Issue #133 January 2026

JESUS IN THE CITY FELLOWSHIP

Information and News Update

Celebrating 30 Years of Ministry

Isaiah 58:6-7: “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter--when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

Isaiah verse 12: *“You will be called Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”*

Greetings, friends from the frozen tundra of the TWIN CITIES, MN. As I write this newsletter, the wind chill is at 30 below zero. Though it is cold outside, my heart is warm for the matters that our Savior cares most about. It was February 20, 1996, when we launched Jesus In The City in South Minneapolis, out of St. Paul’s Evangelical church. It was an exciting time of renewal and revival.

Over the past 30 years, we have reached and touched 1000’s and 1000’s of lives, particularly men coming out of drug and alcohol addiction as well as gangs. Personally, I have trained up dozens of men in Pastoral and Christian leadership. I have seen and witnessed hundreds of miracles that again encourage me in my calling and the call of JICF to the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and most importantly, that God is faithful. He keeps His promises.

God is faithful despite what we are witnessing locally, nationally and globally. We must remember in these times of stress and uncertainty to keep our eyes on Christ. Friends, please take the high road in these conversations. Pray for our leaders and trust that the Lord knows what He is doing. He is in control.

The Lord gave me this word between Christmas and New Year’s for 2026; trust me in the details He pressed on my heart. Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near, do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This word is sown into my heart as we seek God for specifics in 2026 to reach more people through our Sunday services, chapel at the many recovery ministries that we go into, as well as our dynamic podcasts and Pastor’s Patio. We are reaching approximately 25,000 people a month digitally and in person.

Most sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Michael Angelo Pilla, DTh

Thank you so much for your financial and spiritual support this past year.

As a mission church, we rely on your support to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the city.

Also, please pray for the peace of the city as instructed in Jeremiah chapter 29:7 "for if it prospers, so will you." We are committed to ministering God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ in the city of Minneapolis, despite whatever opposition comes our way.

We are being used by the Lord to change lives in the present and for eternity.

One soul at a time…one family at a time. And bit by bit, we get to witness many miracles in the lives that are being restored.

All this is done through one-on-one involvement in men's and women's lives.

It is a demanding ministry, and it takes time, devotion and love.

THE EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS OF JICF IN 2026

- Sunday morning, the Facebook live feed starts at 9:00 am.
- Sunday Worship at Morning Star Church on N Broadway in Minneapolis 11:00 am
- Pastor's Patio on Wednesday afternoon live feed on Facebook and You Tube.
- Friday Night Focus on Facebook live at 7:00 pm.
- 1st Monday of the month, Union Gospel Mission Chapel, St. Paul.
- Bible studies for mentoring and discipleship.
- Aug. 2026 16th Annual Pastors' Tournament.
- Christmas In The City 2026
- Check out our YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/@JesusInTheCityMinistries

https://www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org/ hit the donate button

Pastors Patio with Patrick Hoban, Michael PIlla, Tom Goodrich and Jeff Boyer broadcasting from a pontoon boat at Dan's Marine where he held our distribution of Christmas In The City 2025. You can find us at on You Tube under Jesus in the city ministries.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS.

Thank you to all of you who helped out with sponsorships and delivery to the many families that were blessed.

Pastor Patrick and Pastor Jeff loading gifts.

The Officenter staff lead by Lori Spiess with Pastor Michael Pilla who took on a Christmas In The City family. Thank you Lori and staff.

Pastor Patrick Hoban with Desiree Buol and Pastor Jeff Boyer getting ready to deliver to Christmas families.

Ruth Meier, Pastor Jerry and Melody Pauling loading gifts for Christmas delivery out of Dan's Marine.

One of the many families that was delivered to for Christmas In The City.

Pastor Michael PIlla with Pastor Patrick and Pastor Tomas Walek from Payne Reliever Church in St. Paul's East Side.

PASTOR NORTONS DAILY DEVOTIONS

Romans 6:15 NLT: *"Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not!"*

The Law enters people into a contest. Can we do enough good to outweigh the bad? Can we do enough good to qualify for heaven? Christianity doesn't work like that. We are no longer under the Law.

Believers are living under grace. Our salvation is God's free gift to us. His desire is to include us in his eternal heavenly Kingdom. Therefore, if we confess our wrongdoings and declare allegiance to the Son who took away our sin, we will be fully forgiven. Heaven won't be filled with perfect people. Heaven will be filled with forgiven people. "I once was lost, but now I'm found." God's love and grace bring us home. Jesus said so!

I work with church musicians, and our goal is to bring our best to the Lord and the other believers. Mistakes will happen from time to time, but if everyone is doing their best, I can't complain. I encourage grace for one another, and forgiveness. That's what Jesus would do! God wants our love and offers us grace, undeserved favor, and forgiveness.

Pray and thank God for his grace and forgiveness, and always do your best for the Lord!

Pastor Norton Lawellin

Jesus In The City ministers to thousands of people every month, broadcasting into 61 countries.
We rely on your financial partnership to fulfill our mission to the city. ***Thank you so much!***

DONATE ONLINE

You can donate online at the Jesus In The City website. http://www.jesusinthecityfellowship.org
We are streaming our Sunday message live on Facebook at 9:00 a.m.
Click on the Facebook icon at the bottom of our website home page to join our live streams or to see videos of past services and presentations.

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