



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 11, 2025
Vol. 18, Issue 32

Pastoral Pondering

Jonah

"The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes."

Jonah 3:6

I just love moments studying in the Scriptures where the picture of the Gospel just jumps off the page. Thursday evenings the men have been going through Jonah. I've so enjoyed camping out on this verse for a bit.

Chapter 3 begins just as chapter 1. God commands Jonah to go and preach against the city of Nineveh, Israel's enemy. After God commands Jonah the first time, he flees the opposite direction and boards a ship, and you know the story, but the second time Jonah obeys. He goes to the city of Nineveh and begins to call out against them of a coming judgment where in 40 days the entire city would be overturned because of their evil ways.

Much to the readers' surprise and likely Jonah's, before he is even able to complete his mission and travel through the whole city, everyone from the greatest to the least responds by **believing God!** Praise the Lord for His work in the hearts of His enemies. The people then proceed to display their repentance by fasting and putting on sackcloth. This repentance is as miraculous as Jonah's life being preserved in the belly of a fish!

The next verse jumps off the page. It describes the response of the king of Nineveh in a neat chiasm.

"...and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes."

In a kingdom, the king represents the people of his kingdom. Where the heart of the king goes, so will the people. This is a beautiful picture of a great and mighty king who humbles himself. He got up from his throne, relinquishing, for a moment, his kingly duties. He takes off his royal wear which is a display of his kingly glory. He covers himself with sackcloth, making himself lowly like everyone else in the kingdom. Lastly, he sat down in ashes having humbled himself in the most complete way, to the dust of the earth, *"for you are dust and to dust you shall return."* (Genesis 3:19). This foreign pagan king did what very few kings in Israel ever did when confronted with sin. That is until THE true King of Israel would come.

Philippians 2:5-8, *"... though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."*

Do you see the connection? The Son of God, the king of the universe, the one who is in the heavens, The Lord of glory arises from His throne in heaven, and empties himself of this heavenly glory by taking off his kingly robes which display his majesty and splendor, and clothes himself in human flesh (sackcloth) by becoming man. He sits down upon the dust of the earth, dwelling amongst those of the dust as a man of sorrows, well acquainted with grief.

Christ humbled himself for the sake of and on behalf of His own enemies because he so loved the

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Pastoral Pondering

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world!!!! That's you and I, brothers and sisters. From the highest glory, the Son of God humbled himself to the lowest low, taking upon himself our sin and dying, even to death on the cross. As the Scripture says, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* 2 Corinthians 5:21.

The humbling of the king of Nineveh did have great effect on the people of Nineveh but not a permanent one. But the humbling of the Son of God has a permanent effect on His people, transforming them into new creations. For Jesus did not remain in the ash heap, but arose from death, (in the words of the book of Jonah, from the belly of Sheol) being vomited out because death could not hold him and the grave could not keep him. Jesus arose from death victorious over sin, having paid the price for our sin and securing for those who call upon his name forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life.

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11

The chiasm of this story continues in Jesus, for our King arose from the dust, put back on his kingly garments full of glory, honor, and splendor and is now seated at the right hand of the Father to rule and reign forever and ever over all creation. There, however, is one caveat. He doesn't take off human flesh, but remains forever the God-Man as a perfect and righteous representative of His people who we will one day see in the flesh face to face!

Oh brothers and sisters, delight in these beautiful Old Testament pictures, shadows, and types of our Lord Jesus. Remember, all of the Scripture testifies of Christ Jesus, and when you see Him, it adds so much more depth and richness and beauty to our understanding of the Gospel, leading us to worship and praise Him all the more.

Delighting in the King who humbled Himself for us,
-Pastor Paul



Happy Mother's Day!! Please take an annual flower home with you today and enjoy the blooms all season.

Scan here (QR Code) to give towards the Albania Missions Trip July 2025.



This can be a simple way for the church body to give (if lead) towards the Albania trip coming up in July.

