “religious ceremony.” Our purpose is to give the other interruptions of this time of year their proper context – the fulfillment of all time – namely, Jesus Christ.

Please take some time each day to let your life be interrupted by Jesus Christ. Read these texts privately and/or publicly. Let them shape the content of our conversations within the home and without the home. As we consider these passages, ask yourself how the coming of Christ impacts our understanding of and implications of these texts.

Given our desperate need for a savior, let us together, consider the advent of the coming of our great and awesome Savior.

Indeed, Christ’s interruption should quickly become the tone of the rest of our lives. May He disrupt our lives until only He remains.

Blessings,
Pastor Tony

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Caroling: Come Christmas caroling with us! Meet at the New Life building on Friday, Dec 6 at 6pm. We'll do some door-to-door caroling around Dresser and/or Osceola. Hope to see you there!

Knitting with Roberta: Ladies of New Life, Roberta Behr would love to pass on the art of knitting to the next generation. Get training that will far exceed any youtube video! More than that, you get to spend time with our beloved Roberta. If your already skilled in knitting, feel free to join in as well and share the tricks of the trade. Roberta would like to set up all the equipment at the New Life building (easy central location) and teach how to use her machines. Before setting a day and time she would like to know how many would be interested in joining. Find her after service or give her a call (715) 501-8377.

New Additions: Next to the welcome table in the foyer you will see two laundry baskets with signs celebrating the two recent new births, baby Frances Mae Zacholski and Simeon Philip Minell. New Life has a tradition of showering these families with diapers and wipes to get them started. You can also bless them by signing up to bring a meal to the families through the mealtrain website.

Upcoming services that you won't want to miss: -Sunday, December 15th @ 6:00pm Hymn Sing and Share Night -Wednesday, December 18th @ 6:30pm Immerse Christmas Celebration (Snacks and treats following the service) -Christmas Eve Service December 24th @ 6:30pm On these three nights we will gather together to lift our voices in joy-filled song and share in a short devotional. There will also be an open mic time to share what the Lord is doing in your life.

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

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

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study 5:30 am (Our Place Café - SCF)
Wed	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Wed	Immerse Classes 6:15-7:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study 9:30/10 am
Thurs	Adult/Youth GriefShare 6:30 pm

Fellowship Tip for December:

As we enter this season of Advent, share with someone a tradition you have that keeps you centered on Jesus during this busy time.

December Memory Verse

"Father I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." John 17:24

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

Dec. 8 th	Meal Team 2
Dec. 15 th	Meal Team 3
Dec. 22 nd	Meal Team 4

Today's Passage



Pastor Paul will be teaching from the book of Titus. Our passage for today is Titus 2:2-10.

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