



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, August 24, 2025
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Pastoral Pondering

Cry Out To Our God King - Jesus

In about the 7th century BC, there reigned in Judah a king named Hezekiah. At this extraordinarily tumultuous time in Israel's history, the country had been divided into two nations: the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom (often called Judah). It was during this period of Israel's history that the Assyrian kingdom took the Northern Kingdom into captivity. They were overthrown and taken away as slaves into Assyria.

Imagine being the king of Judah – while you saw your Northern brothers and sisters be overrun and decimated by the unstoppable super-power of the day. Hezekiah would have known that Jerusalem, Judah's capitol, was next on Assyria's chopping block.

In 2 Chronicles 32:9 we learn the King of Assyria indeed had decided to turn his attention to Jerusalem. So, as the drama unfolds, he sends word to Hezekiah and the people of Judah – threatening them.

He challenges them by asking, **"On what are you trusting...Is not Hezekiah misleading you...when he tells you, 'The Lord our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria?'"** (2 Chron 32:10-11). The king of Assyria spends considerable effort on this propaganda campaign. Assyria believes that their threatening reputation should be enough to convince the people to abandon their loyalty to the Lord and His king – Hezekiah. If Assyria can divide the people and convince them to surrender – given the fact that no one has been able to stop them (including their northern counterparts) – then the battle would be won without a battle.

This campaign of words continues for several weeks (or even months). The King of Assyria **"wrote letters to cast contempt on the Lord, the God of Israel..."** [explaining that] **the God of Hezekiah will not deliver his people from his hand"** (V17).

So what does Hezekiah do? What should Hezekiah do? The unity of his kingdom is being threatened. What we expect him to do is to wage a counter-propaganda campaign of words. We might expect him to spend his efforts calming the people's fears – seeking to convince them to not panic! Stay united! Hold the line! The sentiment of "keep calm and carry on" comes to mind. We expect Hezekiah to call the people to rally together!

But this is not what he does.

After Assyria's onslaught of divisive words – he does what we ought to do. His response is recorded in 2 Chronicles 32:20, **"Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven."**

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Pastoral Pondering

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We may think that the people need their king to speak to *them* – but Hezekiah (interestingly, with God's prophet – whose role is usually to speak to *the people* on God's behalf) speaks to God.

When God's people desperately need fears calmed, it is far more productive to call out to God than to call out to the people.

It is tempting to believe that when there is difficulty in our world and when there is the threat of division especially among the Christ's church, that we must cry out to the people for unity! But really, what needs to happen is that we, each one of us, must cry out to God – the only one who can *actually unite and* strengthen us.

It is no wonder that Hezekiah's own name declares this very truth – "Strengthened by God."

Church of Jesus Christ, our strength doesn't come from rallying one another. Our strength comes from our Savior alone. And it is a glorious truth that our King – King Jesus - is currently reigning and interceding on our behalf in the very throne room of God.

Join me as we cry out to Him.

Blessings, Pastor tony



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.



Busy Bags
Available by the Door

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

Coffee Ministry

Ana Smith: 715.566.3740
anajoy87@gmail.com

Finance Administration

Colleen Firkus (Treasurer): 612.889.7581
financeministry@newlifechristiancomm
unity.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

Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661
lrmilner@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Jeff Warren: 715.553.2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djholm@lakeland.ws

Resource Center

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556
bjdarnell@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:

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	GriefShare– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

August Memory Verse:

Colossians 2:11-12 (ESV)

*"In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead."*

August Fellowship Tip:

As public professions of Faith in Jesus are fresh in our mind from our baptism service, we recognize that Jesus calls all believers to always be ready to give an answer to the hope we have in Christ. Who can you share with today about that hope and the continued work of Christ in you?

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Aug 24 No Meal Service
Aug 31 No Meal Service

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

Check Out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

➤ **Hall Of Men:** Hall of Men meet next **Sunday, August 31!** Come to celebrate the work of Jesus Christ in another man of the past and take encouragement from the grace of God at work in each generation. Let's make this one a Hall of Men with a meal of meat. Bring your favorite dish of protein to pass. Since there is a meal lets plan to start at **5:30pm**. This month we have a well-loved pastor from out of town who we respect and value giving the presentation. You won't want to miss this one!

➤ **New Life Cookbook:** Hey New Life Family! The New Life cookbook has been in the development phase for many months, and the time to get your recipes in is very soon. We have many good cooks and we really need more recipes! They don't have to be originals. Feel free to submit your family's favorites. Submitting them is easy. Either take a picture of your recipe (if it's easy to read) and email that, or type it out if you have time. Recipes can be emailed to Evelyn Mattson (Evejacobson4@gmail.com), Rosi Swisher (grandma.rosi@gmail.com), Anna Abraham (abrafam21@gmail.com), or Cory Mattson (cory79mattson@hotmail.com). We'd like to have them all by **Monday, September 1st**. Thank you for helping to make this cookbook possible! !

➤ **Immerse:** Immerse is starting soon! **Wednesday September 10th** is our first night. We meet during the school calendar year every Wednesday at **6:15pm-7:30pm**. Immerse is discipleship for the whole family. Christ commands us to make disciples by teaching the Word of Christ which is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. This is our goal Wednesday nights whenever we gather together as the body, to make disciples as Christ is proclaimed from His Word. We currently need 4 more teachers and assistants to fill our children's' classes. Couples are encouraged to teach a class together as well. Our adult class will be an interactive study through Proverbs this year letting the fear of the Lord shape us in all matters of the wisdom of our great God as His word is impressed upon every corner of our life. Whether you have a volunteer role or you plan on attending the adult class, please be praying for the Spirit of God to work in each of us and pray about ways the Lord would work in you to use the time to disciple others.

➤ **Young Adults Gathering at Wood Lake:** Inviting all young adults to join us again for a night and day out at Wood Lake in Grantsburg WI on **Friday evening September 26th through Saturday afternoon the 27th**. Looking forward to spending unrushed time together studying the Word, worshipping our Lord, growing in relationship together and encouraging one another to look to Jesus more and more. Cost is \$64 per person for all the meals and a night in the cabins. Registration is online. Just go the New Life Website and click on the menu option "Young Adults September Wood Lake Camp". Parents and other adults are encouraged to join. If you have any questions just reach out to Pastor Paul.



Jesus

According to Samuel

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the
Old Testament book,
2 Samuel 22:1-51

Sermon Notes: