

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 31, 2023

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Pastoral Ponderings

As you read this you know that we are on the verge of starting a new year. For some that may bring excitement of the anticipation of what's to come, but for others it may bring anxiety and fear of the unknown. When I was younger, perhaps a year ago, I couldn't wait to stay up until midnight watching the world celebrate the ushering in of a new year, but now I find sleep to be the ultimate celebration of the new year over Dick Clark's countdown in Times Square!

I don't know about you but for me the unknown has always caused an inner angst. When I was young, more than a year ago, the first day at a new school where I didn't know a soul was terrifying. That continued my entire life including attending college, medical school and Sunday school in Bemidji. Looking back, I wish homeschooling was an option for medical school but my patients were probably glad that wasn't the case. And just when you think you've made it through the most anxiety-provoking years of your life, you find yourself being a spouse and a parent which opens a whole new can of worms.

As I ponder the past and look towards the future, I find myself longing to return to the days before the internet, social media or cell phones. I long for the days when people actually spoke face to face rather than texting. This was a time when news was obtained via a thing called newspapers or real journalists. A time when only two genders existed. A time when people of different political affiliations could still have civil discourse and remain friends. I could go on so I'll just vote to bring back the Gilligan Island days.

Unfortunately, living in the past doesn't resolve anything although it may bring temporary respite from the daily stressors. Ultimately, we know the answer to all this is Christ. It struck me this week, as Tony was introducing the story of David and Goliath, that we all have Goliaths in our lives. The Goliaths we battle may present themselves as cancer, loss of a loved one, financial ruin, legal battles, imprisonment, addiction, divorce etc. but take heart! God chose a boy to defeat a giant so terrifying that when *"all Israel*

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Pastoral Ponderings cont.

heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.”

Spoiler alert, David the shepherd boy defeats the champion Philistine with a **ROCK!** It was not just an ordinary rock but a smooth rock, one of five embedded with dynamite that took the giant down. I added the dynamite partly for special effects but really as a way to present the fact that God could have taken Goliath out with a talking donkey or even covid, but he chose David, a young man after his own heart, to manifest His Glory. David didn't enter the battle with Goliath in fear and trepidation, rather he *ran* at Goliath knowing that God had already won the battle. In our lives, God sent Jesus to fight our battle of sin with his death and resurrection so that we can face our Goliaths, knowing that He has already had victory.

So as we enter 2024 facing the unknown, my prayer is that we, the family of New Life, enter it with confidence knowing that Jesus - the Alpha and Omega - has had and will have victory over any Philistines we may face as a body or individually. May we fix our eyes on Jesus! Happy New Year, New Life! I'm excited to see what God has planned for us.

greg

NLCC *Resource Center*

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.

Ministry Directory

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837
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Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins,
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Transportation Services

Art Behr, 715-557-1890
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Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
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Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

This Week's Schedule of Events

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Young Adult Study– 6:30 pm
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Wed	No Immerse
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

Meal Teams

12/10	Meal Team 4
12/17	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 helps you stay centered on Jesus during this busy time.

December Memory Verse

“And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.” Micah 5:4-5a

Pastoral Eldership Team

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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

Announcements

No Meal Today: No fellowship meal after service today, but feel free to stick around and connect with someone new.

Annual Partners Meeting: Sunday January 21st after service @ 12:00pm. Being a partner means you are an active participant in this annual meeting where you have the chance to vote on members filling certain offices/roles in the body, where the next year's budget is voted on, and also where we as a body can share and celebrate the work of Christ this past year and praying for His continual guidance for the year to come. Even if you are not a partner, you are welcomed to join.

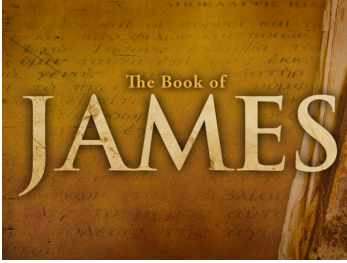
Immerse: classes will resume Wednesday, January 10th. There are classes for the whole family starting from 0-3 and going up to 7th and 8th grade. For all the rest there will be 3 adult classes this Spring: A Bible study in Romans with our very own Jim Judkins, a Bible study in 1 John with elder Matt, and third a continuing study in the big picture of the Bible storyline from the fall. It's never too late to jump on in, come join us Wednesday nights 6:15pm-7:30pm.



Potluck Sunday

Reminder Potluck next Sunday!!
If you able, please bring a dish to pass as we break bread together around a good meal.

Today's Passage



Pastor Paul will be teaching from
the book of James.
Our passage for today is James 4:13-5:6.

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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