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

Sunday, November 1, 2026 Vol. 20, Issue 4

Pastoral Ponderings

Lately, as my wife and our two oldest children head out to their respective jobs in either construction or at local cafes, the younger kids and I have been praying for them. Often, we will pray that God will allow them to be salt and light at their places of employment. It's a common prayer, and common metaphor amongst followers of Christ. This concept comes from Jesus' sermon in Matthew 5:13-16, where He describes the identity and role of his followers in the world. Unsurprisingly, we encounter these metaphors several more times throughout the new testament, for example multiple times in John, also in Mark 9, Acts 13, etc. Recently, during an elder meeting as we dove into Ephesians, we gloried at the following passage - "but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light…" (Ephesians 5:8 ESV) - and I was struck at the "you are" declaration of this passage as we discussed it in depth. It definitely piqued my curiosity to explore further

Let's look at the original teaching in Matthew.

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that[a] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus states, "<u>You are</u> the salt of the earth… <u>You are</u> the light of the world." As I said before He is declaring our identity and role "of the earth" and "in the world". What do these metaphors mean for us? Do we understand the implications? Let's think about these:

Salt of the Earth

Preservation: Historically, salt was used to prevent food from spoiling. We as believers are called to have a positive and preserving influence against the wisdom of man, and the thrust of society.

Flavor and Thirst: Salt enhances flavor and provokes thirst. Those who claim Christ should live in a way that makes others spiritually "thirsty" for the grace and truth of God.

Distinctiveness: Jesus warns that if salt loses its saltiness (its taste or ability to enhance), it is no longer useful. This represents the danger of compromising faith to blend in with the surrounding culture.

Essentially this "salt" talk is a call to walk in purity - not only in sexual purity but also in the way we use our tongue. This is one of the clearest ways people

Continued-->

Pastoral Ponderings cont.

will look at us as Christians and recognize a difference. Jesus says throughout the New Testament that one of the distinctive marks of a Christian is that they talk differently from the world. Ephesians 4:29 (NASB) says, "Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth." Needless to say, we could spend an entire pondering on just 'unwholesome words' and how we use our tongues. But the point is to be distinct, preserving wholesomeness.

Light of the World

Visibility: Jesus compares his followers to a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden, or a lamp placed on a stand to light up a room. Faith is meant to be openly lived out, not hidden away. Also, notice the placement - on a hill, on a stand - this is strategic. The city is not in the middle of nowhere, lost in the wilderness. The lamp is not in the corner or tucked behind the bookcase. Both are elevated, seen from afar, shining in all directions.

Navigation: Light exposes darkness, provides guidance, and offers hope. We are light. We shine so others can recognize the right path.

Purpose of Good Deeds: Believers are commanded to let their good deeds shine so that others see them and give glory to God in heaven—not to draw attention to themselves.

So, what does this mean for us as followers of Christ? Jesus was prescribing that we are to be engaging of our culture which, we recognize along with Him, is full of darkness, decay, pollution and sin. We need to be participating in daily life at work, at school, and in the homes of family and friends, rather than withdrawing to isolation.

If we're to live in a way that glorifies God, we're to remember that we are salt and light. Salt doesn't season salt to be more salty. Salt isn't eaten alone because the other food is flavorless. Lights aren't supposed to gather together in isolation. Candlesticks don't gather in the same room and just talk about how dark it is. We are supposed to be a city set on a hill. This means we are to be strategically located in areas of darkness. Christians aren't supposed to just huddle together and shake their heads at how lost the world is. They are to go and be positively, kingdomly affecting the decaying and sinful world that they're in – seasoning, provoking thirst, guiding, shining for Christ.

Ministry Directory

Building & Grounds Ministry
Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

Coffee Ministry
Ana Smith, 715.566.3740
ajoysmith05@gmail.com

Finance Administration
Colleen Firkus (Treasurer),
612-889-7581
c.a.firkus@gmail.com

Greeting Card Ministry
Lynn Nelson, 651.373.1426
lynnjimnelson@gmail.com

GriefShare Ministry
Robin Mattson, 715.566.1945
robinmattson27@gmail.com

Immerse Ministry
Paul Linzmeier
320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry
Kristin Stephan, 651.235-1681
kristin@kageinnovation.com

Missions Outreach
Ben Wilson, 651-497-7136
benwilson246@gmail.com

Music Ministry
Jeff Warren, 715-553-2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

Newsletter Administration
Dawn Holm, 715.472.8453
djholm2744@gmail.com

New Life Bookstore
Cory Mattson, 715.417.0945
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

Safety & Security
Brooks Berg
brooksdberg@outlook.com

Sunday Meal Services
Barbara Judkins,
309.269.0556
bjdarnell@hotmail.com

Video Ministry
Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

This Sunday's Worship Songs:
1. I Praise You God
2. 10,000 Reasons
3. All Creatures of Our God and King
4. How Deep the Father's Love for Us

This Week's Schedule of Events

Wed	Immerse - 6:15 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

Meal Teams

Nov. 1	Meal Team 4
Nov. 8	Meal Team 5

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

Fellowship Tip for November
What's cooking at your house? Let not Sunday mornings be the only time of connecting with fellow brothers and sisters. Who could you have over this week or what meal could you bring to another's home, together breaking bread and building up one another in Jesus?

November Memory Verse
"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:14-15

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
Todd Asmus	612.695.4849
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
Sam Umlauf	612.791.2132

Announcements

Fiber Fellowship is about to commence for this fall and winter! All crafters are invited to Barbara Gilliland's on Sunday, November 8 from 2:30 to 5 PM. Barbara has the Coffee & Fireplace Room reserved at her apt building Lighthouse Lofts at 220 Lake St N in Forest Lake! Contact Barbara for more info at (715) 338-1634. We are carpooling/caravaning from the WI side of the river! Contact Mary G at (715) 431-0729 for specifics. Looking forward to seeing many of you and your creations!

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 Book Store in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. In addition, you're invited to join us for our meal after service. We would love to meet you and get to know and for you to get to know us more.

Greeting Card Ministry

Do you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration? Please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: lynnjimnelson@gmail.com or call her at 651-373-1426.

Busy Bags

Available by the doors

Today's Passage

Pastor Paul will be teaching from
the book of Esther.
Our passage for today is Esther 2:1-11.

715-201-2295 • 201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI
newlifechristiancommunity.org
Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • nlcc.dresser@gmail.com
Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com