



Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
Mark 1:21-28

Sermon Notes:

Welcome to the Celebration!



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, June 19, 2016

Vol. 9, Issue 37

Pastoral Pondering

Sowing

"And he (Jesus) told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.'" (Matthew 13:3-9 ESV)

Last summer, Kimmi and I moved into a wonderful home nestled perfectly in the midst of a lush and beautiful forest. With the house came sizable front and back yards, which I have oddly become very fond of. I suddenly have a passion to feed and water the lawn, and to create a soft bed of grass for my children's feet to freely walk on. However, the beautiful forest has a mind of its own. The forest and I are not on the same page. The underbrush, invasive plants, thorny thistles, and crawling vines, which hide in the shadows of the trees waiting for the right moment to peek out of the edge of the tree line didn't hear my plan for the yard.

The growth of the forest is unruly. It menacingly crawls slowly but steadily out into the grassland. It is presently taking up arms against me. The stinging nettle, giant thistle, and sneaky weeds serve as the deadly ammunition of the untamed forest as it takes aim to destroy my plans.

Several weeks ago Kimmi and I, armed with shovel-swords, leather gloves of armor, rakes as our spears, and long sleeve shirts reminiscent of the chainmail worn by medieval times soldiers, walked valiantly to the back yard right up against the forest. There the scales of the war were tipped in favor of the mighty woodland. The grass had covered and died. The thistle, our enemy, stood tall over the lawn in a mocking stance. We could almost hear its laughter echoing through the acres. But, its day was going to come to an end.

Kimmi and I rushed into the battle chanting, "Push'm back, push'm back!" We dug out wheelbarrow loads of thistle, piles and piles of stinging nettle, and yards of weeds to rid the soil of its enemy and to make the path ready for grass.

We didn't escape the battle unscathed. We both wore wounds and battle scars serving as marks of our efforts. The nettle found its way through our sleeves and left us itching. The thistle stuck us again and again. And there were still yet many rocks to remove from the earth that, if left unchecked, would leave damaging blows on our most lethal weapon in our campaign, the lawn mower.

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We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-Time Visitor
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Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below then drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below:

- This may be added to our congregation prayer wall
- Share this only with the pastor and elders

Optional:

Name:

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Phone:

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front of the church immediately following the service.

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com
Pastor Chandler Wiley 815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com
Cory Mattson - Secretary: 715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate 715.379.2918
Paul Gilbertson 715.755.3517
Dale Mattson 715.566.2302
Greg Mattson 715.417.2444
Rene Milner 715.557.0185

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Be sure to tune into our pastors' podcast at the beginning of each week. You can access the podcast through our website, the Table, or the podcast icon on your Wi-Fi enabled Apple device.

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Jun 22 **Wednesday Nature Walk**
6:30 p.m. TBD
Jun 22 **Mission Trip Sewing Day**
1:00-4:00 p.m. at NLCC Bldg.
Jun 23 **Men's Bible Study**
Book of Acts
6:30 a.m. at NLCC Building
Jun 23 **Evening GriefShare Mtg.**
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Green Room at NLCC Building

Upcoming Potlucks & Meal Teams:

Jun 26 Meal Team #7
Jul 3 Potluck Sunday - PL Team #2
Jul 10 Meal Team #1
Jul 17 Meal Team #2
Jul 24 Meal Team #3

Fellowship follows our service every Sunday, along with a great meal.



Please stay and join us!

June Memory Verse: Romans 1:16-17

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, [a] as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (ESV)

Pastoral Pondering

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As I was sweating in the midst of the bristly soil, I couldn't help but think of Matthew 13. Out there in that part of my property, I encountered all the enemies to the seed. There were barren, bark-laden paths where no grass seed would ever survive. There were rocks and boulders aplenty. Some of them were so large I am still waiting to enlist reinforcements to help vanquish them. And there were thorns and thorns and thorns and thorns.

When we were done working and done raking, when the area was clear, the only thing that remained was soil. Amongst the thistle, against the weeds, and atop the rocks, the grass had no chance. There was no way for the desired growth to survive. But now the seed had a chance. The grass of my dreams may yet come into existence.

