



**Today's Passage:**  
Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,  
**Mark 1:16-20**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Welcome to the Celebration!**



**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, June 12, 2016**

**Vol. 9, Issue 36**

**Pastoral Pondering**

**Jesus, The Word, The Bread of Life**

Recently I received news that is sadly, all too familiar to many who will be reading this article. It knocked me down to the ground. My uncle (who is relatively young) has late stage pancreatic cancer. It looks as if it has spread into several organs throughout his body.

This uncle of mine is larger than life. It is for his example that I owe much of my training as an uncle to my own nieces and nephews. I love him and see him as a superlative example of what our extended familial relationships should look like.

These words are not meant to be read for the gratification of my uncle's appetite (indeed, he will not likely read this). I write these words to ask the question, in the times when our physical health fades, to what hope can we turn?

I was recently studying John 6. This is a passage of Scripture worthy of years of study. Despite its demand for extended study, I allowed myself to meditate upon John's words (we must not let Scripture intimidate us). In this great passage Jesus seeks to explain to the Jews who were following Him that He was the manna the world had been waiting for. In 6:51 John records Christ's words, *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."* He goes on in verse 54 to say, *"Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*

These were confounding words for Jesus' followers. In fact, in *verse 66* we are told that after Jesus said these words *"many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with him."* Just as these were difficult words for Jesus' original audience - they too, are difficult words for us.

We come up with silly responses to Jesus' words even today. We conclude that Jesus must have meant that we gain eternal life through the consumption of a certain bread administered by ordained clergy. Christians have argued about the nature and even the name of that bread. Here are just a few of the names given to this mystical meal: communion, the Lord's supper, The Eucharist, The Last Supper or, the Passover Seder. Whole branches of the faith have been birthed out of this debate (to put it civilly).

It's as if we stopped reading God's word at verse 60 in order to argue about what His words really mean. This is an irony that has lasted two thousand years - because in *verse 61* Jesus interrupts the disciples' argument to explain. John writes, *"But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them,*

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**Visitor Card**

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-Time Visitor
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Name:

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**How to access the sermon archives:**

If you would like a copy of an audio (CD) or video (DVD) of a sermon from our archives (\$2 per copy), please complete the following and drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room. Your order will be available for pick-up at the video booth the following week.

Name:

Sermon Date:

Scripture Passage:

To download sermons for free, go to [newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

## Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below then drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below:

- This may be added to our congregation prayer wall
- Share this only with the pastor and elders

Optional:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front of the church immediately following the service.

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982  
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**Checkout New Life Online**  
[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)  
Find Links to:

• Events • Sermons Online • Set  
Lists • The Table • & More

Be sure to tune into our pastors' podcast at the beginning of each week. You can access the podcast through our website, the Table, or the podcast icon on your Wi-Fi enabled Apple device.

### This Week's Schedule of Events:

**Jun 15** Wednesday Nature Walk  
6:30 p.m. TBD

**Jun 16** Men's Bible Study  
Book of Acts  
6:30 a.m. at NLCC Building

**Jun 16** Evening GriefShare Mtg.  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Green Room at NLCC Building

### Upcoming Potlucks & Meal Teams:

Jun 12 Meal Team #5  
Jun 19 Father's Day Meal - #6  
Jun 26 Meal Team #7  
Jul 3 Potluck Sunday - #1  
Jul 10 Meal Team #2

Fellowship follows our service every Sunday, along with a great meal.



*Please stay and join us!*

**June Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16-17

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, [a] as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" (ESV)

### Pastoral Pondering

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*"Do you take offense at this?"* In other words, are you struggling to understand?! The student of the Word would do well to read on - to understand Christ's own interpretation of this fascinating manna metaphor (if it is a metaphor - I used that phrase because it reads well).

Clarity comes in *verse 63*. Jesus says, *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life"* (emphasis mine). In other words, your arguments over the nature of my physical body and blood are vain. Jesus says, "the flesh is no help at all." He tells them, I'm not talking about my skin and blood - if you are looking to the physical world for help - it is of no help at all! If you are hoping for a magical meal that you can sit down and physically eat - you will quickly learn that "the flesh is no help at all." His next statement holds the key. He says, I am talking about the *words* I speak. This, of course, correlates with John's introduction of Christ as "The Word" in chapter 1. Jesus, as the Word, offers Himself as the bread of life.

After Christ's sobering challenge, *"do you want to go away as well"*, Peter's response is poignant and appropriate. He says, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* Notice he does not say, "... you have the *meal* of eternal life."

If I may put it another way, Peter essentially is saying - If I look to the world around me. The heartache, the difficulty and the pain - I recognize that the physical world is no help at all. There is nothing in this world that will satisfy the cravings of my soul. The physical cannot give birth to the eternal. The only place I can see to turn is to the one who has the words of eternal life.

