

New Life Connection

Connecting people to the mission and vision of New Life Church

1st Edition, 2010



All-Surpassing Power

Power for living comes from God alone. That's the heart of the message that God has for us in the Book of 2 Corinthians. Chapter 4, verse 7 says:

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Cor. 4:7)

Every believer and every church that embraces the truth of God is blessed with "all-surpassing power." But, that power isn't from us or about us. It's from the God who loves us. Starting this Fall, the messages at our worship gatherings will bring us on a journey through 2 Corinthians to see how God is prepared to work His power in us when we are willing to respond to Him. Along the way, we will explore how God will work in our individual lives and in our life together as a Body of Christ.

In this edition of our newsletter we're taking a look at how God has been working in the lives of people in our Body through this summer and what's coming up for the Fall. We hope you enjoy this look at life in New Life Church.

God bless you in His grace and power.

- Pastor Mark LaFollette



Faithful In Prayer...

- For One Another: That we would together be growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- For God's Work Among Us: Praise Him for answered prayer, for his provision and protection, for His work in our lives.
- For Those Without Christ: Pray that our unsaved friends and neighbors would come to faith in Christ; that God would open their spiritual eyes to the truth and that they would believe and receive the Lord Jesus as their Savior.
- For New Life Church Leaders: Pray for our Pastors, Elders, Staff and others in leadership positions.
- For Others Who Lead: For our national, state, local leaders and for those in authority over us (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Upcoming Events

Call the Church office for details

August 7-8
Outdoor Services

August 22
Fall Opportunities Fair (morning)
Outdoor Baptism (evening)

September 8
Adult Bible Studies Open House
Awana, Adult Choir, 7-10th Grade Youth Kick-off

September 14
Tuesday Women's Ministry Begins

September 15
Wednesday Night Bible Studies Begin

September 10-12
Men's Retreat
Dads & Daughters Retreat

September 19
Child Dedication

September 26
Baptism Service

BYBC Highlights

Back Yard Bible Clubs provide a great opportunity for folks to team up to reach kids in their neighborhood with the good news of Jesus Christ! The Vogel and Lindsey families held a BYBC in July, and there were many highlights from the week.

- Seeing the next generation taking over the teaching of the gospel. Hope and Jim Lindsey's son, Grant, was in charge of the games, and he also came alongside one of the boys to encourage him in taking the step of accepting Christ as his Savior. Joe and Kim Vogel's daughter, Isabelle, read the daily missions story to the group and helped with set-up and delivering invitations.
- One boy was unaware that Jesus Christ was actually God, until he heard it in one of the songs.
- Four kids accepted Christ.
- One comment overheard after the first day of Back Yard Bible Club was, "And all this for free!"
- The unbelievable feeling of being used by the Lord and seeing Him work in wonderful ways!

Concert of Prayer & Worship: Music that Spans the Generations

Several months ago, Alvin VanderGriend, special guest and author of several books on prayer, led the people of New Life Church in an evening of concerted prayer, blended with acoustic guitar worship led by Rex Bernardo. It was such a wonderful evening together that we decided to plan quarterly prayer meetings where the body of believers could join hearts in corporate prayer and worship.



This also led to the inspiration that each prayer meeting could have different prayer leaders and different styles of worship. The most recent gathering was a “Concert of Prayer and Hymn Sing” which included focused sections of prayer for our world, nation, state, church and personal lives. The timeless hymns and worship songs, accompanied by piano and organ and blended with inspirational special music selections, were enjoyed by everyone! Stay tuned for more details as we plan the November Concert of Prayer and Worship – Music that Spans the Generations!

Women’s Ministries This Fall

Our Women’s Ministries Leadership Team has been meeting all summer, and we are excited to announce the fall 2010 theme, “Our Covenant God Keeps His Promises.” Each Bible study offered this fall will include the concept of how God is the One who makes and keeps covenant with His people and how we live in covenant with God and with each other. In alignment with the church’s E3 vision, Women’s Ministries’ Mission Statement is: Giving glory to God in all things, New Life Women’s Ministries seeks to:



- Introduce women to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Disciple women according to God’s Word.
- Provide opportunities for worship, prayer and fellowship.
- Promote the biblical roles

of women by encouraging Titus 2 relationships.

All women are invited to participate in Women’s Ministries by registering for a Bible study, joining a ministry team or attending the various events that are held throughout the year!

