

MEDITATION



Josh Tucker
Pastor
St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5:17

I love the smell of a new car.

With Christ, all is new

The cleanliness of the interior: the shine of the dash, the clean upholstery and the stain-free carpets all attribute to the new car smell. The smell of a new car lasts for a while but as one settles into the car and makes it their own, it takes on the personal attributes of the owner. In his second letter to the church in Corinth, Paul writes about a newness that I think is important for us to remember each and every day.

For anyone who is "in Christ," as the apostle Paul writes, there is newness. Being in Christ brings about something new in our lives, a new-

ness that makes life more complete and worthwhile. For Paul, to be in Christ means that Jesus is at the forefront of our faith; that we put our hope and trust in him; and that he is our Lord and savior in whom we model our life. The newness that comes as a result of this relationship is in the form of an everlasting covenant that God established with us through the life, death and resurrection of his only son Jesus. This new covenant brings grace, forgiveness and salvation to us all. A relationship with Christ makes us new!

Today marks the anniversary of what began the protestant reformation. On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the church doors in Wittenberg, Germany. His theses called for a reform of the current state of the church and thus began a period of change and re-forming. The reformation was a time when the church experienced being made new in Christ. In the years following the reformation, the church has experienced the newness of Christ as we are always called to be made new. The church, we, are always being made new in Christ.

This is evident in the sacrament of holy baptism as one is washed in the waters and

marked with the cross of Christ forever. By water and God's word, we are made new in Christ.

In baptism, God names us and claims us as his children and we are saved from the captivity sin and evil once had over us. We are given a new hope in life eternal with our God.

Martin Luther said that every time you wash your face, you should make the sign of the cross on your forehead and remember your baptism. In baptism, we are always being made new and this is a new car smell that never wears off.

Thanks be to God for the newness we receive in Christ!

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

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Long Creek Presbyterian Church
701 Long Creek Road
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704-730-0075

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704-739-6811

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703 Margrace Road
704-739-6711

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220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

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506 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-0160

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Compact School Road
704-739-4516

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220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ
541 Crocker Road
704-730-9507

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704-739-2606

New Camp Creek Baptist Church
863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road
704-487-7128

New Life Family Worship Center
428 Oak Grove Road
704-739-9371

New Way Missionary Baptist Church
105 Waco Road
704-724-0414

Oak Grove Baptist Church
1022 Oak Grove Road
704-739-4833

Oak View Baptist Church
1517 York Road
704-739-7831

Pathway Baptist Church
3100 Parkdale Circle
704-734-0852

Patterson Grove Baptist Church
301 Oak Grove Road
704-739-5826

Peoples Baptist Church
1010 Groves Street
704-739-0398

Proclaiming the Word Ministries
7011 Cleveland Avenue

Progressive Church of Our Lord
1001 Cleveland Avenue
704-734-1070

Resurrection Lutheran Church
600 Crescent Circle
704-739-5580

Royal Praise Ministries
2055 Shelby Rd.

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church
201 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-7466

Second Baptist Church
120 Linwood Road
704-739-4216

Shady Grove Baptist Church
339 Shady Grove Road
704-739-8920
St. Paul United Methodist Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-1256

Sunrise Baptist Church
208 Mail Road
704-692-3007

Temple Baptist Church
612 N. Cansler Street
704-739-4716

The Favor Center Church

602 Slater Street

704-739-9230

True Gospel Holiness Church
1608 Shelby Road
704-739-6764

Unity AME Zion Church
948 Unity Church Road
704-228-0328

Vestibule AME Zion Church
2175 Vestibule Church Road
704-739-7961

Westover Baptist Church
114 Westover Drive

GASTONIA
Bethesda United Methodist Church
3714 S. New Hope Rd

Grace Community Advent Christian Church
206 West 3rd Avenue

GROVER
Bethany Baptist Church

423 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-3010

Carolina Praise and Worship Center
201 N. Main Street
704-937-7541

First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg
205 E. Cherokee St.
Blacksburg, SC704-937-7390864-839-1873

WACO
New Testament Missionary Baptist Church

Featured Church of the Week:

Love Valley Baptist Church



Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.

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