



New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We Celebrate
Only Jesus

"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

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
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Pastoral Pondering

The Purpose Of Ministry For Each Of Us

"And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."
(Excerpted from Ephesians 4:11-16)

I was pondering this passage from Paul's instruction to the Ephesians today while I was thinking about the purpose of ministry. At New Life we have many ministry teams. Really, each collection of saints is a ministry team. We have meal team ministry, missions team ministry, music ministry, and Immerse is a ministry. There is grief share and building and grounds as well as the finance team and the ministry of the Word. Many couples and individuals do ministry within the hospitality of their own homes. When it comes right down to it the way ministry is done is as diverse as the body of Christ is. So how do we boil down exactly what a ministry is and should look like? I think that this wisdom from God through Paul can help us. It answers several questions for us.

1. Who does ministry?
 - a. The saints. Who is a saint? Ephesians :18-19, *"For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."* That would be you if you are in Christ Jesus. No Christian is exempt.
2. How are we able to do ministry?
 - a. He gave people with abilities of prophecy and teaching, of evangelism and shepherding, but that was not for doing the work of ministry. That was to equip you to do the ministry.
3. What is the actual ministry that needs to be done?
 - a. Building up the body of Christ. Christ Himself cannot be built up in any way, so this must be a reference to us as the body. Those who are in Christ. Those who can be drawn unto Christ. Remember this is not the job of the evangelist or of the Preacher. They are there to equip us to do the work. We are to draw others in and build each other up.
4. What does it mean to build up the body of Christ?

Well, the end goal is stated right there. *"attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."* ~Ephesians 4:13

We are to move towards unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God. A lofty goal. The perfection of which no living man has ever seen but we can all recognize movement in that direction and times when we are yet deficient and need growth. The result will be a steadfast faith that is unmoved by doctrinal winds, human cunning, craftiness or deceitful schemes.
5. How is it done?
 - a. That's easy. Speaking the Truth in Love. (that's hard. Even harder is hearing the truth in love)
6. So, the bottom-line question is, "What does that look like in real life?"
 - a. Whatever group you get together with are they:
 - i. Seeking Unity in faith and knowledge of the Son of God? Faith comes from hearing the word of God. Every group of saints that would gather for any Godly purpose must be seeking unity in their understanding of Christ who is, the Word made flesh.

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Pastoral Pondering

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- ii. Growing up in every way into Christ? Do all the groups actions and discussions draw people unto closeness with Christ?
- iii. Is it joined and held together by Christ alone? Or do the tasks and love for the tasks bind it together?
- iv. Working to the best of their ability in thankfulness?
Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
- v. Committing all their way unto Him (that He would make their paths straight **Proverbs 3:5-6**). Praying as a group over every decision and action.
- vi. Seeing the body grow? Building itself up in love? In true caring fellowship, others will see His true love reflected in our love for one another.

This is my simplified version of what Paul is saying that every group that would call itself part of the body of Christ should look like. In short, if you are not in some sort of ministry that looks like this, you need to ask yourself why? If you are in a group that would call itself a ministry, how do these things fit with your group? I don't want to sound harsh, but I know I often leave the work of ministry to the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers and that is not what God through Paul is telling us to do. This is our work as saints, and no one is excluded or exempt. As you think on this ponder how you are equipped and how you can be involved in "the work of His Ministry" in each and every moment of your life. And let it all be for the Glory of God alone.

Rene Milner

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. Please join us for fellowship *and a meal* after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

nlcc
resourcecenter

If you haven't visited the Resource Center lately, Come check it out! Our shelves hold so many great books to help you grow in your knowledge of and love for God and to help guide you in your daily walk with Him. Perhaps you'll find a book to read with a friend or form a book group with! We also have many great books that you may want to consider for your gift-giving needs for the young or old and all ages in-between. Come check us out after service today.

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Sun	Preaching Guild– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

May Memory Verse:

John 6:35 (ESV)

"Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

May Fellowship Tip:

Looking to be more connected online? If you haven't already, download our NewLife App to access our online messaging platform. Get church updates, announcements, prayer requests, and more. Make an account today and get connected.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

May 17 Meal Team 3–Italian
May 24 Meal Team 4–Beans & Rice

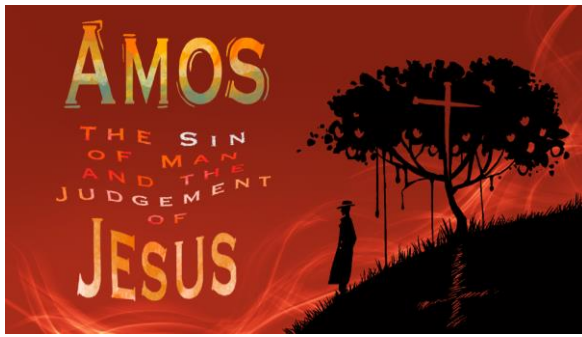
Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. Christ Our Wisdom
2. Holy, Holy, Holy
3. All My Boast Is In Jesus
4. Christ Is Mine Forevermore
5. Sing To Jesus

- **Preaching Guild:** Meets **this Sunday evening 6:30pm**. Fellow brothers, if you are willing to be challenged to dive deeper into the scriptures, lean more on Christ, and grow in the practice of preparing and giving of a sermon, consider attending tonight!
- **Building & Grounds:** We are in search for a Building and Grounds Ministry Team Leader. Our hardworking, resourceful, and faithful brother Jim Judkins would like to hand off the baton of leadership to another committed brother (or temporary co-leadership with Jim with intention to fully pass off role later). Being in this role does not mean you have to have repair skills, though helpful, but more so, the ability to delegate tasks, manage regular maintenance schedules, be a point person for repairs done by contractors, keep the elders updated on larger upcoming needs, etc. Having a team of committed men alongside a ministry team leader can make this 13,000sqft building easily manageable to keep in working order. The more repair and maintenance tasks we can do "in house" saves costs in the budget immensely. Please reach out to Jim if you are willing to join a team and/or learn more about stepping into this ministry leadership role.
- **TRI County Baby Bottle Fund Raiser:** Consider supporting our local Options for Women |TRI-COUNTY. You can help support by simply grabbing one of the empty plastic baby bottles, taking it home and filling it with change or dollars. Then be sure to bring it back by Sunday Service on Father's Day. This fundraiser contributes significantly towards the total operating expenses for the year, so it's a really important fundraiser! Your support will help provide free pregnancy tests, counseling, ultrasound services, clothing, and baby supplies for the mothers who are most in need from our community. You can pick-up a bottle after service today from the welcome counter.
- **2026 Graduate Recognition: Sunday, June 7th** we will be recognizing and praying over our 2026 Graduates. If a grad party is planned, please feel free to place an invite on the welcome table and/or announce on the megaphone group through the App Messaging platform.
- **Midyear Partners Meeting:** Coming up on **Sunday, June 14th** we will be having a Midyear Partners Meeting. Partners please plan to stick around after service; the meeting will **begin at 12:00**.


Busy Bags
Available by the Door



SERMON NOTES:

Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the
Old Testament book,
Amos 3:1-2