

# new life

## news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NEW LIFE CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
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## Following Jesus by Loving God, Loving People, and Making Disciples

This is the one job that Jesus has called us to. As a church, we are sold out to this mission. I am excited by how well this message has been received over the last month. When the message is clear from the scripture, God's people recognize it through the Holy Spirit. The result is that it resonates in our hearts and minds.

Now the hard work of conforming the church to this vision begins in earnest. This means that we are going to be focusing everything we do around the elements of this mission. The various articles by the staff in this newsletter discuss how this will be fitting in all the various aspects of the church. As you read them you will begin to get a sense of how the mission should drive all that we are and all that we do.

One of the big things that we will be doing is developing training designed to help us do the one job more effectively. Almost every job has a training element attached to it. Many (teachers, police, fire, health professionals, etc) jobs require ongoing education. If we are serious about doing the job that Christ gave us, then we also will participate in training. The nature of training is different than most of what the church does. Training focuses far more on the development of skills than it does on the gaining of knowledge. Most of what the church does is the opposite; focusing on knowledge first and only secondarily on developing skills.

What skills does the Christian need to accomplish the job Christ gave us? How to share our witness (the story of what God has done in our lives.) How to maintain a vibrant relationship with God. How to help a brother or sister who is in need of encouragement. How to forgive. How to help one another. How to read and understand the bible, and so on.

The staff is working to develop training that will focus on building these skills designed to help us love God, love people & make disciples. We will offer this training starting in the fall and making it available to everyone in the church. I look forward to working beside you on our One Job!

Steve

## Church Events

- June 7  
Comfort & Joy Sewing  
Ministry 9:00am
- June 11  
Youth Sunday/Graduate  
Recognition Service
- June 17-26  
Diamond Willow Mission Trip
- June 18  
Father's Day
- June 22  
Senior Moments Event  
7:00pm
- June 25 – June 30  
Connect Camp at Round  
Lake Christian Camp

Considering the many ministries within the Worship Arts, I face the daunting task of creating ministry plans that fall in line with the mission of Christ and the vision for His Church. Our one job is following Jesus by loving God, loving people, and making disciples and it is important to remember that the things we do and say, as well as who we are as a church, must fit within this scriptural framework. It is within this context that I hope to share a glimpse of how the Worship Arts Ministry is endeavoring to faithfully live out our commission.

### **Following Jesus**

As is the case with any ministry, the Praise Team, Prayer Team, Hospitality Team, and Drama Team start with the heart of Christ in each individual. Our desire to serve stems from the belief that Christ and the Gospel message are indeed worthy of being shared through song, prayer, a smile, storytelling, and more. Yet, we cannot ask people to go where we ourselves are not going. So our challenge is a daily choice to deny ourselves, make sacrifices for the benefit of others, and commit to be faithful followers of Christ. We declare that our lives belong to Christ whenever He calls us, wherever He sends us, and in whatever He asks of us.

### **Loving God**

Bob Kauflin describes the importance of worship when he says, "The worship of God matters. It's never irrelevant, It's never unimportant. The worship of God should always be a hot topic. And from God's perspective, it is. *There is nothing more foundational to our relationship with God and to our lives as Christians.*" Worship is an expression or response to God's love for us. This mindset allows us to think about the ways we demonstrate our love for God more broadly than simply singing songs on a Sunday morning. If loving God is the foundation of our relationship with Him, then all we do and say will be built upon that truth. We love God when we sing, when we pray, when we welcome the body of Christ and visitors to our gatherings. We love God when we study His Word and seek to obey Him. We love God when we share life-changing truth with others through drama. We love God most of all when we allow His love to shape our relationship with Him and others.

### **Loving Others**

The Hospitality Team recently met to discuss the important role greeters have in showing God's love to others. We talked about how a simple gesture can go a long way in helping others to receive what God has for them. Our smile and warm welcome can be the make-or-break point for a visitor's impression of New Life. The importance of loving and serving others cannot be valued enough when it comes to influencing the lives of those around us. We also show our love for our brothers and sisters when we offer forgiveness, pray for them, encourage them, and serve them in the name of Christ Jesus. After all, this is how the family of God and visitors will know that we are Christians; not by our duty-driven attendance at church or our vast knowledge of religion, or some other inward means, but by our outpouring of love.

