

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 4, 2022

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Advent Highlight

The season of Advent is upon us. We often find ourselves in hopeful anticipation of the season with all of the gatherings, traveling, gift giving and receiving, and favorite family traditions. With all the hustle and bustle we can easily forget why we're doing what we're doing and who are we to be looking at. Reminders to look to again to Jesus are needed for us all.

In Luke 7 John the Baptist, hearing of the reports of the miracles Jesus was doing early in His ministry, sent messengers to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?"

Could it be that John the Baptist was questioning who Jesus was? I'm doubtful that's true, but at that point John was in jail, maybe a little discouraged that things were not going as he anticipated. It would be reasonable to think that John sent his disciples to confirm the words of the prophets about the coming one for his own encouragement and also to use this as an opportunity to show his own disciples (who should be moving on to the greater Teacher) that they must leave him and see Christ for themselves. John did say in another place, "He must increase, I must decrease" (John 3:30). Many times we, too, need reminders when we forget, confirmations when we're discouraged, or a gracious poke when we're stuck on having things our way, in order to be sent to look again at Jesus.

After John's disciples asked the question, Jesus responded by showing them and all who were in the crowds who he was. Luke records, "In that very hour Jesus did many miracles, healing of diseases and evil spirits and giving sight to the blind." Afterwards Jesus quoted portions from the prophet Isaiah chapter 35 (below) and chapter 61.

Isaiah 35:5-6 "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy..."

Jesus was essentially telling John's disciples and those witnessing His miracles, "I am 'the one' who Isaiah prophesied about. Just look as these words are being fulfilled before your very eyes!"

The joy and anticipation we look for this Christmas season is infinitely more than what you get from a warm, fuzzy Hallmark-type holiday but rather as we look again to Christ we receive a fresh focus on His purpose and unfolding plan of redemption revealed in His Word. For He is still in the business of opening the eyes

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Advent Highlight cont.

of the blind and raising the dead to life. Praise the Lord! As the body of Christ we get to be a part of that work as we open our mouths and testify of Jesus to those around us, and yet even in the sufferings and trials of life we wait in hopeful anticipation for His second coming in glory when He will make all things new.

This talk ought to begin in our own homes. Dads, consider how you lead your family, reminding and challenging each one to go and see Christ for themselves so that the joy of the season is founded not on fleeting worldly things but upon the immovable Rock. Moms, as you prepare your home for guests or gift giving and wrapping, consider patiently including the children (even when it takes longer and doesn't look as neat) so that they might learn what the hospitality of Christ looks like and, in the giving of gifts, what the greatest treasure is. Grandparents, you also hold a lot of spiritual weight in the lives of your children and grandchildren as you testify of God's faithfulness and steadfast love over many years.

As a catalyst for conversations in the home or with fellow brothers and sisters, we've put out an Advent Bible reading plan for the month of December on the welcome table. It will lead you to see the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ all throughout Scripture, so make sure to grab one of those. I encourage you also check out the two advent resources we have in the Resource Center. *The Dawning of Indestructible Joy* by Piper, and *Love Came Down at Christmas* by Sinclair Ferguson. Other resources that come to mind are *The Coming of the King* by JC Ryle and one that my family and I like to go through with our young kiddos is *Prepare Him Room* by Marty Machowski. All these are good tools.

Going into this Christmas season, be reminded He has come and is faithful to keep all His promises. These stories of scripture are not random events, but are orchestrated by God from the beginning of time. Every story intricately woven into the big story all pointing to the person and work of our Savior, 'the one who has come,' Jesus Christ. Be reminded in all the hustle and bustle of getting everything decorated and wrapped to have your joy and anticipation rightly placed so as not to miss the wonder, awe, and glory of Christ yourself.

Looking to Jesus,
Paul

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Video Ministry

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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	Women's Precepts— 6:30-8 pm
Tues	Young Adult Study— 6:30 pm
Wed	Every Man's Battle— 6:00 am
Wed	Immerse— 6:15-7:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study— 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study— 10:00 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study— Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study— 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare— 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

Meal Teams

12/11	Meal Team 5-breakfast
12/18	Meal Tea 6-Hot Dishes

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 the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Pastoral Eldership Team

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Announcements

Christmas Eve Service: Add to your calendars our Christmas Eve service Saturday evening Dec. 24th @ 6:30pm. We will gather to sing, pray, and be encouraged through the Word. There are simple invites on the welcome table that you can take and hand out to invite family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers to the service. If you wish the worship wouldn't end Saturday evening, don't fret, we'll meet again in the morning for a Sunday Christmas service.

Fellowship Opportunity: On Sat, Dec. 10th, join the New Life family and the broader Christian fellowship in extending tidings of comfort and joy to our preborn neighbors and shining the Light of Christ in the dark world. We will start as early as 7:30am and plan to stay until 11:00am. Bring a carol, a song, a Word, or an exhortation.

Foster Care: Here is a mission field right in our own backyard. There is a growing need in Polk County for foster care families. If you would like to hear more about all that entails, consider attending a Foster Care 101 informational meeting being held at the Alliance Church of the Valley on Thursday December 8th from 6-8pm. These foster care opportunities are open doors for believers to bring in the lost, hurting, lonely, orphaned, and neglected into a gospel centered home that points these young ones to the savior.

Immerse: December 14th is our last Immerse gathering for the fall season and will resume January 11th. On the night of the 14th we will celebrate Jesus and His work among us with hymn singing, prayer, and fellowship time to wrap the night up. Plan to bring a little holiday treat to share and a board game or two.

Advent in the Resource Center: The wondrous, expectant and exciting season of Advent is upon us! If you would enjoy reading an Advent devotional book to help focus your days, the Resource Center has two titles: Love Came Down at Christmas by Sinclair Ferguson and The Dawning of Indestructible Joy by John Piper. Advent books abound but these two authors are excellent. Come check out our other resources as well -- perhaps you'll find an item for someone special on your Christmas list!

Today's Passage



ACTS

Pastor Tony will be teaching from
the book of Acts.
Our passage for today is Acts 23:25-35.

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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