

New Beginnings

New Life Community Church

A Christ Centered, Bible Based, Spirit Empowered, Prayer Dependent, Ministry Minded Church

"Where new life is found in Christ"

DECEMBER **Highlights**

MONDAY EVENINGS

Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY, December 2nd

Ladies' Ornament Exchange

SUNDAY, December 10th

All Church Meeting

SUNDAY, December 17th

Christmas Celebration

WEDNESDAY, December 20th

Circle of Faith Brunch



(by John Motz, pastor)

Waiting for Christmas

"This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah..." Matthew 1:1

Often at this time of year we are drawn to the stories of Jesus' birth found in the Gospels (Matthew and Luke in particular). As one opens the Gospel of Matthew, the first thing you notice is that it doesn't start with the birth account, but rather a long and challenging genealogy spanning roughly 2000 years and numerous names one doesn't recognize and can hardly pronounce. For us, it is a difficult way to begin the story, often we skip over it because, well, because we can.

Perhaps instead of skipping over it to get to the good part, we should pause and ask what might we learn from the way Matthew begins his story. Maybe there is something of a message in this odd beginning. In the re-reading of this account we might notice that God is faithful, but not always fast with His answers. It starts with Abraham and goes on (and on) until finally it concludes with Jesus. Promises made to Abraham (and many of his descendants) are finally coming to fulfillment in this story Matthew is beginning to tell. One of the hardest aspects of the life of faith is that challenge of...

John Motz, Pastor continued

...waiting: we want answers now; we want solutions now; we want to trust God, but struggle when we have to wait. News flash: God is faithful, but His timing is not always our timing.

A second message might be that we ought not rush into Christmas, rather it is worth waiting for and preparing for. The commercialism of our celebration works against us here when instead of getting ready spiritually for His peace, we are panic stricken because we don't have enough time to get everything done. This too lends credence to the season of Advent, the 4 weeks prior to Christmas designed to both heighten our anticipation and deepen our appreciation of the Gift of Christmas. Between now and Christmas each Sunday worship service will be designed to help us take time, to consider His gifts, to prepare our hearts for what truly should be the best day of the year; the day we celebrate God's gift of Jesus to us.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

What a great collection!! Because of your wonderful generosity, we were able to collect 82 shoeboxes! Let's break this down: 82 boxes filled with the LOVE of Jesus Christ!! 82 gifts of HOPE given to the hopeless. 82 gifts of GRACE to bless young hearts all over the world. 82 reasons to pray for a child that may accept the salvation of Jesus Christ. And...82 children who know that someone, somewhere in this crazy, not so gentle world LOVES them and cared enough to send them this small, precious, simple gift. Thank you church family. What a blessing to be a blessing to someone else. Have a beautiful, blessed and memorable Christmas!



Circle of Faith

Circle of Faith is meeting Wednesday, December 20th, 10 a.m. at Sheryl Arnold's for a breakfast brunch.



New Life Family Christmas Celebration

All are invited to come and celebrate God's gift to us at our special Christmas celebration on December 17th. The program put on by adults, youth and children from the New Life family will be a joy and highlight for all who come. Traditional carols will set the tone for this retelling of the Christmas Story along with our kids depiction of the nativity. The program will begin at 6:00 on Sunday evening (the 17th), invite your family and friends to come and be blessed during this Christmas season.

All Church Meeting

Following Sunday morning worship on the 10th we will move from the sanctuary to rooms 7&8 for our annual All-Church Meeting. All are welcome as we look ahead to the New Year. On items like our budget and make up of our board of directors, every church member has a vote. God is up to some great things here at New Life, please come and celebrate that with us.



A Special Day in the Life of New Life

On Sunday morning December 17th, in the midst of the morning worship service we will set a side some time for a very special celebration. This day we as a church family, recognizing and confirming God's call on Jose Fuentes' life, will confer and commission him for the work and title of pastor. Jose has been serving as our youth leader for over a year and a half, and in that time we have come to know him and see God's calling and gifting for ministry on display. Please come and join in the recognition and celebration, this is a big step in the ministry life of Jose and in the New Life family.



Just Around the Corner

As we look toward the approaching new year, an exciting opportunity is coming quickly. On Saturday, January 13th there is a one day conference with renowned Bible teacher Dr. Sandra Richter hosted by Centenary Church in Modesto. It is a one day event (from 9-4) and the conference cost is \$35, which includes lunch. For those who have heard Sandy teach in the past, this is an easy sell but for those who have not, trust us, you will be glad you came! You can register on-line at <https://centenarychurch.formstack.com/forms/workshopregistration>. More information will be available at the church office.

