Issue #136 July 2026

JESUS IN THE CITY FELLOWSHIP

Information and News Update

Our 31st Year of Ministry in Minneapolis



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 58:12 "You will be called Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."

The call of the Lord and the call of water here in Minnesota with more than 10,000 lakes, (there is over 14,000 according to the MN DNR).

Jesus used fishermen to build His church. Why do you think that is?
John 21.3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered 6 He said, *"Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."* When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fishes. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

Greetings friends, I hope that you are well on this fine summer day. It is July 7th Tuesday morning as I write this newsletter and reflect on John Ch 21. It always amazes me when I read the gospels and see how Jesus meets everyone that He encounters right where they are at. Whether it is emotionally, spiritually or physically. In this story as we read it is all three. The disciples, and in particular Peter are still reeling emotionally from all that went on weeks before with the crucifixion, his denial of Christ and the resurrection. Now they are out fishing in their favorite spots with no success. Jesus shows up and instructs them to cast out on the other side. They experience huge success and now Jesus draws them in for more instructions for their lives and mission before He leaves Earth.

We continue to be the hands and feet of Christ with our ministry in the urban Twin Cities. I am reminded how the Lord uses us every week in our sermons, both in person and online with our podcasts. I am also reminded by a recent phone call with Pastor Jerry and how he touches many men through his testimonies and stories on his Freedom Friday messages. Our messages are going into 67 countries now.

Here is the link for the video from last year's Pastor's Tournament 2025.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVYyObxoA1I

We are gearing up for our Pastors' Urban and Suburban Fishing Tournament Aug. 4 on Lake Minnetonka. This tournament brings many different people in ministry together to honor the Lord and bring new pastoral relationships to further God's Kingdom. To make this all possible, please consider sponsoring a boat for $350.00.

The call to serve the city and regions beyond remains as urgent as ever. Our mission is to bring the message of Christ to those in need, following the example set by the early church. We value your partnership with us in this mighty endeavor, bringing Jesus to the city.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support.

Most sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Michael Angelo Pilla, DTh

PASTOR NORTONS DAILY DEVOTIONS

Luke 5:7 NLT: “Soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.”

Jesus had been using Simon’s boat as a preaching platform, and now he repays the favor. “Go out where it is deeper and let down your nets to catch some fish.”
Simon protests. “Master, we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.”

This time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! The fishermen shouted for help, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking!

It’s easy to convince someone about religious truth when the miracle happens right before their eyes! There was no doubt in Simon’s mind that Jesus was heaven-sent. “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.”

But God had other plans. Simon and his brother Andrew would abandon the family fishing business to follow Jesus. They gave up everything they knew. Simon gathered James and John, also fishermen, and the four became a part of the twelve.

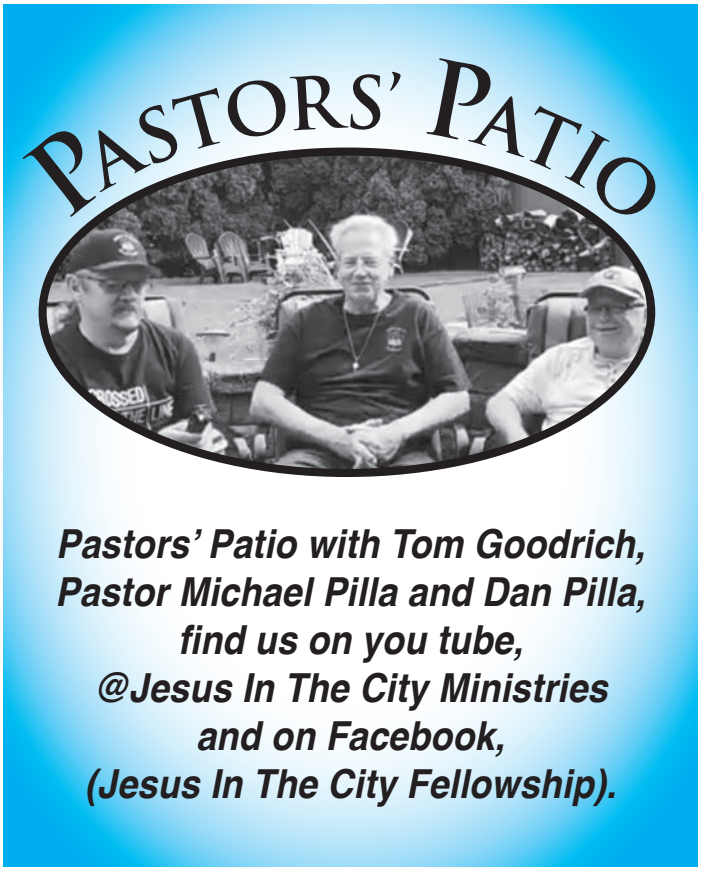
When the Lord calls a man or woman, soon their priorities change just as we read here in the Gospel of Luke. Is the Lord calling you to something new?

Pastor Norton Lawellin
Jesus In the City

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 pm.
- 1st Monday of the month, Union Gospel Mission Chapel, St. Paul.
- Bible studies for mentoring and discipleship.
- Aug. 4, 2026, 16th Annual Pastors’ Tournament on Lake Minnetonka.
- 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 Tom Goodrich, Pastor Michael Pilla and Dan Pilla, find us on you tube, @Jesus In The City Ministries and on Facebook, (Jesus In The City Fellowship).

Photos from last years Pastor's Fishing Tournament.



Rob from FFL with George Lang of Freedom Works.



Pastor Van Dickerson, Pastor Michael Pilla and Pastor Ed Moffett.



Pastor Jerry McCleskey with with guys from Freedom Works.



Dan Pilla and Russ Weybright of FFL.



Pastor Christopher Mark with Tom Goodrich, Pastor Mark Johnson and Pastor Jeff Boyer.



Pastor Ed Moffett showing off his bass.



Gabe Pilla who produced the video from last year. (Can be seen on YouTube).



You're invited to the 2026 Jesus In The City Fishing For Life

16TH ANNUAL - URBAN AND SUBURBAN PASTORS FISHING TOURNAMENT

on beautiful Lake Minnetonka

Tuesday, August 4th 7:30am – 2pm

Come and make new friends and partners! • Fishing is Free!

Sponsor a boat for $350. • Each boat will have a fishing guide.

Walleye shore lunch included with great fellowship.

Pastor Michael A. Pilla • 612-730-3390 • michaelangelo@pclink.com

A fund raiser to help with fulfilling the great commission in urban ministry and evangelism.

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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