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837
Daniel Lipp 612.229.2893
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

Coffee Ministry

Ana Smith: 715.566.3740
anajoy87@gmail.com

Finance Administration

Colleen Firkus (Treasurer): 612.889.7581
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

Greeting Card Ministry

Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426
lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com

GriefShare Ministry

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945
robinmattson27@gmail.com

Immerse Ministry

Andrew/Lauryssa Steward: 715.483.5133
lamilner.31@gmail.com

Meal Train Relief Ministry

Kristin Stephan: 651.235.1681
kristin@kageinnovation.com

Music Ministry

Jeff Warren: 715.553.2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661
lrmilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djhalm@lakeland.ws

Resource Center

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556
bjdamell@hotmail.com

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com	
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com	
Pastor Jeff Warren	715.553.2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com	
Cory Mattson – Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

This Week's Scheduled Events:

Mon	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Precept Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

May Memory Verse:

Hebrews 6:19-20 (ESV)

"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

May Fellowship Tip:

Are you an avid outdoor person? Next time you make plans for fishing, hiking, running, gardening, etc. invite someone to join you and consider how you might spur them on in Christ.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

May 11	Meal Team 6– Baked Potato Bar
May 18	Meal Team 7– SloppyJo/Hotdogs

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

Check Out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

➤ **Attention 2025 Graduates!!** Are you graduating this year 2025?? If you are, it's obvious to you but might not be to others. We want to congratulate you and celebrate with you! Just swing over to the welcome table and let us know that you are graduating by jotting down your name and please include a mailing address for cards. Also, if you would enjoy more of the New Life Family joining your grad party feel free to include your party date, time, and location. Thank you!

➤ **Albania Missions Trip:** As we are seeking to raise money for the upcoming trip to Albania, we have an exciting way for you to be involved! The talented Jessie Hegge is a professional photographer, and she is offering family photo mini sessions with all proceeds going to the Albania trip.

Here are the details.

When: Sunday, June 1 from 2pm-6pm

Where: DD Kennedy County Park

What: Jessie will spend 15 minutes with each family capturing photos for you to enjoy. You will then receive digital images from her to use as you please.

How: In order to keep the day running smoothly, please sign up to be assigned a time slot by texting Amy at 320-226-7956 or emailing her at:

paulandamy.linzmeier@gmail.com.

The cost for the session and digital images is \$125, again with all of that being generously donated to the Albania trip where the team will be helping lead a marriage retreat for ministry leaders there as well as encouraging local believers. If you have any questions, please contact Amy. Space is limited so don't wait!

More Albania Missions Trip Support: A group from New Life is heading over this summer to help lead a marriage retreat and encourage the church. We are seeking to raise money to send with for the needs of the church and this ministry. The goal is to raise \$10,000 dollars for the Albanian church. First off, if you would like to just donate directly scan the QR code in the newsletter.

Also, we will be doing a fundraising dinner **Wednesday, June 4th** at the church building. Tony Llapushi will be here to share about the work in Albania. We will have a meal and silent auction. Please join us if you can, it will be a great time of fellowship and opportunity to hear from Tony.

Lastly, we are looking for items for the silent auction. If you have anything to offer, skills, services, basket items, etc. please get ahold of Amy Linzmeier at 320-226-7956.

Please also be in prayer for the missions team and the Albanian church. Thank you!

➤ **Building & Grounds Help Needed:** The area on the north side of the building (between the building and the motel fence) needs some attention. This area is full of weeds and small trees, and needs to be chopped down, and the debris removed (can be disposed at the far west end of the west parking lot). In the past, I have done this myself or with the help of one other person, but I just don't have the time (or energy). This would be a great opportunity for a family with kids (many hands make light work). If able, please reach out to Jim Judkins at (715)-338-8837



Jesus

According to Samuel

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the
Old Testament book,

2 Samuel 14:1-24

Sermon Notes: