



# 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, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

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## Pastoral Pondering

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### Thanksgiving

As an American, when I think of Thanksgiving, my thoughts immediately go to football, turkey dinner with pumpkin pie, and wonderful family time. As a Scandinavian, we always had lefsa and herring, I'm getting hungry just writing this.

Let's learn about the history of the first Thanksgiving. The original thanksgiving celebration was held by the Pilgrim settlers in Massachusetts during their second winter in America in December 1621. The first winter had killed many of them, 44 died out of the 102 colonists. At one point their daily food ration was down to five kernels of corn apiece, but then an unexpected trading vessel arrived, swapping them beaver pelts for grain, providing for their severe needs. The next summer's crop brought hope, and Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer to show the gratitude of the colonists that they were still alive.

Along with the feasting and games involving the colonists and more than 80 Native Americans who added to the feast by bringing wild turkeys and venison, prayers, sermons, and songs of praise were important in the celebration. Three days were spent feasting and praying.

Scripturally, we find things related to the issue of thanksgiving throughout the Bible. Individuals offered up sacrifices out of gratitude in the book of Genesis. The Israelites sang a song of thanksgiving as they were delivered from Pharaoh's army after the crossing of the Red Sea. The book of Psalms is packed full of songs of thanksgiving, both for God's grace to the Israelite people through His mighty deeds, as well as for His individual graces to each of us.

In the New Testament, there are repeated admonitions to give thanks to God. Thanksgiving is to always be a part of our prayers. Some of the most remembered passages on the giving of thanks are the following:

- ❖ ***"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- ❖ ***"do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."*** (Philippians 4:6).
- ❖ ***"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,"*** (1 Timothy 2:1).

Of all of God's gifts, the greatest one He has given is the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus paid our sin debt, so a holy and just judge could forgive us of our sins and give us eternal life as a free gift. This gift is available to those who will call on Christ to save them from their sin in simple but sincere faith (John 3:16; Romans 3:19-26; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:13; Ephesians 2:8-9). For this gift of His Son, the gift which meets our greatest need, the apostle Paul says, ***"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"*** (2 Corinthians 9:15).

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## Pastoral Pondering

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We, like the Pilgrims, have a choice. In life there will always be those things that we can complain about, the Pilgrims had lost many loved ones, but there will also be much to be thankful for. As our society became increasingly secular and humanistic, the actual "giving of thanks to God" during our annual Thanksgiving holiday is being overlooked, leaving only feasting.

May God grant that He may find us grateful every day for all of His gifts, spiritual and material. God is good, and every good gift comes from Him ([James 1:17](#)). For those who know Christ as Lord and Savior, we know that God works everything together for good, even events we would not necessarily consider good ([Romans 8:28-30](#)).

May He find us to be His grateful children.

Your brother in Christ, Jim Nelson

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.



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: [lynnjimnelson@gmail.com](mailto:lynnjimnelson@gmail.com) or you can call her cell at 651-373-1426.

nlcc  
resourcecenter

If you haven't visited the Resource Center lately, a new children's book has landed in the Resource Center for Easter! "*The Friends and the Traveler*" tells the story of the risen Christ walking on the Emmaus Road with two of His followers in a beautifully written (and illustrated) way! Parents and kids will enjoy this story. 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! Come check us out after service today.

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### ***Building & Grounds Ministry***

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### ***Coffee Ministry***

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### ***Greeting Card Ministry***

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### ***GriefShare Ministry***

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### ***Meal Train Relief Ministry***

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### ***Music Ministry***

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### ***Resource Center***

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### ***Sunday Meal Services***

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556  
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### ***Video Ministry***

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Pastor Tony Minell             | 715.417.1982 |
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| Pastor Paul Linzmeier          | 320.226.5581 |
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| 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 Adult Study– 6:30 pm   |
| Wed   | Immerse– <b>Not Meeting</b>  |
| 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– 6:30 pm   |

### November Memory Verse:

1 Peter 4:9-11 (ESV)

*"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

### November Fellowship Tip:

What gifts has God given to you by the Spirit that He is calling you to put into practice for the building up of the body at New Life? Such as hospitality, acts of service, prayer, teaching, discipling, administration, etc.?

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Nov 23 Meal Team 2~Chili  
Nov 30 Meal Team 3~Italian

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

### This Sunday's Worship Songs:

Behold Our God; Blessed Assurance;  
Here Is Love; The Lord Is My Salvation;  
Christus Victor

- **Shoebox Deadline is Today!** Did you forget your box? Reach out to Carie Wright at 630-863-0016 and she will give you information on where you can drop your shoebox.
- **Baby Shower Today!** Double baby shower **this afternoon, here at 2 pm**, for Kayleah and Jeremiah Taylor who are expecting a little boy this December and Kaydence and Ethan Favre who are expecting a baby girl in February. Ladies, please join to help celebrate these two special mommas. Questions, please contact Kristin Stephen (651) 235-1681
- **Immerse and Other Studies:** No Immerse this week as were off for Thanksgiving. Check with your bible study leaders for any other schedule changes this week.
- **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 add **Tuesday 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 12 pm**. 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.
- **Finance Update:** As the year 2025 begins to come to a close, the finance team has given an update that this year's budget is currently on track having fulfilled all the anticipated financial needs so far. Thank you Lord! In addition, this year, significant building improvements were made possible through extra gifts lovingly provided to put towards the building. Thank you all for investing in the ministry of Jesus Christ here at New Life!
- **Temporary Plumber Needed:** There is a leaking toilet that needs repair (conventional, tank type). I need someone who can diagnose and fix it. Please contact Jim Judkins (contact info in the Ministry Directory in the Newsletter margin). Thank you!





# Jesus

Proclaimed  
to the  
Colossians

## *Today's Passage:*

Pastor Tony's message is from the  
New Testament book,  
*Colossians 2:1-4*

## SERMON NOTES: