

The Divine Rescue Plan

23 AUGUST 2026 / 10:30 AM / NEW FAITH CHAPEL / PASTOR LANCE WITHAM

Summary

Pastor Lance welcomed attendees and shared key announcements, including the church-wide bonfire and hot dog roast, the AOK Men's Mastacholi dinner fundraiser, and the NFC Women's Fall Kickoff. He also highlighted prayer needs for a bereaved family in Georgia, Roger Storm, Suzanne Hughes, Pastor Lance's mom and grandma, and the youth pastor search team. In the sermon, he taught that humanity fell through sin, which brought spiritual death along with fear, shame, anger, powerlessness, and rejection, and he emphasized that only Jesus Christ restores spiritual life, identity, and relationship with God.

Church Updates

- Announcements: Lance shared three upcoming events at New Faith Chapel: a church-wide bonfire and hot dog roast next Sunday behind the pole barns near the fire pit; the AOK Men's Ministry Mastacholi dinner fundraiser on Saturday, September 19, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; and the NFC Women's Fall Kickoff on Tuesday, September 1, at 6:30 p.m. at his and Stephanie's house.
- Ministry need: Lance asked members to join the meal train for John Easterling through the Friends of New Faith Chapel Facebook page or by contacting Becca Swovland. The need is urgent because John cannot cook for himself and his daughter is also caring for her injured husband.

Prayer Focus

- Family and health needs: Prayer was requested for Matt Swed's cousin Charlie, Kelly, and their family in Georgia after the death of their 20-year-old son in a car accident; Roger Storm and Sandy as Roger manages AFib; Suzanne Hughes with an upper respiratory infection; and Lance's mother and grandmother after his grandmother tore the rotator cuff in her good arm following an earlier broken arm.
- Church leadership: Lance asked for prayer for the youth pastor search team after the executive team decided to move forward with a part-time youth pastor role. A candidate is scheduled to meet with the team on Thursday, with emphasis on discerning the Lord's will.

Sermon Message

- Core teaching: Lance preached from Genesis 1, Genesis 2, Genesis 3, Romans 5, 1 Corinthians 15, Ephesians 4, Galatians 3, John 1, John 10, John 11, and Romans 8. He argued that Adam and Eve were created physically and spiritually alive, but sin caused spiritual death, separation from God, and lasting effects such as fear, shame, anger, powerlessness, and rejection.
- Main conclusion: Human effort and obedience to the law cannot restore what was lost in the fall; only Jesus can. Lance said Christ came to forgive sin, reconnect people to God, and make them spiritually alive, then closed by inviting listeners to surrender their lives to Christ and pray for unsaved loved ones.

Action Items

- ☐ Plan to attend the church-wide bonfire and hot dog roast next Sunday and bring a chair or blanket, snacks, and a two-liter to share.
- ☐ Support the AOK Men's Ministry by planning to attend the Mastacholi dinner fundraiser on Saturday, September 19, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- ☐ Sign up and attend the NFC Women's Fall Kickoff on Tuesday, September 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Lance and Stephanie's home.
- ☐ Sign up on the meal train or talk to Becca to help provide a meal for John Easterling this week.
- ☐ Pray this week for the families and individuals mentioned, including Charlie and Kelly's family, Roger Storm, Suzanne Hughes, and Pastor Lance's mom and grandma.
- ☐ Pray for the youth pastor search team and their meeting with the candidate this Thursday.

Praise & Worship

1. NFC Choir - We Have Come Into This House
2. We The Kingdom - God So Loved (Studio Version)
3. Carrie Underwood - Victory In Jesus
4. Passion - What He's Done

Bible Study

- Genesis 1:26-27
- Genesis 2:16-17
- Genesis 3:7-8
- Romans 5:12
- 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

- Galatians 3:10
- Galatians 3:21
- Galatians 3:24
- John 1:4
- John 11:25
- John 14:6
- Romans 8:16
- Romans 10:9

These passages trace humanity's creation in God's image, the entrance and effects of sin, and God's answer in Christ, who restores spiritual life, identity, and relationship with God.

Outline

Welcome and Opening

- Lance welcomed attendees, greeted guests, and encouraged visitors to return if they were seeking a church home.
- He introduced the service as a time of worship and praise together.

Announcements

- Church-wide bonfire and hot dog roast scheduled for next Sunday behind the pole barns near the fire pit.
- Church will provide hot dogs and buns; attendees should bring lawn chairs or blankets, snacks, and a two-liter to share.
- AOK Men's Ministry Mastacholi dinner fundraiser set for Saturday, September 19, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at New Faith Chapel.
- NFC Women's Fall Kickoff scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Lance and Stephanie's home.
- Meal train announced for John Easterling through the Friends of New Faith Chapel Facebook page or via Becca Swovland.

Prayer Requests

- Prayer for Matt Swed's extended family after a fatal car accident involving Charlie and Kelly's 20-year-old son.
- Prayer for Roger Storm as doctors pursue outpatient medication for AFib.
- Prayer for Suzanne Hughes and her upper respiratory infection.
- Prayer for Lance's mother and grandmother after his grandmother's fall and rotator cuff injury.

- Prayer for the youth pastor search team and a part-time candidate meeting on Thursday.

Pastoral Prayer

- Lance prayed over each request individually.
- He emphasized God's sovereignty, comfort, healing, guidance, and provision.

Sermon: The Human Condition

- Lance introduced questions of identity, purpose, and authenticity, including the idea that people wear masks to hide fear and insecurity.
- From Genesis 1:26-27, he taught that humanity was created in God's image with purpose, belonging, and relationship with God.
- From Genesis 2 and Genesis 3, he described the fall as the moment sin entered and humanity became spiritually dead.

Effects of the Fall

- Fear and anxiety emerged after sin entered the world.
- Guilt and shame followed the loss of relationship with God.
- Depression, anger, blame, powerlessness, and rejection became part of human experience.
- Human effort cannot recover what Adam and Eve lost.

Christ as the Answer

- From Romans 5, 1 Corinthians 15, Galatians 3, and John, Lance argued that the law exposes humanity's need for a Savior but cannot give life.
- Jesus was presented as the only source of spiritual life, forgiveness, and restored relationship with God.
- Believers are accepted, secure, and given purpose as children of God.

Invitation and Closing Prayer

- Lance invited listeners to surrender to Jesus and step from spiritual darkness into light.
- He closed by praying for spiritual renewal and for loved ones who do not yet know Christ.