



# 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

Join Us As We  
Celebrate Only  
Jesus

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023  
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## Pastoral Pondering ~ NEAR BUT NOT THERE

When Jesus sent out the 70 to prepare the towns He intended to visit, He gave them instructions. One instruction told them to heal people and to tell the healed person, "*The kingdom of God has come near to you.*" (Luke 10:9b)

An expert in the Mosaic Law asked Jesus, "*Which commandment is the most important of all?*" (Mark 12:28b) Jesus responded with the Shema from Deuteronomy 6:4,5—to love God with the totality of one's being is the most important commandment. Then he added a second one from Leviticus 19:18b: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" Since the question was about the "most important" commandment, the addition of a second commandment suggests it is of equal importance with the most important one. The man replied that Jesus was right because those commandments "*were more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.*" Jesus acknowledged the insight of the man's answer and said to him, "*You are not far from the kingdom of God.*" (Mark 12:34)

The phrase, "kingdom of God," appears in the New Testament 67 times. The phrase, "kingdom of Heaven," appears 32 times only in Matthew. Matthew's use of the word "Heaven" in place of "God" is in deference to his Jewish readers and their resistance to referring to God directly. Both phrases denote the same concept.

The Jews believed the kingdom of God would be the kingdom of the Messiah. John the Baptist had announced that the Messiah had come, yet there was no earthly kingdom established for Him to rule over. The verses above suggest the kingdom of God is not the expected political entity. Indeed, it was something else—something that one could be very *close* to whether the Messiah was reigning or not. In the presence of physical healing, the kingdom of God is *near*. When one speaks the truth about relating to God, the kingdom of God is *near*.

In Luke 13:28 the phrase, "*in the kingdom of God,*" describes where Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets could be found in the presence of God. The next verse says people "from east and west and from north and south" will also be there. We must conclude that, in addition to being *near* the kingdom of God, one can also be *in* the kingdom of God.

Both "near" and "not far" mean "close to something." They also mean, "not quite there." They are not at all the same as "in."

In famous races like the Tour de France or the Indianapolis 500, the racer who finishes second is sometimes said to have lost the race. The fact that he may have finished very close to first and far ahead of many others means nothing—it's still a loss. It's like the tragedy of being *near* but not *in*.

There are many good people in the world who could be described as being "near the kingdom of God." I'm sure you know some of them. It's tragic that they are also "not quite there." We who claim to be *in* the kingdom of God by means of the work of Jesus on the cross have an obligation to find these people who are *near* the kingdom of God and help them understand how to take the next step to be *in* the kingdom.

May God motivate us and help us. Your brother in Christ, Jay Swisher

## Ministry Highlight ~ **Building and Grounds**

What does it take to provide facilities that are “safe, pleasant, accessible, and smooth-running”? Well first of all, there are a few dedicated individuals that commit themselves to this God-honoring mission.

Secondly, there are financial resources, in order to care for items that require professional expertise, e.g.: roofing, paving, electrical., plowing. To give you some idea what some of these things cost, consider these examples: roof replacement (probably necessary within the next 3 years), \$125,000-\$194,000; Parking Lot Paving, \$24,000; Snow Plowing (so far this season), \$3200. These are budgeted and come out of the general offerings.

There are lots of opportunities; some planned, some otherwise. When things are running smoothly, activities are generally proactive, i.e.: planned. An example of this is “preventive maintenance” tasks, aka: PM’s. These can include such things as filter changes.

But emergencies (building alarm, no heat, no hot water, roof leaks) are not anticipated, and must be addressed with urgency, i.e.: they can’t be delayed. For example, one dedicated individual has been on our snow-covered roof multiple times this winter tending to one of the rooftop heating units! The better we are at planning, and the more volunteers we have, the fewer emergencies.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved, from plumbing to general cleanup. We certainly could use more helpers; those who step in to fill vacancies (ex: someone to perform “preventive maintenance” tasks); and those who can serve as back-ups, to relieve some of the demand on the “regulars” (ex: plumbing).

