



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, MARCH 22, 2026
VOL. 19, ISSUE 25

Pastoral Pondering

Take Notice

Almost every time I open the bible I encounter a certain word at least once, and I've been increasingly aware of it in the last few months – whether personal bible time, Sunday morning preaching, corporate study with my brothers on Thursday mornings, or in our family's daily bible time together first thing in the morning – I seem to be unable to get away from this one word.

Now, I was recently made hyper aware of this as I introduced my kids to a video series I had first encountered when I was a new believer. The first episode of this study series started with the professor writing the following question on the blackboard: "Why did Jesus come into the world?". The students in the collegiate classroom-like setting attempted to answer with the expected replies – "to save us", "to die for our sins", "to fulfill the prophecies", etc.... but all are kindly answered with a "Good answer, but...no".

Finally, the teacher says this, "Did you know that Jesus actually, very specifically, very objectively answered this question?" We find it in the gospel of [John](#), starting in [18:37 \(ESV\)](#) as Jesus is being interrogated by Pilate in the Praetorium – Jesus says, **"You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth."**

Woah! Do you suspect that if Jesus Himself said this is the reason, "...I came into the world," and using the specific verb *testify* to indicate a trial is taking place, that the issue of truth is very important? Yes it is! In fact, Jesus uses the phrase, **"I tell you the truth..."** over 75 times, and in the book of John alone He uses the double-emphatic, **"truly, truly..."** 25 times. This is Christ literally testifying to the truth. But let's be clear, Jesus is not simply pointing out truth or more authoritatively making decisive claims on truth. No, no... Jesus actually is truth Himself, and He created truth. Take [John 1:17](#) – **"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."** And I think we all are familiar with [John 14:6](#) – **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** This means we can only come to the Father through truth. And, being full of grace, Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit, a helper before He returns to the father, calling him, "the Spirit of Truth," ([John 14:16-17](#)) and telling us that this Spirit of Truth will guide us into all truth ([John 16:13](#)). Woah again! Truth IS immensely important.

Now, backing up to the original scene of this interaction between Pilate and Jesus in [John](#) chapter [18](#) with this context, what we see is "truth" appearing before Pilate in human form. Truth breathes, speaks, and soon enough will bleed. It's clear from the last exchange here the implications for us even today. Picking up right after what Christ declared in [18:37 \(NIV\)](#) – He then says, **"...Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."** and Pilate answers back, **"What is truth?"**

We often focus on this final question by Pilate, and rightly so. But I want to zero in on a key – the seemingly inconsequential phrase, *'on the side of'* This indicates that there are sides! And, shockingly, one of them is not with the truth. Of course, we know this to be true from the first pages of Genesis, or even in the most minor of interactions with our current culture. But do we all just pick a side and put on that jersey? No, scripture makes it clear that we as believers can be

Continued on next page ...

Pastoral Pondering

... Continued

deceived, and in being so we will distort, suppress, reject and exchange truth. In fact we are warned repeatedly by writers like Paul and James to see to it that we are not captured by lies and deception, but to remain in truth.

A passage I've encountered again recently both in personal study and with the elders seems to really drive this dynamic home. This is from [2 Timothy 4:3-4 \(ESV\)](#)

"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

How sad this reads. Written to Timothy, a man charged with preaching the word. This blunt foretelling covers both believers and non-believers. Those who will not endure, or put up with truth. Yet Paul bookends this with solid encouragement to his friend to remain in Christ (in truth!) and preach the truth. Oh how we need this, too.

So, church – It is clear to me that truth is fundamentally important as I now take special notice of it every time I encounter it in scripture. I'd like to encourage you to take notice, too. And more importantly, I'm encouraging you to be on the side of truth: Don't be deceived. Open your ears and embrace sound doctrine. Hear the urging of the Spirit of Truth. Be led into all truth. Listen to Christ.

~Todd Asmus

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.

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 Easter 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@newlifechristiancommunity.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

Ben Wilson 651-497-7136
benwilson246@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Jeff Warren: 715.553.2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
dholm@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 |
| galatiansiizo@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 |
| Todd Asmus | 612.695.4849 |
| 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 |
| Sam Umlauf | 612.791.2132 |

This Week's Scheduled Events:

| | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| Tues | Young Adults Study– 6:30 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 | Ladies Bible Study– 6:30 pm |
| Thurs | Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm |

March Memory Verse:

1 Peter 1:8-9 (ESV)

"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."

March Fellowship Tip:

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..

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Mar 22 Meal Team 3~Italian

Mar 29 Meal Team 4~Beans & Rice

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

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. How Rich A Treasure We Possess
2. How Firm A Foundation
3. But For The Cross Of Christ
4. Speak O Lord
5. How Deep The Father's Love For Us

➤ **Hall Of Men:** Next Sunday, March 29th at 6:30 pm.

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.

➤ **Meal Train for the Abraham Family:** Congratulations to the Abraham family on their new little blessing James Michael. Let's bless the Abraham family by providing them with meals. If you are not already on the meal train list and would like to be, please reach out to Kristin Stephan 651-235-1681 or kristin@kageinnovation.com.

➤ **Easter Week Soon Here!** Good Friday Service April 3rd at 6:30pm. This service helps us to enter into the upper room with Jesus and His Disciples the night of the Passover meal, learning the significance of each element served and the sacrifice that was needed to be made for our sin. We will end this service taking the bread and the cup. As a part of reflection, we encourage each person to fast in some form and be in prayer beginning this evening anticipating Easter morning and His triumph over sin and death.

Our Easter service, the following Sunday will begin at 8:00am, April 5th breaking our fast and again partaking of the bread and the cup in celebration! This leads into our favorite meal of the year, an Easter Brunch! Our Easter Morning Breakfast will be a potluck meal. Please plan to bring a dish to pass if you are able. Look for a sign-up sheet on the welcome counter. **Our regular service begins as usual at 9:30am.**

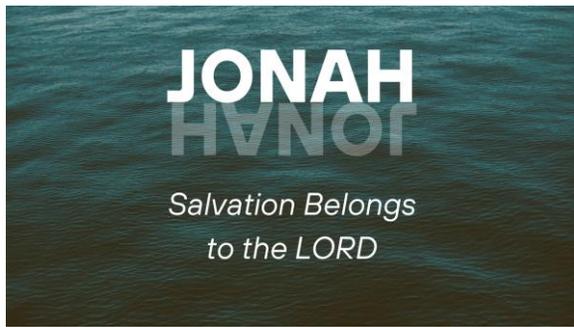
➤ **2026 Men's Retreat:** Don't forget to register for the 2026 Men's retreat Friday and Saturday April 10th and 11th. **The deadline to register is today!**

2 Easy ways to register! Take a picture of the QR Code on the welcome counter to lead you to the registration website or open our New Life App and click the registration menu option. Just fill out your information and either pay online or select "I'll pay by check" under the "Men's retreat Payment" dropdown menu and you can pay at the retreat.

Greeting Card Ministry

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 or you can call her cell at 651-373-1426.

Busy Bags Available by the Door



Today's Passage:
Pastor Paul's message is from the
Old Testament book,
Jonah 4:1-5

SERMON NOTES: