

Family Information

From The Elders & Ministers

There will not be services at the building today (Sunday, January 3rd). We are presently planning on returning to the building for worship on Sunday, January 10th. We believe that is a sufficient amount of time after holidays to return to "normal" levels of safety. We will maintain all safety features until otherwise noted: mandatory face masks throughout the service, seating in every other pew, service approximately 1 hour, starting at 10:00 a.m., and dismissal by sections, starting in the back. While we pray and hope for "normal" church service life to resume at some point in 2021, we do not know when that will be, so please continue to practice safety and caution, and know that each week we do this is a testament to our love for each other and respect for our neighbors.

Collection For The Russia Ministry

From the elders: Several members have expressed interest in helping financially with the work in Russia. Northland will be taking up a collection during the month of January to send to Vlad Osinovsky to help in his ministry. Please mark any contribution you would like to make as: Vlad or Russia on your contribution. Thank you.

The congregation received this e-mail from Vlad last week:

Dear brothers, Merry Christmas to you and your family and nice holiday season to you all! Many blessings in the upcoming year! How are things there with you? Hope covid didn't reach any of you. Situation with covid is not very easy here and medical care is not too good. A few people in the church had it and a few died. Some people lost their jobs, it touched mostly small businesses. . . Periodically there were full isolations during this year and we had to go online for church worships but now meetings are available again . . . How is your church doing? Hope things are well. Thank you! God's peace and presence be with you! Love you, Vlad (Vladislav Osinovsky)

Adjusted Service Times

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12:00 PM Sunday Ghana Worship
3:00 PM Sunday Spanish worship

Classes and devotionals are
Currently meeting on-line

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

Calendar

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, a new series begins this week: "God's Good, Pleasing, & Perfect Will" (based on Romans 12). 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 - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details about the next session.

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.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study, "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. Contact her for more details.

Offering Envelopes

If you use offering envelopes for your contribution, contact Pam Estep at the church office to pick yours up, or let us know if they need to be mailed to you or dropped off.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$2120	\$4658
Designated:	\$	\$64
Scholarship Fund Current Total		\$ 566
See The Elders If You Have Any Questions		



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Continuing In What We Have Learned

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. - 2 Timothy 3:10-11

The apostle writes to Timothy about the problems that we face in this world, not to discourage his young friend, rather to encourage him to continue walking by faith in Jesus. Paul also reassures Timothy that no matter what happens, when we continue to trust God, our Heavenly Father will be with us and he will help us get through this world's troubles.

Everyone in this world at one time or another endures times of disappointment or discouragement or suffering, yet those who put our trust in God instead of in ourselves can know that our God will always be with us, and he gives us an enduring hope that nothing in this world could give us. *In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. - 2 Timothy 3:12-13*

In the 1970s television series "Banacek", expert insurance investigator Thomas Banacek was called in to investigate the most perplexing thefts of extremely valuable items, complicated cases where he often had to face tense situations. Thomas often handled these by quoting old family sayings, which often used unusual examples so that people would have to stop and think about them, along with observations about human nature.

One of Banacek's sayings was, "When the wolf is chasing your sleigh, toss him a raisin cookie but don't stop to see if he eats it." This meant that life's big problems can't be mended with a quick fix. Similarly, as believers in God's Son, we will always have more to learn, we will always face another problem, we will make more mistakes. So God simply calls us to continue in what we've learned, and to remain close with him - *Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of. . . you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. - 2 Timothy 3:14-15*

Another of Banacek's sayings was: "A wise man never tries to warm himself in front of a painting of a fire." Just as Banacek often faced people who looked for answers in the wrong places, it is also human nature to look in vain for lasting hope and meaning in this world's thinking and its ways. In contrast, the scriptures teach us eternal truths, they reassure us of God's unfailing care for us and the priceless spiritual blessings he gives those who walk in the light of Jesus; and - *All Scripture is God-breathed. - 2 Timothy 3:16*

Everything in this world is uncertainty and temporary, yet God and his words and his understanding and the purposes of his heart will remain the same forever.

- Mark Garner

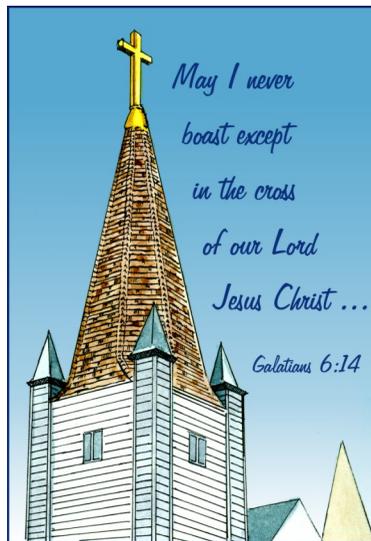
Nothing But The Love Of Jesus

Nothing but the love of Jesus
Can supply my inmost need;
What tho' I have golden treasures
He alone my soul can feed.
Only Jesus, only Jesus
Thro the wilderness can lead

Nothing but the love of Jesus
Can my longing satisfy;
From the fount of living waters,
If I drink not, I must die
Only Jesus, only Jesus
Hears the fainting spirit's cry

Nothing but the love of Jesus
Doth my wandering heart recall;
Nothing but his grace extended
Can restore me when I fall.
Only Jesus, only Jesus
Loves me notwithstanding all.

- Annie Sherwood Hawks, 1835-1918



Last Week's Puzzle Answer

The answer to last week's mystery verse puzzle is *The grace of God has appeared.* - TITUS 2:11

Immanuel, God With Us

Jesus is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, the Lamb of God; he is also called Immanuel, God with us. This week, Steve Carver writes about the difference God's presence can make in our daily lives.

We Know That God Is With Us

"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**' (which means '**God with us**')." Matthew 1:20-23

I have often wondered (probably a "guy thing") at the hurt and struggles that Joseph must have experienced when he first found out that Mary was pregnant with a child that he knew not to be his own. An angel of the Lord helped him understand that what seemed impossible was possible; that the baby Mary carried was of man and yet also of God. Even in what must have seemed a very dark hour for Joseph, God was with him ... and with Mary.

In this broken world, with its worries, struggles, and pain (some/much of which are consequences of our own actions), Immanuel gives us the love, grace, strength, peace, and hope to survive and grow. We know that God is with us ... in our humble submission to Immanuel, he has blessed us with his Holy Spirit. Because of him we are victors, regardless of the struggles that we face. "If God is for us, who can be against us."

Here are a few of the many passages that help me feel a sense of his presence, especially when I am struggling:

Psalms 3:3 "But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high."

Psalms 125:1-2 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore."

Psalms 46:10-11 "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

Psalms 130:5 "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope."

Romans 12:1-2 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

I pray that we all feel the Immanuel's growing presence in and purpose for our lives this new year.

- Steve Carver