



# new life news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NEW LIFE CHURCH OF CHRIST/ APRIL 2019

## The Cross and our Work

Every year at Easter we come face to face with forgiveness. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. We deserve what he got. Yet he took our place voluntarily. He forgave us and paid the penalty for us with no complaint. We are forgiven. This is our reality.

Every day, we go to work, or school and we carry out our daily responsibilities. We do our work and we interact with people. Sometimes those interactions are fine; people bring us joy. People make us laugh. People help us. Sometimes our interactions are painful. People are hard to deal with. People are mean. People are arrogant. People are judgmental. This is also our reality.

The question is how do these two realities work together?

The second one is our everyday life. People hurt us; they disappoint us, sometimes badly. Only God Himself never fails us. And so when they fail us, we react. Sometimes we lash out at them, sometimes we withdraw from them, sometimes it is somewhere in the middle. We justify ourselves because they are in the wrong and we have done nothing.

The first reality however needs to take over at this point. In those times when we were in the wrong, when we sinned, when we turned our backs, when we let God down, He forgave us. And now He is calling on us to be like Him. He is calling on us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

This is true whether in the home or in the workplace. We are forgiven by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ and in our faith in Jesus. We are also called to forgive: to forgive our coworker, to forgive our boss, to forgive the customer, to forgive as Christ forgave us.

Matthew 26:28

<sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the **forgiveness of sins.** (Continued on next page.)

## April Church Events

- Apr 3rd & Apr 17th  
Comfort & Joy Sewing  
9:00a & 5:30p
- April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Good Friday Service  
6:00p
- April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Resurrection Sunday  
Breakfast 7:30a
- Resurrection Sunday  
Service 9:00a
- Apr 24<sup>th</sup>  
Senior Moments Event @  
11:00a
- Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Mother Daughter  
Banquet 5:00p

Luke 11:4

<sup>4</sup>**Forgive** us our sins, for we also **forgive everyone who sins against us.**  
And lead us not into temptation.' ”

Luke 6:37

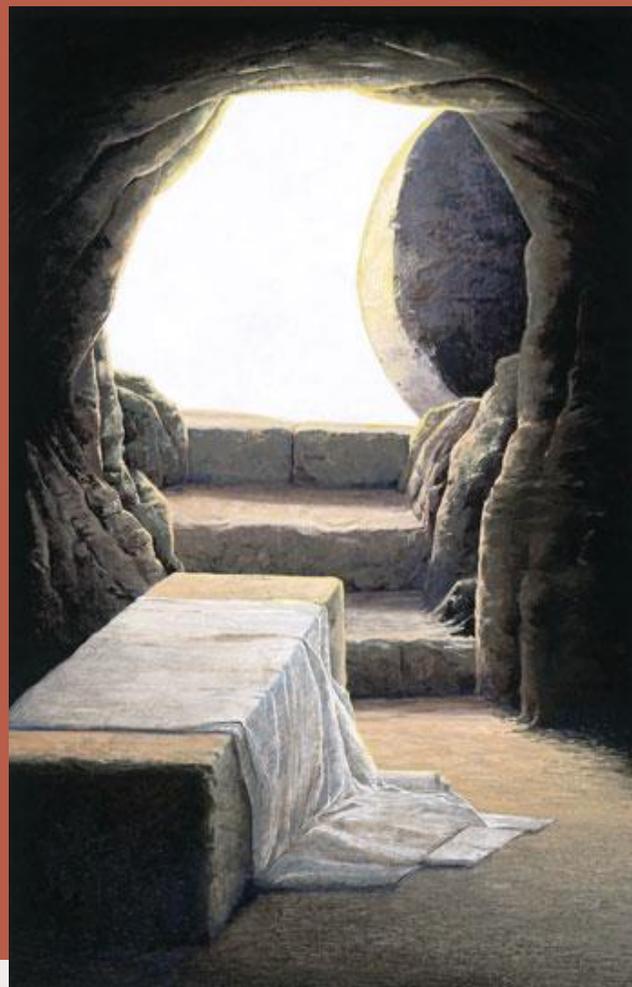
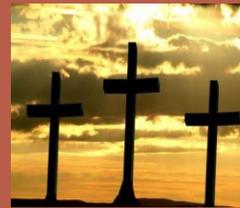
<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. **Forgive**, and you will be forgiven.

Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the **forgiveness of sins.**

Colossians 3:13

<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and **forgive** whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**



This month, we as Christians celebrate the most important event in history – our Savior dying for us – and more importantly, conquering death and raising again. It is so very important that our children get this: that Easter is not about bunnies and candy, but about the hope we have of eternity in heaven with Christ. It makes me think of families before Christ. I think of animal sacrifice. If there is one thing for sure, kids love animals. But I believe the kids knew what happened to certain animals their family raised; no doubt they were taught the reasons their animals had to be sacrificed. Sin had to be paid for so they could stay close with God. I'm sure this was upsetting to children who loved their animals.