Do you have a skill that the Lord wants you to use to help in this ministry? If so, please contact: Jim Judkins, Building & Grounds Lead (contact info at top of **Ministry Directory** section of the Newsletter.)

*Alleluia! He Is Risen!*

Just a reminder ~ we broke our ‘fast’ this morning with our Easter Breakfast so there will not be a meal following our Easter service today.

## *New Life Community Directory*

If you would like to be included in our directory or have additions or changes, please send your information to:  
***nccdirectory@gmail.com***

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837  
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

### Coffee Ministry

Sandy Moe: 715.417.1812  
sandy.klj@hotmail.com

### Finance Administration

Colleen Firkus (Treasurer): 612.889.7581  
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

### Greeting Card Ministry

Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426  
lynnjimmelson@gmail.com

### GriefShare Ministry

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945  
robinmattson27@gmail.com

### Immerse Ministry

Ana Smith: 715.566.3740  
anajoy87@gmail.com

### Meal Train Relief Ministry

Kristin Stephan: 651.235.1681  
kristin@kageinnovation.com

### Music Ministry

Jeff Warren: 316.308.0833  
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

### Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661  
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### Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453  
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### Resource Center

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945  
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

### Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556  
bjdarnell@hotmail.com

### Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.557.1890  
behrden1@charter.net

### Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
jmabee@centurytel.net

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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	316.308.0833
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com	
Cory Mattson – Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Matt Leko	651.465.3154
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Brian Nelson	651.323.4253
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

### This Week's Scheduled Events:

Mon	Prayer Night/Barton's– 6:30 pm
Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tue	Young Adult Study– 6:30 pm
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Wed	Immerse– 6:15-7:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:00 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

### April Memory Verse:

John 15:5 (ESV)

"I am the vine you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

### April Fellowship Tip:

Spring is often a time where we get the itch to do a project around the home or get creative in the kitchen. Consider asking a brother or sister to join you and use everyday life activities as a way to build deeper relationships with one another bringing Jesus into each conversation.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Apr 9	Easter Breakfast ~ <b>8:00 am</b>
Apr 16	Team 1 ~ Pizza

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

Check out New Life Online  
[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

- **Young Adult Study:** Young Adults, study in Genesis this **Tuesday, April 11th at 6:30pm** at the Klanderud's in the upper room: 461 West St. Taylors Falls. We've had some great discussions around the Word throughout this study. Looking forward to diving in again. Bring your instruments, bibles, and a friend.
- **St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat:** Men, don't forget the St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat is taking place this weekend, **Friday, April 14th and Saturday, April 15th**. Today is the last day to sign up so please get your registrations handed in today. The first session on Friday begins at 7pm and the retreat ends Saturday around 5pm. Fathers are encouraged to bring their sons! If payment is a challenge, there is a scholarship available. Any questions just talk to Pastor Paul.
- **Ladies Testimony Tea:** Mark your calendars for our next Testimony Tea on **Friday evening at 7:00 on April 21!** If you haven't been to a tea at my, (Janel Anderson) house before, I've asked someone from the church to share her testimony, followed by a time of prayer and fellowship. This event is designed for ladies over the age of 13. If you have any questions, contact me at 715-553-3341. My address is 207 S. Adams St., St. Croix Falls, WI. It's been a while since our last tea when Elisabeth Elliot joined us...I hope to see you there!
- **Resource Center Ministry:** The Resource Center ministry needs volunteers! If you love God's Word and books that encourage people in their faith and would like to know more about this ministry, please talk with Cory Mattson or call/text her phone 715-417-0945.

# 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. We typically meet for fellowship and meal after service where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more. Please join us next week if you can for our regular after-service fellowship and meal.

**Busy Bags**  
Available by the Door

### MEAL TEAM MINISTRY

Are you looking for a way to use your talents or time to serve God? Consider joining a Sunday Meal Team. If interested, please, Contact: Barbie Judkins (309) 269-0556, Barb Manship (612) 804-9793 or Rosie Swisher (763) 458-1261



# Jesus

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According to Samuel

**TODAY'S PASSAGE:**

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

**1 SAMUEL 1:19-28**

SERMON NOTES: