

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, December 6, 2020

Vol. 14, Issue 8

Ministry Highlight

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 2020 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.

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Ministry Highlight Cont.

This journey to meet “the king of the Jews” (Matt 2:2) would have taken them 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

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Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

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. In addition, you're invited to join us for our meal after service. We would love to meet you and get to know and for you to get to know us more, and what better way to meet someone new than sharing a meal together.

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 20 Meal Team #5

Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in joining a meal team.

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

"Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed." - Psalm 34:5

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Announcements

Young adults of New Life, the evening Bible study and fellowship time will meet this week Thursday Dec. 10th from 6:30pm until 8pm. We plan to continue diving into God's Word, spending time in prayer, singing, and intentionally building relationships with one another through the conversations. If you're asking the question of whether or not you're considered a young adult or whether your son or daughter is, then you should probably just plan to come :) This next gathering will be at the Linzmeier home (406 Smith Ave. Osceola). Feel free to bring a snack to share. You won't want to miss it!

Ladies: we will be gathering for another night of coffee and chitter chatter at New Life this month. We will have coffee and tea and will possibly have some cookies to decorate as we chat. We're set as usual for the 2nd Friday which is Friday December 11th From 7pm-9pm Invite a friend, your sister or your mama and come fellowship with other women in our community! If you have any questions feel free to call or text Mackenzie Zacholski at 715-371-0138

Join us for our Christmas Eve service at 6:30pm at the building Dec. 24th. We will gather to sing, pray, and share in a short devotional. Though there will be many gifts given this month, one of the great gifts we receive being in Christ is true eternal fellowship with Him and one another as it says in 1 John 1:3, "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." So please consider who you could invite: family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers that they too may receive Him as Lord and Savior and have true fellowship with Jesus Christ

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 14.

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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