God dwelled on His throne in the temple. You had to travel to the temple, and sometimes it was a long journey. Families were taught what had to happen: all the rituals and the work, because God and His dwelling place were to remain holy. But, when Christ came, died, and rose again, everything changed. The curtain was torn and the perfect sacrifice was made, once and for always. Everyone, every family, now has the opportunity for a personal relationship with God. He now dwells in our bodies and guides our every step. It is so amazing how the events of Easter changed everything. No more animal sacrifice was needed. The perfect Lamb died and rose again. Hallelujah!

~Jason

# April Birthdays

- 1 – Larry Ramey
- 2 – Bryan Clark, Karen Mascazzini
- 5 – Joshua Dixon, Barb Kindt
- 8 – Cindy Golden
- 9 – Jim Mowry
- 11 – James Hawkins, Carol Walker
- 12 – Larry Mowry, Linda Schumacher
- 14 – Anita Hawkins
- 18 – LillyAnn Dawson
- 22 – Zain Brown, Ryan South
- 24 – Linda Ellis, Mary Kempton
- 26 – Sam Dixon, Betty Hamilton, Jacob Smith
- 28 – Julie Brown, Jamie Mascazzini
- 29 – Sherri Benick, Ron Ernsberger, Sheila South

The Passion of Christ and Politics... Do you like politics? I don't. I get tired of name-calling and mud-slinging and tattle-telling. I had enough of that in Kindergarten. But when I turn on the news, I have flashbacks to Mrs Truit's A.M. Kindergarten class when none of us seemed to be able to agree who should be able to climb on the tire fort first and so we name-called, threw mud (or rocks) and tattle-told our little hearts out. And even though the names that are called and the mud that is slung and the tattles that are told are more "sophisticated" it amounts to much the same thing. Politics seem to bring the worst out of people. I'm not denying that there aren't important things at stake in the political sphere. But I am saying that what we see in many people when political discussions come up are tell-tale signs of misplaced trust.

Many people seem to think that if we get the right people in the right political places all our problems will be solved. Maybe, if our party controls the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches all at the same time we can usher in a golden age where there will be no unemployment, no pollution, no war, no sickness, no crime, etc. But should we really be placing our hope in fallible people who are just as prone to sin as we are? Should we trust the power of the state to bring about the transformation of our culture? No. The weapons of the world are not the weapons of the Church. There are examples all through history where governments have tried to use the power of crime and punishment to beat the evil out of man and to create an ideal society. It has never ended well. It has never ended well because no government, no matter who runs it, has the transformative power that it takes to change the world. The government's main job is to keep evil in check (Romans 13:1-7). But it can never change the hearts of people. Only the Gospel has power to do that. As Christians, we may participate in our government's processes, voting and using our given rights to promote Christian ethics. But we should never be conned into believing, even for one second, that a set of righteous laws and policies can ever bring about the life-change that God wants to see in the lives of Americans. Israel, who received their legislation and leaders directly from God, are proof that this is true. Their Laws were good. But their hearts still were bent on evil. They needed changed hearts. What Jesus Christ did through the Cross and His resurrection have created a "new and living way" to God, that allows those who come to Him to be "transformed by the renewing of [their] mind." It is only through the Cross that the power of sin is broken and it is only through the Resurrection that death loses its grip on us. If we want to see a changed nation and we want to point people toward the hope of a true paradise, we need to point them to the only one who can make good on His promise. It is important for us to remember that whatever happens in the here and now does nothing to alter God's purpose and plan for His people. So we can exercise our political rights, but we should hold them all at arm's length so that we don't place too much hope in them. Remember that "we speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing..." (1Corinthians 2:6). All the powers and authorities in this world are passing away, making room for the Kingdom of our Christ and God.

So whatever we hope to accomplish in our voting and political leanings, let's make sure we seek to align it with the vision and purpose of His Kingdom. Let's realize that any political "victory" we may win is nothing more than a temporary Band-aid on problems larger than any political entity can heal. And let's not despair when our "side" loses. Our hope and mission is not in the least affected by the political climate. Those powers are in the process of fading away. Because of what Christ did when He died for us and was raised for us we win regardless.

~Kyle

## UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

May 1

Comfort & Joy Sewing @ 9:00a

May 5

Sonshine Singers Performance @ 6:00p

May 12

Mother's Day

May 15

Sr. Moment's Event @ 12:00p

Comfort & Joy Sewing @ 5:30p