

Experiencing God's Transforming Presence @



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, and you matter to us!

Wi-Fi NETWORK PASSWORD: NLVGuest

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 families 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 **VineyardKIDS** 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 **VineyardMEN** & **VineyardWOMEN** ministries provide ways for people to connect with God and each other. Throughout the year we schedule a variety of [events](#) such as retreats, breakfasts, a fish fry, and more.

(989)832-7472 WWW.MIDLANDVINEYARD.COM

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HAPPENINGS @ THE VINEYARD

January 1st, 2023

Thank you for joining us today! Our online services are available via [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), or our [Website](#).

40 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

It is an NLV tradition to start every year with *40 Days of Fasting and Prayer*. During this time, we choose days to fast and pray for God's blessing, direction, wisdom, and more. This culminates in our Hear from God meeting on Feb 15th at 6:30pm. There are packets and a sign-up folder at the info table this morning. You can also access both online at midlandvineyard.com.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Plan to join us for a night of cards, snacks, and fun as we hold our annual Euchre tournament. You are welcome to come whether you're a seasoned veteran or a Euchre newbie. We'll even teach you how to play if you've never learned. The event is Friday, January 20th from 7-9pm. You can sign up [here](#) or at the info center.

VineyardYOUTH SPRING HILL

VineyardYOUTH, you are invited to the Spring Hill winter retreat from February 10th-12th. This annual event is an awesome time to get away from your busy schedule, connect with friends, and grow in your personal walk with Jesus. Talk to Pastor Dan for details on how to get registered.

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. You can find them on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. Please consider sharing it on your social media to encourage others on their faith journeys.

WAYS TO CONNECT

For a more information on all the ways you can connect at New Life Vineyard Church, visit midlandvineyard.com/waystoconnect.

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).

January 1st, 2023

Pastor James Applegate

Fasting and Prayer

Scripture: Matthew 9:14-18

Key Vs.: Matthew 9:15, "Jesus answered, 'How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.'"

"Fasting is a temporary renunciation of something that is in itself good, like food, in order to intensify our expression of need for something greater — namely, God and his work in our lives." -- John Piper

Fast when _____ or _____ prompt you. (Daniel 6:18-23)

- Application: If you feel God is calling you to fast, do so safely and biblically
- Application: Instead of running to things of this world for comfort or direction, RUN TO GOD!

Fast for God's _____, _____, and _____. (Judges 20:26-27, Esther 4:6-7)

- Application: There are times of difficulty and trouble, where we seek God's miracles and kingdom, in which fasting can play a role.

Fast in _____ to God. (2 Samuel 12:15-23)

- Application: There may be times of repentance where we want to demonstrate to God and ourselves our commitment to His purpose and plan.
- Application: We might be in dire circumstances due to our sin or someone else's, and we fast and cry out to God demonstrating our heart and dependence on Him.

Fast out of a pure _____ and _____, not for self-recognition ("holiness") or self-gain. (1 Samuel 14:24-45, Luke 18:9-14, Isaiah 58:6-7)

- Application: It is not just about the act. It's the heart that matters.

Fast in _____ for _____ (Jesus Himself fasted. Matthew 4:1-3)

- Application: There are times we need to prepare to do the things God has called us to. Fasting can be an appropriate response and preparation.

Fast for God's _____, _____, and _____. (Acts 13:1-3)

- Application: Join us in our 40 Days of Fasting and Prayer.

The _____ and _____ of fasting!

Jesus' disciples weren't fasting because _____ and _____ were present.

Jesus foreshadows our need to fast, _____ for His kingdom to come now AND _____ for His second coming.

We fast to see His kingdom manifested _____ and _____.

Jesus points to the _____ of fasting being _____ now that he has come.

NLV PASTORAL STAFF:

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