*Cheryl Engstrom, Evelyn Heinrich, Jill Kirkwood & Lori Robey
Women’s Leadership Team*

Elders’ Corner

As a result of strategic planning sessions with New Life Academy leadership this past spring, the Elder Board will be strengthening its spiritual and pastoral oversight of the Academy. The authority of strategic and financial planning is being delegated to an expanded Governing Council to include Pastor Mark and two NLC members appointed by the elders, as well as selected members of the parents’ advisory council and the NLA Foundation. The elders will maintain ultimate authority over all NLC ministries as specified in the NLC constitution.

Newly-written bylaws of the Governing Council provide for innovative activities to enhance church-school collaboration and spiritual development:

- NLC pastor involvement with the NLA campus pastor in weekly chapels at least once per month for both elementary and secondary students;
- School and Church community worship gatherings at the beginning and end of each school year;
- Regularly scheduled monthly prayer and fellowship meetings to include NLC pastor, Governing Council chair and Academy administrator; and
- Collaboration between NLC pastor, elder-appointed volunteers, campus pastor and Bible teachers to develop age-appropriate Bible curriculum and other co-curricular programs to facilitate spiritual development.

All of this is to say we are taking steps to invest the human resources and energy necessary to be more effective in accomplishing our mission of advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through one of our largest ministries.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this or other issues, we welcome your feedback at elders@newlife4u.org.
For the Elders, Dan Wiersum

Catch 2:42

God has been at work in this College and Career adult group! This past year we have seen people in the group come to know Christ, grow in their relationships with the Lord and be challenged to live that out on a day-to-day basis wherever God has them right now. Our desire is to continue to see this group grow so close together as brothers and sisters that we are able to tell each other stories - stories about what God has done in our past, what He is doing now and where He may be taking us in the future.
Jon Flaa



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Diving Deep Into the Word

The New Life Youth recently went to Arrowhead Bible Camp in New Auburn, Wisconsin, and the current Panama Missions Trip Team was there with us. We would not define this as a “missions” trip, per se, but more of a “discipleship” trip. We were able to slow down the pace and really dive deep into God’s Word.



We spent each morning in quiet devotions for an hour, focusing on various passages of Scripture. Then we would serve the Camp through picking up leaves, sea weed and fallen

branches. In the evening we would have a chapel session diving deep into Isaiah 43, where the camp pastor gave some statements for us to ponder on. “Most of our problems come from an incorrect view of God,” and “Do not let your circumstances dictate how you worship. Let worship dictate your circumstances.” In reading through this passage, we saw how no one can take us out of the hand of God, nor out of His will, a chapter we highly recommend for personal study!

We of course had lots of time fellowshiping together through board games, card games, God talks around the campfire, swimming and outdoor games. Overall, the Lord really opened up our team’s eyes to His majesty and power. “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are Mine.” Isaiah 43:1b

Katie Wiertzema, Youth Ministry Assistant

Outdoor Baptism - August 22

Come and support those who are taking a significant step in their faith and enjoy an evening of fellowship. An outdoor baptism will be held on Sunday, August 22 at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park. The baptism ceremony will begin about 5:30pm, although the Hilltop Shelter has been reserved for the day so we are encouraging people to come at 3:00 and make it a family day complete with grilling and fellowship. Grills will be on at 4:00 so bring your picnic dinner and enjoy a meal together. There is plenty of time to hang around before and after the baptism. There are many amenities nearby, including volleyball, basketball, softball and swimming. Washington Co. Parks vehicle permits are required for all vehicles entering the park and can be purchased at the park office if you don’t already have one. If you would like to participate in the baptism, please call the Church office.



Nursery Transformation

Through the vision and generosity of some New Life families, we were blessed this spring with the opportunity to refurbish the Nursery/Childcare rooms. The major focus



of this refurbishing effort was threefold: Improve the safety of the rooms for our kids (through padded carpeting and gates); brighten up the rooms (through painting and relamping); and improve the

ambiance of the rooms to make them more inviting to parents (through new furniture and lighting). We have been simply amazed at the transformation that has taken place in these rooms. If you haven’t had a chance yet to see for yourself, we encourage you to take a moment to stop by the rooms and take a look. We also would like to acknowledge and thank the Chinese Church (3CW) and New Life Academy for their generous donations to this effort.