*May your Christmas Day
Be a blessed day,
Filled with love
And laughter!*

*And may each day
Bring joy your way
In the year
That follows after!*





Christmas season is in full swing! Stores are crammed full of people doing their shopping and you're probably gearing up for all the good food that you're going to eat in the next few weeks. Because Christmas is such a busy time, it's easy to forget some stuff! Our teens are learning the concept of maturing and acting out their faith. It's important that we are the brightest star everywhere we go these holidays.

Decide to be happy – It's easy to fall into the habit of unhappiness at Christmas time, and it's usually the small things that steal the fun right out of Christmas. It usually starts with simple things, like being jealous about the presents a friend got, or feeling upset because you were forced to go to Aunt Lucy's house instead of hanging out with your friends. Choose to not let the simple things make you unhappy this Christmas. Decide no matter what to be happy!

Be thankful – No matter how stinky your Christmas seems, you can always find things to be thankful for. One thing to be thankful for at Christmas is the fact that Jesus came into the world to pay the price for your sins. You're not getting what you deserve, which was hell. Instead Jesus paid the price for your sins so you can party it up this Christmas season!

Remember what Christmas is Really About – There's usually so much going on at Christmas that sometimes it's easy to forget what Christmas is really about...JESUS! Spend some time thinking about what Jesus means to you, and be sure to thank Him for what He's done in your life.

In a few weeks our teens will be going out and spending part of their time giving socks and gloves to the homeless in our county. We do need donations of socks and gloves. As well as a few adults to come along with us and participate. The official date has not been set up yet! Please keep this event in prayer.

Keep in mind this Christmas season how awesome Jesus is. Think about all He's done in your life, and take time to be thankful.

Jose Fuentes

Treasurer's Report

January	\$15,941
February	\$14,729
March	\$14,376
April	\$23,527
May	\$14,055
June	\$10,799
July	\$25,198
August	\$12,309
September	\$14,237
October	\$15,179
November	\$13,788

I read a short devotion about thankfulness this afternoon. It talked in part about the ten lepers Jesus healed in Luke 17:11-19. Although all asked for and received the same gift, only one returned to praise God. The point of the devotion was that even though we aren't required by God to give thanks when prayers are answered, the prayer of thanks is appreciated. Our relationship with God and Christ will grow.

Your continued financial support of the ministry of New Life Community Church is one way I believe you are giving thanks back to God. Your faith and trust allow us to reach out to the community and the world. Thank You!

Mary Herbert
Treasurer, New life Community Church

Faith Promise Giving

Faith Promise: Based on money I do not have but for which I will trust God, giving as He gives to me.

2017 Faith Promise giving to date: \$6,227

We Are Family!

Help celebrate these special occasions!

*Happy
Birthday!*

DECEMBER

Birthdays

- 12/01 Elma Weaver
- 12/06 Dick Templeton
- 12/10 Gilbert Campanario
- 12/11 Julia Timmons
- 12/11 David Webster
- 12/12 Ryan Votta
- 12/13 Richard Getz
- 12/15 Donald Garcia
- 12/15 Laura Mejia
- 12/16 David Borjon
- 12/17 Ethan Wey
- 12/20 Maycin Rios
- 12/21 Katja Montgomery
- 12/22 Jennifer Wey
- 12/25 Reggie Boesch
- 12/27 Jeff Stopper
- 12/27 Gerry Roberts
- 12/27 Gayle Yokley
- 12/29 Ken Thompson
- 12/30 Jose Fuentes

*Happy
Anniversary*

DECEMBER

Anniversaries

- 12/06 Bob & Amy Valladao
- 12/11 Gilbert & Joanna Campanario
- 12/21 George & Jenny Gallaher
- 12/28 Kurt & Julie Wetzel

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2  Ladies Orna- ment Exchange 11:00am @ La Nita's
3	4 Men's Study 6pm	5	6 Men's Study 6:30am	7 Christmas Practice Kids/ Actors Only 7pm	8 	9
10 All Church Meeting 10:30 Rm 7&8	11 Men's Study 6pm	12	13 Men's Study 6:30am	14 Christmas Practice 7pm	15 	16
17  NLCC's Christmas Celebration 6pm	18 Men's Study 6pm	19	20 Men's Study 6:30  Circle of Faith 10am	21	22	23
24 No Men's study 	25 	26	27 No Men's Study	28	29	30
31						