

Family Information

Elders' Statement

Last month, the elders read a statement to the congregation about the current situation. You can read it on the Northland web site, by clicking on the virus icon on the home page.

From The Elders & Minister

Recently we sent a survey asking how you were doing during this pandemic season. You can very easily fill it out by accessing this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8B6W9VT>

Here again are the precautions we are currently taking with the building worship time:

The worship service time will be 10:00 a.m. Facemasks will be required. If you do not bring your own, one will be provided for you. The facemasks are to be worn at all times during the service apart from taking the cup and bread during the Lord's Supper. We will have individual cups with bread on top packed and ready for each of you as you come into the foyer. Instead of a collection/contribution time, we will have a contribution plate where you can leave your contribution. Bulletins will not be printed. They will be on our website.

Each family must sit together, and there has to be 6 feet or more distance from the next person or family. Once service is finished, we will dismiss starting from the back and working towards the front, going section by sections. Please do not gather around in the foyer. Our Ghana brothers and sisters will be starting worship at 12:00 p.m., so please leave the parking lot by 11:40 a.m. to honor the space for their time of worship.

For further guidelines and details, please check with the elders.

Calendar

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, a new series begins this week, "I Was Blind, But Now I See" (based on John 9). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Mark will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to join.

More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM, next session September 11 - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details.

Wednesday evenings after 7:00 PM - Pre-recorded Instagram Devotional by Caleb Dillinger will be available. Contact him for details.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

(Jim Robbins's Sunday evening Bible Study is temporarily postponed, while Jim recovers from knee replacement surgery.)

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4771	\$4799
Designated:	\$30	\$70

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Elmer Renderos, Luis Valdez



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That The Lord Is Mindful Of Us

(With Thoughts From Denise Levertov's Poems)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. - Psalm 8:1

How majestic is the Lord, how full of splendor is our Heavenly Father, how profound is God's understanding. God has set his glory in the heavens with their vastness and all the stars, the Lord has set his glory in the seas and in the fields and in the forests and in every living creature he makes, our Creator has set his glory in places far and near - *You have set your glory in the heavens. - Psalm 8:1*

After a long search for truth and meaning, poet Denise Levertov found Jesus in her sixties. Over the years, her poems often reflected her desire for understanding, as she contrasted the beauty of God's creation with the painful ills humanity endures. As she writes in one of her poems, "Days pass when I forget the mystery. Problems insoluble and problems offering their own ignored solutions jostle for my attention, they crowd its antechamber along with a host of diversions . . ."

We too are surrounded by distractions and loud voices and fears and sorrows each day, so our Father in heaven patiently reminds us to consider all that he has made and done, and the understanding and care and divine power they show us - *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place . . . - Psalm 8:3*

For when we look above, God can clear away the confusion and can help us see the care that he gives us each moment, as Levertov's poem continues - "And then once more the quiet mystery is present to me, the throng's clamor recedes: the mystery that there is anything, anything at all, let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything, rather than void: and that, O Lord, Creator, Hallowed one, You still, hour by hour sustain it."

When we open our minds and hearts to God, he can show us the 'quiet mystery' of his extraordinary wisdom and unfathomable understanding and strength that created everything in this universe. Moreover, we are so small, we are mere creatures of clay and dust, yet our Father in heaven is near, each of us is dear to him, and he understands everything about us even better than we do - *What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? - Psalm 8:4*

God is mindful of each of us, because of his love for us and his eagerness to be with us, not because we earned it or deserved it. As Denise Levertov writes in another poem, "As hawks rest upon air and air sustains them, so would I . . . float into Creator Spirit's deep embrace, knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace"

God gives all of us life and breath and everything else, and to those who walk by faith in Jesus, he gives us the priceless blessing of knowing him and an eternal inheritance with him.

- Mark Garner

Do Not Fear

A scripture that has recently encouraged me is *Isaiah 7:4* - *And say to him, Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah.*

Having had to think through school and the possibility of returning and all, it was a bit nerve wracking. As of now, it still is a moving target because it does not seem that the threat of COVID-19 is significantly under control globally. The story where this scripture is from of course is in the context of a threat from the King of Assyria. Things are bleak and Ahaz does not know what to do. All parts of the scripture catch my attention, but I note the instruction to be careful and quiet.

If we are told not to fear or be fainthearted, why do we need to be also careful and quiet? Without going into the Hebrew meaning of the words, it can be said the fear and faintheartedness, sometimes the lack thereof, can lead to carelessness and lots of noise in the form of grumbling, complaining, and other unhealthy habits, hence the need to be careful and quiet. In such times as these, most of us are seeking answers in the face of displacement, loneliness, frustration, joblessness, and many Assyrian-like threats that seem insurmountable, and some may not get the answers they might hope for, but in all, the call is to be sober, alert, quiet and contemplative of what God might be teaching us in such times. This will require courageous hearts made strong and quickened by God himself. May the God of peace do in and for us that which only He can.

- Isaac Kyeremateng



In Our Dear Lord's Garden

In our dear Lord's garden,
Planted here below,
Many tiny flowerets
In sweet beauty grow.

Christ, the loving gardener,
Tends these blossoms small;
Loves the little lilies
As the cedars tall.

Nothing is too little
For His gentle care;
Nothing is too lowly
In His love to share.

- Ella Sophia Armitage, 1841-1931

(Ella Sophia Armitage, who wrote this and over a dozen other hymns, was also an English archaeologist and historian, who was well-known for her research.)

The Lord Will Be Our Guide

We never know what a new day or a new week may hold, yet the Lord our living God will always be with us, and he will be our guide. This week, Don Milnor writes about a kind of situation we often face - when we want to do what God wants us to do, yet we can't see his answer clearly.

Lord, Show Me A Sign

Northland and churches of Christ in general are known for emphasizing the authority of God's word, trying to have Scripture for everything we do, and believe. But let's face it: God's word does not spell out an exact answer for every fork in the road. How then do we always make sure that we make the right decision?

Sometimes, God will do something to make it clear which of multiple options we should take. *During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.* -Acts 16:9-10. While I have never quite received guidance like that, God has put people and situations in my life, which seemed to make it clear what he wanted me to do.

Sometimes, God will give us a choice. How would you like to have this choice? *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." -1 Kings 3:5. God must have figured that would be too much for me to handle. But Solomon did a really good job with it. Sometimes, God gives us less attractive options, such as when David disobeyed God, and God had him choose which punishment he and the nation of Israel would endure: So Gad went to David and said to him, "This is what the Lord says: "Take your choice: three years of famine, three months of being swept away before your enemies . . . or three days of the sword of the Lord—days of plague in the land . . . Now then, decide how I should answer the one who sent me." -1 Chronicles 21:11-12. While one of these choices sounds great and the other not so much, one thing we learn here is that there isn't only one right decision for every matter.*

Even when we've already made a bad decision – or a bunch of them – that doesn't mean that we've blown it, and that our life can't be any good from there on out. Saul of Tarsus made some not so great decisions (like trying to stamp out Christianity), but God is powerful enough, smart enough, and forgiving enough, that he could still not only redeem the future apostle Paul's soul, but redeem the rest of his earthly life, using him in amazing ways.

But guidance from God probably won't be quite this dramatic most of the time. He will give us wisdom when we ask for it in faith (James 1:5-6). It won't necessarily be instantly clear what we must do. Maybe that's because God is using the tough situation to help us to grow in some way. However, God is at work in you. Trust him, lean on him, and do your best to make godly decisions with his help and guidance.

- Don Milnor