



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 16, 2026
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Ministry Highlight

Immerse Ministry

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him..." ~Ephesians 1:3-4

The longest sentence in all the New Testament containing over 200 words is found here in Ephesians 1:3-14. It is a poem of praise or called a doxology. Paul starts this poem of praise by pointing us to the blessed one, ***"the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"*** and to whom all praise and blessing are due. It is from our great and awesome God that all blessing flow, without measure, to those who are ***"in Christ"*** or those who are united to Christ.

It is from Christ and through Christ and unto the praise of the glory of Christ that we, who deserve only condemnation for our sin, would be chosen in Him to be holy and blameless in love and that we would be those to whom God would be pleased lavish such blessing upon! And not just some blessings, but EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. The rest of this poem of praise and the rest of the letter, recounts how rich and wonderful and abundant are these blessings given to us **In Christ**. Let us not think little of these incredible truths but rather recount them again and again together as a body. So with that, you are now formally invited to join us for this year's Immerse season!

You might say, what is Immerse? Good question. This is a mid-week gathering of all ages where the New Life Family is again "immersed" in the Word of God for the purpose of both growing as disciples of Jesus and for disciple-making where each person participates in pointing one another to Jesus.

Immerse has always been a large ministry with many moving parts and much energy needed to sustain it. This year, after prayerfully considering this ministry, the elders have chosen that all classes, nursery – adult, will be simultaneously studying the same book together, Ephesians. Whereas in the past each class was studying different things with various curriculums, this year all ages will be studying the same passages each night. It's been an incredible blessing for our little ones when our young adults, married couples, and wise older saints

Continued on next page ...

Ministry Highlight

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participate in teaching and assisting in the children's classes. This year, each teacher will be given a packet with a simple outline of the main points of each passage along with questions to stimulate discussion in the classroom. Younger classes will have additional resources for activities that help the students engage with the text. Assistant roles are to come alongside the teachers to help with any needs in the classroom. If you are interested in teaching or assisting this year **please fill out the sign-up sheet on the welcome counter**. Questions, just reach out to Pastor Paul.

Each Wednesday night we will begin at 6:15pm with everyone together to sing, read the passage for the night, pray, and then break out into classes. This change, the elders hope, will foster further simplicity of this discipleship ministry and unity of conversation around same passages in the Word of God. Since these nights are about the body discipling one another, we encourage all who attend, not just teachers, to come with a mindset of eagerness and readiness to participate in the conversations and to seek out growing in relationships across all ages for the continual building up of the body in Christ.

Here are the details to remember:

Time: Every Wednesday night at the Building from 6:15pm-7:30pm

Calendar: Starting September 9th and will meet weekly through April 28th 2027

Who: All are invited!

Needs:

- Snack donations for children's classes (crackers/pretzels, fruit snacks, popcorn, etc.)
- Teachers/assistants for each class

So, would you consider joining with us this Immerse season to dive into this wonderful Epistle to the Ephesians and together take notice of the blessings Christ has secured for us in and through His atoning sacrifice. Remember, God is to be the first object of our blessing, and through Him all blessings flow to those in Christ. He is worthy of all our praise and worship, so whether or not you are able to attend these nights, let us all be preparing our lips for praise each day saying, "Look what God has done!"

Pastor Paul

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

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

August Memory Verse:

Philemon 1:4-6 (ESV)

"I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ."

August Fellowship Tip:

As we celebrate Baptisms this month and having heard many public confessions of faith in Christ, consider the ongoing call of God for all believers to be active in sharing their faith by making it a practice to publicly testify and celebrate the saving power of Christ in the Gospel and His sanctifying work of the Spirit in our lives.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Aug 16	Meal Team 3 ~Italian
Aug 23	Meal Team 4 ~Rice and Beans

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

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. The Lord is My Salvation
2. Christus Victor
3. How Firm a Foundation
4. Christ Our Wisdom
5. Beneath the Cross

- **Ladies Prayer and Praise:** Ladies Prayer & Praise Brunch is **Saturday, August 29th at 9am**, Coffee & tea provided. Please feel free to bring a breakfast food item to share such as scones, muffins, fruit, egg bakes & boiled eggs, etc. If you are planning on coming, please reach out to Ana Smith for the location as it will not be held at the building this month.
- **Immerse:** Wednesday evening Immerse study begins **September 9th**. This is a midweek gathering of the saints young and old to explore the depth and riches of God's grace towards us in Christ Jesus our Savior. Gathering **Wednesday evenings from 6:15 - 7:30 pm**. Taking a cue from the Ministry Highlight above, we are in need of teachers and assistants. If you are interested in teaching or assisting this year **please fill out the sign-up sheet on the welcome counter**. Questions, just reach out to Pastor Paul.

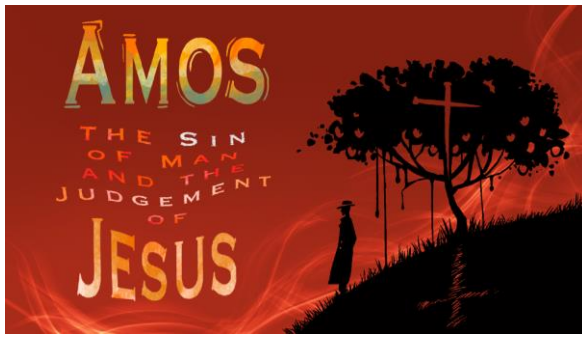
welcome

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 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

nlcc
resourcecenter

If you haven't visited the Resource Center lately, Come check it out! Our shelves hold so many great books to help you grow in your knowledge of and love for God and to help guide you in your daily walk with Him. Perhaps you'll find a book to read with a friend or form a book group with! We also have many great resources that you may want to consider for your gift-giving needs for the young or old and all ages in-between. Come check us out after service today.



SERMON NOTES:

Today's Passage:

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

Amos 6:8-14