### **Making Disciples**

Undoubtedly, there are people that need our influence in their lives. Whether it be through the sharing of Gospel truth, discipling another believer in living out their faith, or even equipping someone to be a follower of Jesus that encourages others to follow Jesus. Each and every person we know can benefit from our commitment to making disciples. On the Praise Team we endeavor to allow others to see our worship as a testimony of our love for God. The Prayer Team earnestly provides opportunities for us to grow in communication with our Father and love for others. The Hospitality Team strives to open the door for meaningful interaction and relationships with other disciples. This one job forces us to consider how the Worship Arts Ministry, and its many volunteers are following the Great Commission.

I am super excited about the mission the Holy Spirit has given us at New Life. I have begun to think of how we can effectively infuse this mission into our Children's Ministry.

We are currently working on our skills with God's Word which will help kids see the things he has done and is doing and how he loves us and how great it is to love him. We are going to really push inviting others and showing others love, so the kids can see the importance of this.

I want to spend some time with them, and I challenge parents to do the same, talking about what a disciple is and what it means to follow Jesus. These are all essential parts of life our kids need to start being familiar with, and I look forward to partnering with volunteers and parents to help teach our kids all the parts of this mission we are all on.

*Jason*

# June Birthdays

- 1 – Shirleen Gordon
- 4 – Kay Buxton, Scott Cromer,
- 5 – Jamie Ward
- 9 – Jennifer Greer, Celeste Metcalfe
- 11 – Mary Crawford
- 12 – Loretta Ernsberger, Anna Kindt
- 13 – Ruth Manning
- 14 – Grace Johnson, Cora Mowry
- 15 – Logan Roseberry
- 17 – Shawna Dudgeon, Larry Greer, Jan Snavelly
- 18 – Joshua Johnson
- 19 – Larry Awwiller
- 20 – Don Basye
- 23 – Sadie Thompson, Eric Vail
- 24 – Chase Starling
- 29 – Eric

As a congregation we are considering what it looks like to live out our purpose of following Christ by loving God, loving people and making disciples. We know that this is what we are supposed to be doing, but how will we go about it? This is a question that we will be working through in the youth ministry as well. The primary idea at the basis at all we do is encouraging youth to follow Jesus. It is only in our connection with Him that we become motivated and equipped to carry out the mission that He has given us. Also, it is only possible to love God and our fellow man through Christ. But what will the Youth Ministry focus on to give the students occasion to put their following of Christ into practice? As far as loving God is concerned students will be challenged to keep a close connection with the Lord and to take special advantage of this summer where multiple opportunities will be given for connecting with Him. Each summer day is often filled with less 'business' than days during the school year, leaving students in the habit of slacking off in areas that they were more constant in while school was in session. Daily time with the Lord is one of these areas. When staying up late with friends and sleeping late into the morning becomes the summer routine, it is easy for the devotional life to go by the wayside. In our small group time at youth group students will be asked the question: 'How is your time with the Lord going? How is He speaking to you? How is He challenging you?' Holding students accountable to this time will push them to be more committed to it (we hope). It is this time with the Lord that will allow them to grow to know Him more deeply and to develop their own relationship with Him. Loving people is something that is always at the heart of what we do. Students are urged to look at one another as fellow members of Christ and to nurture their relationships with other Christians in every way possible. Our relationship to the Body and our commitment to it is where all acts of love toward other people must begin. To put it in Paul's words: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10). So a primary emphasis will be on connecting students with one another and creating a community where spiritual growth, discipleship and outreach are possible. Our youth gatherings will be geared in such a way where students will be able to interact and grow with one another, forming important bonds that will keep the grounded to Christ's Church through this important stage of their life. Also, opportunities to serve others will be given. We have two major mission trips available to our students this summer that will allow them to live out Christ's principle of loving others. Also, through the year times will be set aside for the youth to have opportunities to serve others in love. Making disciples has two sides. One is the work that initially brings someone into a committed relationship with Christ. Next comes the continued mentoring and accountability that allows a person to grow. Both areas are equally important, and one cannot exist without the other. We are most effective as salt and light when we are salty and brightly lit. The more mature a student is in their faith the more effective they will be in being outreach-focused. On the other side of this, it is impossible to grow very far in our faith if we never turn our attention to those that are lost. In our small groups students are encouraged to share with one another how their faith is developing (or struggling). Here they are able to share with one another in the mentoring and faith-nurturing side of discipleship. Also, special occasions and trips are planned to create times when students can invite friends that may be hesitant to join us for a normal youth gathering. I'm looking forward to seeing all that God does with our youth over the next several weeks this summer. He has given us vision and clarity, and I am confident that He will help us to live out what He has called us to.

Kyle