

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 27, 2020

Vol. 14, Issue 11

## Pastoral Ponderings

### Your Christmas Gift – Jesus the Messiah

In Luke 4:14-28, Jesus tells us that He is the Messiah. The story starts with Jesus successfully defeating Satan’s temptations in the desert and is now one year into His ministry. Jesus was led by the Spirit to return to his hometown of Nazareth. Since Nazareth was his hometown, you would think they would have been ready to receive Him. But, it didn’t turn out that way.

On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue that He attended as a young boy with his parents. It was customary in synagogue services to ask visiting rabbis to read the Scripture lesson and then make any appropriate comments. By this time Jesus had been ministering, healing the sick, and was becoming very popular with the crowds; so it was natural for the leaders of the synagogue to ask Him to participate.

The passage Jesus read from was Isaiah 61:1-2, which is an O.T. prophecy of the Messiah who will have a preaching and healing ministry. *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

When Jesus finishes reading, He then declares that He is fulfilling this scripture. In other words, Jesus is claiming to be the Messiah! Wow, could you imagine being there.

Luke then informs us that the people were amazed at what Jesus said. Jesus also points out that if His ministry were correctly understood by them, He would be rejected like all the other prophets of Israel’s history. Prophets were not received by Israel, but spurned, persecuted, and even killed, and this without exception. Jesus not only cites the principle that Israel’s prophets were never honored by their own people, He shows that the Gentiles received blessings from the prophets. In the text He cites the case of Elijah’s stay with the Gentile widow at Zarephath, and of the healing of Naaman, a Syrian. Our Lord’s message of grace to everyone was a blow to the proud Jewish exclusivism of the congregation, and they were not happy about it. They were so angry, they wanted to kill him. The point was anyone who speaks of the blessings of the Gentiles instead of the Jews is a traitor. Can you see how legalistic religion gets you into trouble!

Jesus had certainly brought good news of salvation to bankrupt sinners, healing to broken-hearted and rejected people. He had delivered many from blindness and from

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## Pastoral Ponderings Cont.

bondage to demons and disease. Yet, the Jewish people rejected Him even with all of the evidence that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah. In spite of the unbelief of the people of Nazareth, the scripture declared that Jesus of Nazareth is God's Son, the Messiah, sent to fulfill His promises. The people who do not want Him and reject Jesus as their Messiah will one day face the last portion of verse 2, *"and the day of vengeance of our God;"* How significant that Jesus stopped reading at that very place.

The greatest gift for us to receive is the gift of eternal life. Let's not be like the legalistic and unbelieving Jews and reject Him. The Bible could not be clearer – salvation is absolutely free, the true gift of God in Christ, and our responsibility is to receive the gift by faith. And even that desire to receive Christ is a gift of faith. Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"*. Obviously, if something is a gift of grace, it cannot be earned. To work for something is to deserve it, and that would produce an obligation – a gift of debt, as it were. That is why works destroys grace. Romans 4:1-5, 11:5-6. It is a gift from start to finish. God's holiness is so far out of our league that even the best of our good deeds carries no weight in matters of salvation. Think of this; it therefore magnifies God alone, since He blesses us not because of our merit but because of His goodness. Good works, obedience, and sanctification are the fruit of faith from this gift of grace. With a new heart, we are a new creation.

Have you received this amazing gift? During this Christmas season, let's share the saving gospel with friends and family that are in need of Jesus our Savior.

Your brother in -Christ, Jim Nelson

*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.

## Ministry Directory

### Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837  
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

### Coffee Ministry

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### Finance Administration

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### Greeting Card Ministry

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### GriefShare Ministry

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### Immerse Ministry

Ana Smith, 715.566.3740  
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### Meal Train Relief Ministry

Danielle Panik, 715.554.2214  
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### Missions Outreach

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### Newsletter Administration

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### Resource Center

Cory Mattson, 715.417.0945  
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### Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins,  
309.269.0556  
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### Transportation Services

Art Behr, 715.220.6882  
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### Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172  
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### Widow's/Shut-ins

Linda Rominek, 760.252-1786  
lindajoy77@gmail.com

## Check out New Life Online [newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

### This Week's Schedule of Events:

**Tues** Men's Bible Study-6:30 am

**Wed** Every Man's Battle-6:00 am

All other studies this week will not be meeting. Merry Christmas to one and all! We wish you blessings of peace and joy as you reflect on our Lord Jesus while celebrating the glory of the season.

### Meal Teams:

January 3 Meal Team #7

January 17 Meal Team #1

*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

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982  
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Cory Mattson, Secretary 715.417.0945

Zachary Fugate 715.379.2918

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Dale Mattson 715.566.2302

Greg Mattson 715.417.2444

Rene Milner 715.557.0185

Jim Nelson 651.283.2132

Jay Swisher 763.587.3472

## Announcements

**Our annual partners meeting** is coming around the corner. It will be held at the building Sat. January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am. There will be no lunch following this meeting but rather some small snacks and refreshments will be available. This is a very important meeting to put on your calendar for those partnering and invested in this body. During this meeting we will be reflecting on the year, looking ahead to the Lord's direction for 2021, and discussing & voting on the budget. Even if you are not a partner formally, you are encouraged to come reflect and prayerfully seek the Lord together in this year to come. This year has posed many challenges to getting all together and we recognize some will not be able to gather in person. We are working to make it as simple as possible for those at home to join us in this meeting. We need you a part of this too! As the days approach we will be reaching out to the partners to make sure you are able to participate during the meeting.

**Pastoral Candidate:** We are happy to announce to you that we are inviting Jeffrey Warren (and family) for a formal pastoral candidate weekend January 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>! In the weeks to come you will receive more details about the week of that visit. What you need to know right now is that Sat. January 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am @ the building will be the formal partners meet and greet. So make sure you have this on your calendar, you won't want to miss this opportunity!! Following this meeting we will continue to fellowship over a lunch.

### Wednesday Night Immerse classes will not be meeting this week.

Take advantage of a free night to reflect on the past year and to keep in prayer as we enter a new year together, 2021! Classes for all ages will resume again Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15pm. If your new to New Life and haven't been a part of these classes, you are encouraged to jump right in along with us come January. This is a family discipleship night with classes for all ages. At each age biblical foundations are being strengthened to aid and support parents in their role of discipling their children as they grow in learning God's Word becoming mature men and women of Christ. The young adults/adults class will continue to mine the depth and riches of the book of Job together. See you next Year :)

## Today's Passage



Pastor Paul will be teaching from the  
book of James.  
Our passage for today is James 1:1-12.

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Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • [nlcc.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:nlcc.dresser@gmail.com)

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at [pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com)