Spiritually speaking, as Christians, we want to grow in Christ. We want to mature, as the New Testament puts it. And while this parable in Matthew 13 is more about the evangelistic ministry of the gospel, I think we can apply it to our Christian life as well. If the unruly, unyielding world is creeping into our hearts and lives then the maturity we long for is going to be in jeopardy. Thorns of greed, weeds of pride, the buckthorn of arrogance, and the rocks of sin will deal damaging blows to our spiritual life if we allow them to remain. The grassy pasture we long to walk in barefoot, unafraid of thorns stabbing our feet, will be fleeting if we are not engaged in the battle for Christ.

By God's grace and in His strength we need to band together and chant, "Push'm back, push'm back!" Cut down the sin that threatens our very lives. Dig up the roots of evil that fester amongst the righteous. Throw it all in a pile and burn it up so that it never returns. Are we battling against the world armed with the armor of God and the gospel of truth? Or are we sitting inside the house while the woods take over the entire property?

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Till the ground and make ready the way of the Lord in your heart.

Chandler Wiley

Please pray for our dear brothers and sisters in Christ who are on the mission field whether they are local, in another country or continent for we know God hears the prayers of the faithful.

"To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of the master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us." (Ps 123: 1,2)

Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry - Jim Nelson 651.283.2132 his email: lynnjimnelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry - Cara Gilbertson: 715.755.3517 her email: cara.gilbertson@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry - Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799 her email: fugate.sara@gmail.com

Community Outreach - Phil and Pam Stratmoen: 715.491.5779 email: philstratmoen@gmail.com

Finance Administration - Lynette Strohbeen (Finance Secretary): 715.338.5470 or Pete Manship (Treasurer): 715.755.3330 or email: financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

GriefShare Ministry - Connie Bayle: 715.557.1431 her email: conjoh1@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry - Julie Minell: 715.417.1981 her email: mrs.minell@yahoo.com

Missions Outreach - Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661 her email: lrmliner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration - Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453 her email: djholm@lakeland.wis

Sunday Meal Services - Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or 715.755.3330 her email: bmanship55@hotmail.com

Transportation Services - Eve Bjork: 715.497.6418 her email: sofiesydney@yahoo.com or Art Behr: 715.220.6882 his email: behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry - Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172 his email: jmabee@centurytel.net

Youth Group Ministry - Pastor Chandler Wiley: 815.575.6122 his email: pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Announcements & Events:

Baby Bottle Campaign *Options for Women/Tri-County* is a non-profit pregnancy center located in Osceola. There is one week left with this year's campaign. You will find a basket with the empty baby bottles on a table as you enter New Life. These bottles are to be filled with your spare change and then returned to New Life by Sunday, June 26th. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Any questions can be addressed to Sandy Erickson.



We are in need of more men and women facilitators. Our present need is for the summer Thursday evening season (13 weeks), 6:30-8pm. This ministry is actually one of 'joy' as we comfort one another with the comfort God has given us. He does the healing! Is He moving your heart to serve in this way? If He is, please prayerfully consider helping with this ministry. Contact Connie Bayle with questions 715.557.1431.



UPDATE: Thank you NLCC for your help with fundraising for missions through the garage sale held at Faith and Nate Gustafson's home. A special thank you to Faith and Nate for opening their home, their time and shelter of items. Thank you to Sandy Moe, Denise Torgerson, Rosa Birch, Laurie Peikert, and all who set up, worked, and took down sale. We are very close to meeting our Ministry Day funding used to feed underserved Mexican people. God is good always. If you feel lead to donate, you may write a check to the church-just note it is for missions.

We are still sewing food bags for Mexico's mission trip in July. We have 2 sewing days left, **Wednesday June 22nd** and **July 6th** from 1 to 4pm. Thank you to all who are helping, especially Mary Anderson for her time commitment, serving and sewing, and materials.



The Relay for Life organizers desire to have MORE teams to participate in this year's Relay on **Saturday, August 6th from 4:30 to 10:30**, at the Polk County Fairgrounds. Would

anyone in New Life organize a Team of 15 persons to participate in the walk? If you are interested in doing this and raising money for persons in Polk and Burnett County that are in need of funds while undergoing treatment, please contact Melanie Hinz mhinz@kapcoinc.com and she will help to organize a New Life Christian Community team for this year's Relay.