



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, January 6, 2019

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Ministry Highlight - Family Worship

Family worship is a part of the calling that every born again believer is called to participate in. It's the beginning of all ministries in the church. By family worship I mean that every believer recognizes his or her responsibility to be striving to grow in, speak of, and live out the gospel, proclaiming Only Jesus to one another daily. There are levels of family: your immediate family, your local church family and the broader global church family. I want to focus today on the immediate family, the home, and effects of that on the health of the local church. At New Life we frequently say, "Only Jesus" and this needs to be the consistent drum beat of every household too.

We see from the Word that growth in spiritual maturity and cultivating a healthy relationship with Jesus begins in the household, gathered together around the word and prayer on a consistent basis. How often does this happen, even among the most involved members of a church? Charles Spurgeon said, *"I trust there are none here present, who profess to be followers of Christ who do not also practice prayer in their families. We may have no positive commandment for it, but we believe that it is so much in accord with the genius and spirit of the gospel, and that it is so commended by the example of the saints, that the neglect therefore is a strange inconsistency."*

Spurgeon is saying here that it seems inconsistent with Scripture and the examples of the saints of old that we would for some reason not think that regular patterns of family worship are of great importance to pursue. Unfortunately many Christians struggle to have intentional time of prayer and study of the Word individually, let alone regularly praying or reading with their immediate family. Why is this? It may be because priorities are unbalanced. Oh Lord, make right our misplaced priorities!

What might it look like for this understanding of family worship to be lived out? Here are a few practical examples/questions to consider in various relationships and seasons of life.

Parents- Are you working to teach your children regularly, modeling to them godliness and displaying repentance and forgiveness and a wholehearted pursuit to follow Jesus?

Couples young and old- Are you regularly reading and praying with/for one another, spurring one another on to trust Jesus more?

Young adults, singles, and widows- Though you may or may not have a spouse and children, do you see your church family as family, inviting your brothers and sisters into your home, showing the love of Jesus and hospitality? Are you seeking to be serving in the church in some capacity and forming discipleship relationships?

Children- Are you listening and obeying your parents and asking them questions about faith? Are you observing and learning from other godly men and women in the church?

Grandparents/seniors- Are you using your position in your grandchildren's lives to be a spiritual mentor and are you also striving to be like a grandparent to the children in the church, seeking to be pouring into their lives and also supporting parents with encouragement and wisdom?

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Ministry Directory

Building & Grounds Ministry:

Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry:

Pastor Paul Linzmeier
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com
320-226-5581

Coffee Ministry:

Sandy Moe, 715.417.1812
sandy.klj@hotmail.com

Finance Administration:

Pete Manship (Treasurer)
715.755.3330
financeministry@
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Grief Share Ministry:

Connie B., 715.557.1431
conjoh1@gmail.com

Grief Share Ministry (Youth):

Robin Mattson, 715.566-1945
robinmattson27@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry:

Danielle Panik,
715.554-2214
dhischer@gmail.com

Missions Outreach:

Lorraine Milner, 715.557.0661

Newsletter Administration:

Dawn Holm, 715.472.8453
djhholm@lakeland.ws

Resource Center:

Cory Mattson, 715.417.
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

Sunday Meal Services:

Barb Manship, 612.804.9793
barb@pbmpkmanship.com

Transportation Services:

Art Behr, 715.220.6882
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Worship Ministry

Pastor Bennett Anderson,
(920) 395-8548
bennett.lyle86@gmail.com

Ministry Highlight Cont.

Living this out takes prayerful action and intentional pursuit. Men, young and old, according to our roles as men, we are called to be taking leadership in initiating these disciplines and relationships. Women, young and old, according to your roles as women you are called to be a support and help in the work God has called each family to pursue, that is the living out of and advancement of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For a church body to be healthy, the households of the church need also to be healthy. New Life family, how are you doing? Who or what is being primarily worshiped in your home? If someone were to step into your home, would the aroma of your home be that of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Is worship of Jesus occurring, is repentance and forgiveness seen in the home, is sanctification happening as you seek to love one another like God has loved you in Jesus?

Lastly, Don Whitney writes in his book *Family Worship*, "growth does not occur from occasional spectacular moments but unspectacular daily exposure." In other words, family worship in the home may not feel like mountain-moving, heart-changing things are occurring, but the slow and consistent drip of the gospel is what makes the largest impressions.

Here are a few resources I want to highlight for individuals, couples, and families as a tool to aid in a regular time of family worship in the home. You can purchase these in the New Life Resource Center.

The New City Catechism contains catechism questions and truths of the faith. *Family Worship* by Don Whitney sets a practical example of family worship in the home as seen from generations past as well as modeled by saints of old in the Bible. Desiring God's *Glorious God, Glorious Gospel* is a great family devotional to study the Word, including helpful questions to get conversations started. Finally, *The One Year Christian History* is a daily scriptural devotional with events of the lives of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ over the history of the church.

Oh Lord, have your way in us and continue by your Spirit to build your church. May we submit ourselves and homes to you wholeheartedly. May we by faith trust and obey your commands and, in so doing, be built up in maturity, having our homes adorned with the fruit of the Gospel.

For the equipping of the saints, your brother in Christ,
Pastor Paul

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Book Highlight: This year the pastors families will be going through a book called *“The One Year Christian History, a Daily Glimpse Into God’s Powerful Work”*. As a pastoral staff along with the elders we want to encourage more gospel conversations centered around faith in Jesus to be happening in your home as well as ours. This is one of many great resources to help initiate these conversations. Would you like to join us this year in reading this book? Check out the Resource Center today!

Save the Date!: Mark your calendar’s for our Annual Partners Meeting Saturday January 19th @ 10:00am. As a partner of the body of New Life this is one way to participate in the workings of the body and also to be aware of the goals and direction the Lord is leading us in. If you have been attending New Life for some time and you would like to become a partner or have questions about what it means, please reach out to one of the elders or pastors and set up a time to meet. Regardless if you are a partner or not, for whoever calls New Life home, we all need to be continually praying for the Lords leading, especially as we enter a new year. May Jesus always be at the center! Please bring a dish for the potluck brunch to follow. What great way to express your partnership!

New Immerse Class: Starting the first week of January: “Owning Your Faith” taught by Pastor Bennett. This class may be of special interest to young adults/teens, but all are welcome. We’ll discuss what it looks like to truly make your faith your own, explore the big questions of faith and doubt, and learn to think more critically in the process.

Prayer for the Supreme Court: Set aside Tuesday evening, January 22nd, 7-9 pm for prayer. We will be commemorating the U.S. Supreme court decision that legalized abortion in 1973. Let us seek the Lord and his mercy and ask for grace to know his heart for the unborn in these days. If you have questions, prayer concerns, or want to help with this prayer night, contact Sara G. 715-294-0748.

Fellowship Tip: Want to build deeper relationship with one another? Consider serving in a ministry team. Ministry Team Leader information can be found in the newsletter.

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

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

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com
Pastor Paul Linzmeier 320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com
Pastor Bennett Anderson (920) 395-8548
bennett.lyle86@gmail.com
Cory Mattson – Secretary 715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate 715.379.2918
Paul Gilbertson 715.755.3517
Dale Mattson 715.566.2302
Greg Mattson 715.417.2444
Rene Milner 715.557.0185
Jim Nelson 651.283.2132

This Week’s Schedule of Events:

1.9 Women’s Bible Study @ 12:30 am
1.9 Immerse @ 6:15 pm
1.10 Men’s Bible study @ 6:30 am
1.10 Women’s Bible study @ 9:30 am
1.10 Grief Share @ 6:30 pm
1.10 Ezekiel Study @ 7:00 pm
(All meet at the building)

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

Jan. 13th Meal Team 5
Jan. 20th Meal Team 6
Jan. 27th Meal Team 7

January Memory Verse

“I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6

Today's Passage

JUDGES
Our Desperate Need for the King

Pastor Tony will be teaching from the
Book of Judges.
Our passage for today is Judges 21: 13-end.

New Life has an Instagram account! Follow us @newlifechristiancommunity

Sign up in the entry way to be added to New Life Connect

201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI ~Sunday service starts at 9:30 am
email info@newlifechristiancommunity.org