As I pray for my uncle, regarding his physical healing, I find myself both perplexed and hopeful. The only place I can find refuge is in the consumption of Christ's words. The ultimate hope we have is not for my uncle's physical healing (though in Christ it is possible). Our true hope is in the words of the One who is the Bread of Life - It is He who has given us eternal life. Though our days with my uncle may be physically few, our life together, in Christ, is for all eternity - if Christ's message/words are received.

When once this is understood, we can all echo Peter's sentiment and say to Jesus, You have the words of eternal life, I desire only to be with You. May Christ's Words wash us until all our sustenance is in His words and we no longer remain.

I will hope in Him. Tony Minell

## Ministry Directory:

**Building & Grounds Ministry** - Jim Nelson 651.283.2132 his email: [lynnjimnelson@gmail.com](mailto:lynnjimnelson@gmail.com)

**Children's Church Ministry** - Cara Gilbertson: 715.755.3517 her email: [cara.gilbertson@gmail.com](mailto:cara.gilbertson@gmail.com)

**Children's Nursery Ministry** - Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799 her email: [fugate.sara@gmail.com](mailto:fugate.sara@gmail.com)

**Community Outreach** - Phil and Pam Stratmoen: 715.491.5779 email: [philstratmoen@gmail.com](mailto:philstratmoen@gmail.com)

**Finance Administration** - Lynette Strohbeen (Finance Secretary): 715.338.5470 or Pete Manship (Treasurer): 715.755.3330 or email: [financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org](mailto:financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org)

**GriefShare Ministry** - Connie Bayle: 715.557.1431 her email: [conjoh1@gmail.com](mailto:conjoh1@gmail.com)

**Meal Relief Ministry** - Julie Minell: 715.417.1981 her email: [mrs.minell@yahoo.com](mailto:mrs.minell@yahoo.com)

**Missions Outreach** - Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661 her email: [lrnilner@gmail.com](mailto:lrnilner@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Administration** - Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453 her email: [djholm@lakeland.wisconsin.gov](mailto:djholm@lakeland.wisconsin.gov)

**Sunday Meal Services** - Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or 715.755.3330 her email: [bmanship55@hotmail.com](mailto:bmanship55@hotmail.com)

**Transportation Services** - Eve Bjork: 715.497.6418 her email: [sofiesydney@yahoo.com](mailto:sofiesydney@yahoo.com) or Art Behr: 715.220.6882 his email: [behrden1@charter.net](mailto:behrden1@charter.net)

**Video Ministry** - Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172 his email: [jmabee@centurytel.net](mailto:jmabee@centurytel.net)

**Youth Group Ministry** - Pastor Chandler Wiley: 815.575.6122 his email: [pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com)

## Announcements & Events:



### Wednesday Night Activities

Every Wednesday this spring, the entire family is invited to join us on nature walks throughout the St. Croix Valley region. Our time will be spent learning more about and worshipping our Creator as we study His handiwork and caring for it along the way. Please join us this Wednesday, June 15, at 6:30 pm, (location yet to be determined.) No special knowledge, skills or equipment is needed, but a heart ready to love the Lord and perhaps a pair of comfortable shoes is encouraged.



### Tapestries of Life

A donation site has been established for family, friends and acquaintances to contribute into the Tapestries of Life mission trip. Thank you for sharing the costs. This is a life changing experience all may benefit from. God be with you in your decisions. ([www.youcaring.com/new-life-comm-church-tapestries-mission-trip-2016-565303](http://www.youcaring.com/new-life-comm-church-tapestries-mission-trip-2016-565303))

**Baby Bottle Campaign** *Options for Women/Tri-County* is a non-profit pregnancy center located in Osceola. In the future some changes are being made to make a concerted effort toward increased education in an effort to reach a greater number of our younger population. Anyone interested in participating with this year's campaign will find a basket with the empty baby bottles on a table as you enter New Life. These bottles are to be filled with your spare change and then returned to New Life by Sunday, June 26th. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Any questions can be addressed to Sandy Erickson.

The Open Cupboard will be hosting an open house of its new building today, June 12<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4. Please join us; we are so blessed and want all to be part of this celebration.



GRIEF SHARE has grown to be a much needed ministry and we are in need of more men and women facilitators. Our present need is for the summer Thursday evening season (13 weeks), 6:30-8pm. This ministry is actually one of 'joy' as we comfort one another with the comfort God has given us. He does the healing! Is He moving your heart to serve in this way? If He is, please prayerfully consider helping with this ministry. (There will be a need for the fall 13-week season as well and now would be a good time to inquire.) Contact Connie Bayle with questions 715.557.1431.