



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, March 29, 2026

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This Friday is the anniversary of the most profound display of love the world has ever known. The magnitude of love is matched only by the magnitude of sorrow that day represents. As such, we will be holding a very important service on Friday night at 6:30 pm. This is a service that you don't want to miss. If you are new to New Life Christian Community you may be surprised to learn that we, as a body of believers, will be fasting from Good Friday night until Easter Sunday morning.

On Good Friday, we mourn (with a glorious hope!) the death of our Savior Jesus Christ. Though He would be raised three days later, it is our sin that required His dreadful death. That is a sobering thought. Our sin should move us to tears, especially when we remember that Christ chose to die for our sins.

That being said, we should have the attitude of Nehemiah in Nehemiah 1:4. He writes, "As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven." May our sin move us to a time of fasting and prayer with the expected hope that awaits us on Sunday morning! At **8:00 am**, we will break our fast with communion followed by a pot-luck breakfast. It is one of our favorite meals of the year. Following breakfast, our regular service will start at 9:30 am, as usual.

Please fast only if you believe that the Lord is calling you to participate. We do not believe that anyone can earn any kind of favor with God from our fasting. We don't fast to ensure that God listens to our prayers. We fast in order for God to work *in us*. We fast because we long to be more like Christ. Jesus fasted on several occasions (especially during times of trial and prayer). Furthermore, fasting is not necessarily abstinence from food. You may feel called to abstain from something other than food. Perhaps God would call you to give up your time on the internet. You may feel called to abstain from certain *kinds* of foods. Whatever you choose to refrain from (if God calls you to fast) let it be something that you wouldn't normally want to give up. You may be wondering... Why would God call us to fast at all? Here are a few reasons to consider:

1. **Fasting helps us to reorder our priorities.** Too often we, as sinful beings, make decisions based upon our physical desires (not that this is always bad) rather than upon God's desires. When our physical desires contradict God's desires, and we choose our physical desires rather than God's, we sin. Fasting is a practical way to make decisions for reasons other than for our physical desires. It does not guarantee that we will be basing our decisions upon God's desires, but it certainly helps us to break the habit of making *all* our decisions because of physical delight. Let not our bellies be our god. In this way, with practice, it can help us to begin our decision-making process with God Almighty.

2. **Fasting helps us to pray more emphatically.** I am not sure why, but there is a direct connection between food and our prayer life. When we are overly full (with a good meal), it can be very difficult to focus on any conversation at all (let alone one with God). We have all experienced this difficulty after a large meal (sleep calls us loudly!). When we fast we are more alert than ever! There is a "sense of God's presence as our bodies are freed from digesting and processing food. This enables us to focus on eternal spiritual realities that are much more important" (Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 391). Those who have fasted can attest to this aspect of prayer and fasting.

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3. Fasting helps us to *humbly* confess our sins to God.

Just as a baby knows when she is hungry (while letting the rest of the world know), when we fast we too cannot help but acknowledge our *need* for food. This aspect of growth is also experienced when we go through a very trying time. When our physical weakness is obviously before us we are reminded that we truly *need* God. It forces us to acknowledge the fact that we are mortal beings. Thus, being brought low, we respond with a true humble confession and repentance.

In Scripture, almost always, fasting goes hand in hand with prayer. If you would like to aid your prayer life (and who wouldn't), I would strongly encourage you seek the Lord in some sort of fast. Please remember, we will be fasting in order that we might be in *prayer* together.

Easter is a time when we acknowledge that Jesus gave up everything for us. He, as Paul writes in Philippians 2, "*emptied Himself*" and became "*obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*" In Galatians 2:20 Paul writes, "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*" If we have been crucified with Christ and are willing to become "obedient to the point of death", let us humble ourselves this weekend (of all weekends) and seek God's face fervently. Use the time that you would have otherwise spent over meals and meal preparation to seek God's face in prayer.

Want to know what to pray for? Continue reading for some suggestions and please add your own to the list.

1. Pray for family members who don't yet know the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Pray that God might give you an opportunity to talk to your neighbors about Jesus Christ.
3. Pray for missionaries who are overseas. Pray for missionaries who are not overseas.
4. Pray that the good news of Jesus Christ would continue to be spread to all those in the St. Croix River Valley. That we would not stop ministering here until everyone knows Jesus Christ!
5. Pray that God would give you new eyes – to see the world as He does.
6. Parents, pray for your children. Children, pray for your parents.
7. Pray for the marriages at New Life.
8. Pray for your children's grandchildren - though they may not yet exist – we can still pray for them (Jesus prayed for all of us in John 17).
9. Pray that God would be pleased and glorified through all that takes place at New Life Christian Community.

Ministry Directory

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Coffee Ministry

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GriefShare Ministry

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Immerse Ministry

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Meal Relief Ministry

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Newsletter Administration

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Resource Center

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Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins,
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Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
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Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. All creatures of our God and King
2. Dedicate
3. Revolution song
4. Be Thou my vision
5. Cornerstone
6. All I have is Christ

This Week's Schedule of Events

Wed	No Immerse
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

- March 29 Meal Team 4 - Rice & Beans
April 5 Easter Brunch (Team 5)

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

Fellowship Tip for March

Take a look around, who is NOT here today? Consider checking in with a phone call or text. In addition, if you're reading this from home and need something, make sure to reach out and let someone know.

March Memory Verse

"Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:8-9

Pastoral Eldership Team

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Sam Umlauf	612.791.2132

10. Pray that God would continue to knit our hearts together - that the body of Christ would be actively visible to all who look on.
11. Pray for those in our congregation who might not yet know Jesus as Lord and Savior.
12. Pray that God's Word would transform each of us (including your imperfect pastors).
13. Pray for the body of Christ as Paul does in Colossians 1:9-14.

There is really an endless list of things that we could be praying for. However, let us unite around this one prayer, **that God would be glorified and that His purposes would be our purposes and His will our will.** For this is what it means to have the crucified Christ alive in us.

Matthew 6:16-18

"When you fast, do not put on a sad face as the hypocrites do. They neglect their appearance so that everyone will see that they are fasting. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you go without food, wash your face and comb your hair, so that others cannot know that you are fasting, only your Father, who is unseen, will know. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you."

*NOTE: Our fasting will end on Easter Sunday, at 8:00 a.m. when we gather to receive communion together, followed by breakfast. Our service will start at 9:30 a.m.

Announcements

Hall of Men tonight! All ages encouraged to come. We're reaching back into the annals of history to blow the dust off the writings and work of faithful men of old. For our encouragement, we will listen to a presentation on the life of one of these men, celebrating the grace of God through Christ in him and how by faith he was able to stand firm in the Gospel in the midst of the trials and temptations of his own generation.

Men's Meat Fellowship: When: Saturday May 9th, 11am-3pm, Where: Deland Richter's home: 1641 200th Ave. New Richmond WI, Cost: \$30 per adult, \$15 under age 10. Look forward to a devotional in the Word, and fellowship with brothers over a meat heavy meal. Guys welcome to bring a board game. Hoops and ping pong on site. Numbers needed of those who plan to attend. Please jot your name down at the welcome counter.

No Immerse next week with upcoming Good Friday and Easter services

Today's Passage



Pastor Paul will be teaching from
the book of Jonah.
Our passage for today is Jonah 4:6-11.

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Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • nlcc.dresser@gmail.com

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com