



# 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, DECEMBER 14, 2025  
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## Pastoral Pondering

### Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye My People!

*(1) Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. (2) Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. (3) A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (4) Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. (5) And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."* - Isaiah 40:1-5

This passage of Scripture often reminds me of George Friderick Handel's famous musical oratorio, *Messiah*. The lyrics are entirely taken from the Scriptures - 42 Old and New Testament passages. These were compiled by a friend of his in order to musically convey the biblical gospel message focusing on the promised Messiah and the fulfillment in Jesus Christ: His life, death, resurrection and glorification. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th movements are settings of [Isaiah 40:1-5](#) which bring back many fond Christmas-season memories of hearing my father walking around the house singing the 2nd movement, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." Those words seem to grow richer with every passing year.

In context though, this text arrives at an odd time in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah 39 ends with God telling king Hezekiah that judgement and Babylonian captivity are coming for his descendants and Israel. Such despairing news, but then immediately, these words of comfort from God for His people! God brought these words at this time in order to console/comfort His people, who I imagine were distraught at hearing of the coming judgement that was to fall upon them, knowing they were an unfaithful, failing and rebellious people. Verse 2, God intends to speak tenderly/lovingly the news that her sins are atoned for in full. This is blood sacrifice language, but notice that this sacrifice has been provided for by God Himself for His people and their sin. (This "double" means a perfect this-for-that sins to punishment ratio).

Verse 3 begins with a familiar line that John the Baptist quotes of himself in [John 1:23](#), *a voice crying out in the wilderness*. This 'voice' should similarly be taken as 'listen!' for those hearing the proclamation. It also has to be seen in these next verses that although the condemnation was for one nation, Israel, the comfort that is heralded will be for *all* the nations! This includes you. The desert highway that is spoken of is a reference back to God journeying to His people who were in Egypt ([Deuteronomy 33:2](#)) in order to rescue them. All of the obstacles that will be made straight in verse 4 tie into this road, explaining to us that there would be no hinderance - nothing could prevent God's arrival

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## Pastoral Pondering

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and the deliverance of His people!

Verse 5 is one of the greatest promises of the Old Testament directly from *the mouth of the LORD!* The LORD's glory here is His presence (e.g. [Exodus 16:10](#)) which would be revealed to all mankind! The promised Messiah, Emmanuel, did arrive. Christ Jesus. God's Word, again, proving true. *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

May our Lord stir in us an even deeper awe and joy as we ponder His plan in saving His people.

Looking to Jesus,  
pastor jeff



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 books that you may want to consider for your Christmas gift-giving needs for the young or old and all ages in-between. Come check us out after service today.

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### **Building & Grounds Ministry**

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837  
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

### **Coffee Ministry**

Ana Smith: 715.566.3740  
ajoysmith05@gmail.com

### **Finance Administration**

Colleen Firkus (Treasurer): 612.889.7581  
financeministry@newlifechristiancomm  
unity.org

### **Greeting Card Ministry**

Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426  
lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com

### **GriefShare Ministry**

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945  
robinmattson27@gmail.com

### **Immerse Ministry**

Paul Linzmeier: 320.226.5581  
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com

### **Meal Train Relief Ministry**

Kristin Stephan: 651.235.1681  
kristin@kageinnovation.com

### **Missions Outreach**

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661  
lrmilner@gmail.com

### **Music Ministry**

Jeff Warren: 715.553.2405  
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

### **Newsletter Administration**

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453  
djhalm@lakeland.ws

### **Resource Center**

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945  
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

### **Sunday Meal Services**

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556  
bjdarnell@hotmail.com

### **Video Ministry**

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
jmabee@centurytel.net

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982 galatiansi20@yahoo.com
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581 pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com
Pastor Jeff Warren	715.553.2405 pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com
Cory Mattson – Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

### This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Young Ladies Study– 7:00 pm
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	Women's Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– On Break

### December Memory Verse:

1 John 1:5 (ESV)

*"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."*

### December Fellowship Tip:

As we enter this season of Advent, share with someone a tradition, book resource, or specific passages to meditate on that help you stay centered on Jesus during this busy time.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Dec 14	Meal Team 5 ~Breakfast
Dec 21	Meal Team 6 ~Baked Potato Bar

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

### This Sunday's Worship Songs:

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel; Angels From the Realms of Glory; There Is One Gospel; Away In A Manger: Who Is This

- **Carols and Cookies:** It is a great joy to sing hymns that celebrate the birth of Christ together during this season. It is also a great joy to eat Christmas cookies. So let's do both!! Join us **Wednesday December 17th** for Carols and Cookies, **6:30 pm** at the building. Oh, and don't forget to bring the cookies to share!
- **Christmas Eve Service:** Be sure to add **Wednesday December 24th at 4:00 pm** to your "must go to" family gatherings. And that is what it is, the family of Christ gathering together celebrating our most gracious Savior who emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men to bring salvation to all who would call upon His Name!
- **Annual NLCC Partnership Meeting:** Our Annual New Life Partners meeting will be held after service on **Sunday January 11th at 12pm**. Those who are partners we need you there and those not yet partners please know you are welcome to stay and celebrate God's faithfulness to this body and pray together for His continual guidance and care for the year to come.
- **Men's Study Reminder:** Thursday evening Men's bible study will be taking a break during December and the beginning of January but will **resume weekly studies Thursday January 15th at 6:30pm**.
- **New Life Directory:** If you haven't done so yet be sure to pick up the new NLCC directory supplement with recent additions and corrections if you have already purchased a previous version of the color copy.
- **NLCC Cookbook:** We are very excited to share that the cookbook is at the printers! We were hoping that it would arrive before Christmas so it could be given as a Christmas gift, however the printers have received an influx of orders and so it's not scheduled to arrive until after the new year. That being said, it still would make a lovely gift and we wanted you all to still be able to give it so we created a little IOU placeholder you can give until it arrives. Evelyn will be printing some that you can pick up from church and there's a printable PDF version available on connect in case you'd like to print it off on your own. Please let us know if you have any questions. It's sure to be a hit! There are lots of yummy recipes in there...I may have already tried a few myself... :) Anna Abraham



Do you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration? Please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: [lynnjimmelson@gmail.com](mailto:lynnjimmelson@gmail.com) or you can call her cell at 651-373-1426.



# Jesus

Proclaimed  
to the  
Colossians

## *Today's Passage:*

Pastor Tony's message is from the  
New Testament book,  
*Colossians 2:11-13*

## SERMON NOTES: