

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, September 6, 2026

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Pastoral Pondering

Wednesdays with Pete

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." 2 Timothy 4: 6-8

I write this with a heavy heart and pray that these words are not my own. On the evening of 8/30/26, I lost my good friend Pete Manship, a saint and warrior, after a prolonged battle with prostate cancer.

There was an award-winning book from 1997 titled "Tuesdays with Morrie". It's a true story that spoke about visits a student had on Tuesdays with his former sociology college professor who was dying of ALS. During these meetings, they would talk about the meaning of Life where Morrie encouraged the author to create a culture for himself founded on love, acceptance and human goodness. Near the end of the book Morrie spoke about the inevitable stages of life including aging and death. These meetings had such a profound influence on the author's life that it led to a book and eventually a movie.

I also had my own meetings intermittently over the last 5 years, "Wednesdays with Pete," which began after his cancer diagnosis. We would usually meet at Fiesta Loca for lunch where we would spend time in fellowship talking about various topics such as business, plans for future trips, what God was doing in our lives and his ongoing battle with cancer. Pete intended to live life to the fullest all the way to the end, refusing to allow a diagnosis to slow him down. The journey following his diagnosis was difficult including surgery, several different courses of chemo, some which were accompanied by horrible side effects, and numerous doctor visits but, through it all, he remained focused on the Lord and unwavering in his faith. His family related that even if he was away on a fishing trip, he'd pull the car over to bring up the New Life service so he wouldn't miss a Sunday. He was so committed to pursuing his faith that he was at New Life just one week before he passed away despite being in pain from the advancing metastatic disease and anemia due to his failing bone marrow.

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Pastoral Ponderings cont.

Pete and I often talked about death. If you knew Pete he was very organized, methodical and detail oriented about everything. He hated indecision. He told me it's better to make a bad decision than to not make one at all. He spent most of his last year making sure Barb and their family would be taken care of in his absence. His family meant everything to him and that included his New Life family. He and Barb moved to the Osceola/Dresser area and initially started looking for a local Catholic church to attend but God had other plans. Barb found New Life after being invited by someone who attended here, and she started attending regularly. She invited Pete and he decided he'd better go and make sure this wasn't a cult! I remember the Sunday he came ... he walked up to me with his fedora hat on and asked "where is the offering box?" I told him it was in the wooden box by the door. He was a little taken back and told me that was odd because at the Catholic church they would often send a plate around more than once. He also tells of the time that he was listening to a message from Tony where he asked "do you think you are going to outdo Jesus?" From that point on, Pete's journey with Jesus really began. He and Barb were both baptized at New Life and Jesus continued to work in Pete's heart. He loved talking about Jesus, and our prayers on Wednesdays would center around remaining courageous and strong in the Lord as his days were becoming shorter.

One week ago, from the day I'm writing this, Pete called me and said, "well, they say there is nothing further medically that can be done and they are giving me days to weeks." As a doc, even I was taken back by that so I asked, "Do you feel that badly?" His response to me was what I'll call a Peteism: "I don't know, I've never died before." He was placed in Hospice and within a couple of days, surrounded by loved ones, he finished his fight as well as the race and went home to meet Jesus.

Now I write this not to boast in Pete because he would have been the first to tell stories of his past before accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior, but to boast in what God accomplished through Pete. My heart aches for Barb, their family, and our church family. But as followers of Christ we know that a place has been prepared for Pete where he was presented with the crown of righteousness,

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Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. His Glory and My Good
2. We Come, O Christ, To You
3. Christ Is Mine Forevermore
4. Near the Cross

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

Sept. 6 Sharing Sunday

Sept. 13 Meal Team 5 - Breakfast

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

Fellowship Tip for September

Fellowship tip: The weather is still beautiful, take advantage of this by inviting others over. Don't overthink or undervalue hospitality. In love, share something you have and share something about the Lord.

September Memory Verse

1 Cor. 10:31--So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

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and while being awarded it heard the words "well done good and faithful servant!". What a homecoming, something we should all be looking forward to.

I want to conclude this with Psalm 116:15. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." God doesn't take the death of a saint lightly and understands our heartache. Pete - being Pete - planned out what he wanted preached at his funeral and had a request in regards to music -- that New Life should be singing loudly, from a heart of worship and not one of mourning, for death has been defeated and has lost its sting.

Please keep Barb, Matt, Patrick and Kelly and their families in prayer as they mourn the loss of a husband, father, and grandfather. He will be missed greatly until we are united with him and the other great saints of New Life who have gone home.

Announcements

Immerse: Wednesday evening Immerse study is starting this week, Sept. 9th. You are all invited to this mid week gathering of the saints, young and old, to explore the depth and riches of God's grace towards us in Christ Jesus our Savior from the book of Ephesians. See you there!

Celebration of Life: New Life family, the tentative date for our brother Pete's funeral will be Sunday, September 27th. It will be an afternoon service. The family would love to have you there. More details to come.

Building Project: Just a reminder that the building exterior project materials and vision are available for viewing in the prayer room.



Today's Passage



Pastor Paul will be teaching from
the book of Esther.
Our passage for today is Esther 1:9-15.

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