Men’s Retreat: “Battle Ready”

“Good things happen in guys’ lives at Men’s Retreats,” according to Pastor Al. “It seems to be the combination of physically and mentally getting away from the demands of the work week, along with experiencing the natural beauty of the setting and connecting with other men who are on a journey just like we all are. Somehow God uses that time away to really get ahold of men’s hearts.”



There are two options for men this fall; both are the weekend of September 10-12. The first is the Dad’s and Daughter’s Retreat at Camp Lebanon. In recent years, a group of fathers and their daughters have enjoyed that time away together, with many attending year after year. John Cremers is our contact again this year. The second option, which is a partnership with NLC and Twin Cities Church West Side, will be held at Oak Forest Center (pictured above), just 90 minutes from Woodbury. The theme is “Battle Ready,” as we join with other men to prepare to fight for our families, for godliness and for our brothers in Christ. Pete Katzung, Dick Joerger, Greg Hendricks or Pastor Al can provide more information. If it’s been a few years since you’ve been part of a Men’s Retreat, this could be your year to attend – and see how God will use this time away in your life.

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NLA News

New Life Academy is pleased to announce the hiring of its new Elementary Principal, Brian Goodbar. Mr. Goodbar offers the experience to bring stability and the spirit of leadership required to fulfill the refreshed vision of the Academy. His zeal, creativity and leadership style are the ingredients the Academy is eager to add to its 33-year foundation.



To ensure a relevant future for Christian education for generations to come, NLA has stepped out from its peers to address a nationwide call for change. Mr. Goodbar will play a critical role in building a foundation for 21st Century student outcomes, beginning as early as pre-kindergarten.

Brian and his wife, Lisa, have two children, and this will be the first out-of-state relocation for the entire family as they are all California born and raised. They are thrilled with Woodbury so far and look forward to becoming a part of the fabric of the community.

The Goodbars have been active members in their church home, including Brian's heavy involvement with the worship team.

Missions Moment

Gary and Jane Borner and their children; Madelyn, Michael, Julia and Alex, along with Allison Baranik, are with Dick and Joy Ivance in Cherkassy, Ukraine from July 27 to August 12. There will be a VBS held in cooperation with members of House of Gospel in the mornings and a youth event each evening. While in Ukraine, Dick's sermon series, on August 1 and 8, will be, "You Were Made for More - Finding God's Will For Your Life."



For more information about Church ministries or events: 651/459-0444 or www.newlife4u.org

For more information about New Life Academy: 651/459-4121 or www.newlifeacademy.org

Spotlight

*Up close & personal
with people in ministry*

Karen Diers Creative Worship Director



Karen has served with New Life's Music Ministry for the past 9 years.

- Tell us about yourself and your family.

My husband, David, and I have four children – Aaron (21), Talia (19), Mikayla (16) and Kilian (12). We are also grandparents and madly in love with our two-year old grandson, Mason (Aaron is his dad). David recently finished 25 years with Comcast and is enjoying his time off reading, resting and playing basketball with his kids and Mason.

- What are your responsibilities here at New Life Church?

Currently, I am serving New Life Church in the role of Creative Worship Director and have partnered with Cindy Martinson to lead New Life's music ministry for the last nine years.

- What would be a dream vacation for you and your family?

A dream vacation for the Diers family is anything cultural and overseas! Actually, we are going on our first cruise as a family in January 2011 and are excited to spend that time together because Talia attends a university in London.

- What's your favorite part of the role you have here?

What I enjoy most about my job is the ability to contribute creatively. I find it a great privilege and honor to serve New Life Church alongside the pastoral staff whom I describe as a committed team of "godly and humble" individuals. I assist in communications, programming, creative planning, service content, organization, and especially enjoy entertaining the staff by coming up with silly names for any of New Life Church's array of programs and special events - "Big Band Jam – We Bring the Ham" (ok, hotdogs)! Thanks, New Life!

Outdoor Services - August 7 & 8

Saturday, August 7 - 5:30pm

Sunday, August 8 - Combined Gathering at 10:00am
(Fellowship & donuts/coffee at 9:30am)

Nursery care for ages 4 & younger available. KidZone (children entering K-6th) will be held with games on the soccer field during the combined gathering.

Life Application Hour will not be held.

Bring your lawns chairs and join us outside!



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