

Experiencing God's Transforming Presence @

www.midlandvineyard.com



NEW LIFE VINEYARD CHURCH

WELCOME! ARE YOU NEW?

Whether you are just visiting or looking for a church home, we want to say, "Thank you!" for visiting us. We encourage you to fill out our yellow connection card or go online to our "[Ways to Connect Page](#)" and fill out our online form. We'd love to get to know you and help you get to know us!

ABOUT NLV

New Life Vineyard Church exists to help people to *experience the transforming presence of God*. We do this by *Connecting* to Christ and Others, *Growing* into Christian Maturity, *Serving* others, and *Going* out into our community to make a positive difference. We value love, acceptance, and forgiveness in all relationships. You matter to God, so you matter to us!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- **Sun Worship:** 10:00 AM
- **Wed Morning Prayer:** 8:00 AM (Zoom)
- **Wed Youth:** 6:00-8:00 PM
- **Sat Men's Bible Study/Breakfast:** 7:30 AM

WHAT TO EXPECT

We're a "come as you are" kind of church. Most of our family come dressed casually. Our music is contemporary, but also contemplative. We encourage people to have fun celebrating God's goodness. We welcome clapping/raising of hands, and saying, "AMEN!". Our celebration services aren't meant to be a show, but rather a group of people all celebrating an audience of One - our great and awesome God!

CHILDREN

We invite the kids to join in for our weekly Children's ministries. We dismiss the children to their classes after the second song of worship on Sunday.

JR/SR HIGH STUDENTS

Our VineyardYOUTH group meets Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 PM here at the church in addition to special events throughout the year. Pastor Dan also teaches Sunday mornings every other week.

MEN & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Our Men & Women's ministries provide ways for people to connect with God and each other. Throughout the year we schedule a variety of activities such as retreats, breakfasts, a fish fry, and more. Check our online calendar for upcoming events.

NEW LIFE VINEYARD CHURCH

1014 E. ASHMAN ST. MIDLAND, MI 48642

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THIS WEEK @ THE VINEYARD

August 7th, 2022

Please join us for one of our two service options: In-Person at 10:00 AM (masks optional), or Online at 10:00 AM via [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), or our [Website](#).

MIDLAND COUNTY FAIR PARKING

Fair week is almost here! Join us August 14-20 as we serve Jesus and our community in this fundraiser that goes to missions, youth, women/men ministries, etc. [Sign up here](#) or at the Information Center!

MEN & MINNOWS FISH FRY

Men, bring out the kids for our annual fish fry on Tuesday, August 9th at 6pm in the church basement. It's a great time and gives Mom the night off. Please bring a dish to pass. [Sign up](#) is encouraged but not required.

VINEYARD SOFTBALL TEAM

The Vineyard men finished the season last week by graciously allowing another team to advance in the tournament. Counseling services have been offered to all team members to help them cope with the 3-7 final record.

VineyardYOUTH LAKE DAY & OTHER EVENTS

Due to inclement weather last Wednesday, the VineyardYOUTH group will be trying again this week to head up to Pastor Dan's parents' house on August 10th for a day on the lake filled with swimming, tubing, and yard games. Pastor Dan updated the youth page on the website to include all the registration forms, dates, and times for upcoming events. To check it out and get your student registered, [click here](#).

BLESSINGS AND BENEDICTIONS

Every Wednesday we release another video in the Blessings and Benedictions series. It's a brief video designed to encourage and build your faith. In case you missed it, you can find it on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#). Please consider sharing it on your social media to encourage others on their faith journeys. You can access the Blessings and Benedictions website [here](#) for more information.

PRAYER AND GIVING

If you would like prayer for any reason, you can reach us at prayer@midlandvineyard.com. Tithes and Offerings can be placed in the offering baskets, lobby lock-box, sent [online](#), or through the mail (1014 E. Ashman St, Midland, MI, 48642).



August 7th, 2022

Pastor Dave

Series: Looking Forward

A Change of Heart

Luke 15:11-32

Colossians 1:15 “Christ is the image of the invisible God” **The Message:** We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created.

Luke 15:11-32 (NIV) Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Suffering can often, though not always, have a clarifying effect on our perspective and behaviors! “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

He had returned and been redeemed as a son, not a servant.

Repentance makes God’s established forgiveness active in our lives. It’s receiving a gift that is already present.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ “ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

Jesus is appealing to his opponents, the religious elite (and to us), to celebrate what God is doing in reconciling his lost children to himself.

“If you’ve come to help me, you’re wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up in mine, then let us walk together.” -Aboriginal Activist

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