

Update and Jon's Encouragements September 2, 2020

Week of Prayer

Thanks everybody for joining NLC during the Week of Prayer. Many joined us on the 7's on Facebook live, and on Sunday and Wednesday a significant group of New Lifers joined us on the lawn for prayer. Thanks to all those who led a prayer session, and thanks to all those who prayed. The Scripture encourages us to pray continually. Don't stop praying. Prayer is the best tool you have in your spiritual toolbox. Don't stop praying.

Family Drive-In Movie Night: Labor Day Weekend

Sunday night, September 6, 2020 at approximately 7:45 p.m., join the NLC family (and bring a friend) to watch the 2016 version of "Pete's Dragon" on the NLC parking lot and lawn. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks. The audio portion of the movie will be broadcast through your car radio on an AM radio frequency or an old school transistor radio. I hope you'll make plans to join us at a safe social distance and see your faith community this Sunday evening.

Jon's Encouragement:

Currently, the United States is being spoken of as being in a post-Christian era. An era when the popular opinion doesn't believe in the truth of Scripture and chooses to practice Scriptural teachings even less. I hear some express fearful concerns about our nation and our culture with the diminishing influence of Christianity. As I read the Scriptures, it is impossible for me not to notice that God's people have never feared being in the minority. It's in the minority that they seem to find their strength is truly in God.

Dom Helder believes that the love and truth of God released into a non-Christian world from the Christian minority is similar to the power of the smallest atom being released. God's people have never come from a place of power and position, but from places of weakness and oppression. It was David, the small boy, who killed Goliath helping Israel to defeat the powerful Philistines. It was Abraham who walked into a promised land with a small group of family members and employees as a minority group.

Tom Sine, in his book, "The Mustard Seed Conspiracy" says it like this:

"Jesus let us in on an astonishing secret. God has chosen to change the world through the lowly, the unassuming, and the imperceptible... That has always been God's strategy—changing the world through the conspiracy of the insignificant. He chose a ragged bunch of Semite slave to become the insurgents of His new order... And who would have ever dreamed that God would choose to work through a baby in a cow stall to turn the world right side up! God chose the foolish things...the weak things...the lowly things...the things that are not...It is still God's policy to work through the embarrassingly insignificant to change His world and create His future..."

God continues to work through the insignificant and the powerless to bring about His purposes. He wants to work through us today, in the middle of COVID-19. For *“in our weaknesses, He is made (or made known to be) strong.”* There is no excuse for Christians to feel alienated, powerless, minimized, or ineffective. Quite the contrary: We as Christians and New Lifers, should be overjoyed that nobody, no group of people, are too insignificant, too small, to be used effectively by God to change the world. The disciples experienced that firsthand.

With this in mind, I encourage all of us to continue in Christ’s hope, joy, peace, and love. Be strong and faithful to present the truth of the Gospel while overwhelmingly loving God and ALL the world’s people. This is the power of the Gospel. This is the message and deeds that will continue to change the world if we will be faithful to rely on God’s strength.

Worship Opportunity

New Life Church is currently offering **ONE** Sunday morning worship opportunity at 10:00 a.m. The numbers are growing, so please register to attend worship services in order for the staff to ensure that NLC can provide safe social distancing. As of yet, we are not offering Kids or Student Ministries in-person, but those ministries can be accessed online at www.nlcyorkville.org/online. I’m so glad many of you are joining us weekly online during these COVID-19 months. That’s one great thing about YouTube Live, you can participate from wherever you are.

If you forget to register for Sunday service, no worries. Come ahead and join us anyway. **BUT** your pre-registration really helps us know that we are doing our best to maintain a safe environment for in-person worshipers, and it relieves volunteer registration stress at the doors. Before registering for **in-person** worship, familiarize yourself with the guidelines posted on the registration form. Please [click here](#) to register and view the guidelines.

Announcements

- NLC is scheduling private parent/child dedications and water baptisms for those interested. You can schedule one of these sacred actions by contacting Linda Kellogg at lkellogg@nlcyorkville.org or 630-553-0200 for the details.

Don’t forget to make a generous, safe, and touchless gift online at www.nlcyorkville.org/give, or mail your check to New Life Church, 3205 Cannonball Trail, Yorkville, IL 60560. For those attending in-person worship, a traditional way of giving is available. Your generous financial support is so appreciated and essential.

Blessings!

Pastor Jon