

Family Information

Sermon for Today

Title: Faith - An Easy Burden
Passage: Matthew 11:25-30

From The Elders & Minister

Covid Updates: We will no longer do the closing dismissal process. Services will end with the closing prayer by the elder. We have also resumed printing bulletins; they will be set on the same table as masks and communion supplies. (No one will be passing them out.)

Continued Covid Adjustment: This is currently contemplation, nothing set in stone. The elders are considering some point in June to transition to optional face coverings, and some point around September to begin in person classes. Please be praying for wisdom, and please share your ideas on better ways to adjust. The elders will continue to check on the CDC and Statewide orders and cautions. We will continue with a minimum two week notice before making any changes.

When we meet in person, 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. For further guidelines and details, please check with the elders.

Bulletins Now Available

In Print & On The Northland Website

Besides resuming printed bulletins and having them available at church, they will still be available to view or print from our Northland Website under the heading "Northland Bulletin". We have past bulletins available to view by week starting from January 2nd, 2005 to date (and by year starting from 1985).

Summer Camp Week

Our camp week is July 19th through July 25th at Fort Hill. Camp registration: Cost is currently \$180.00 if you pay in full by May 15th, \$190.00 if paid 2 weeks before camp, and \$200 at camp.

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

On Line Bible Studies

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, the current series is, "We Have Come To Mount Zion" (based on Hebrews 12). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Steve will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to join.

More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM, next session April 23 - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. 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.

Contact Caleb Dillinger if you would like to have free access to RightNow Media, a digital collection of faith-based videos.

Help Needed

Josh Evans is putting together a list of staff and campers coming to camp this year. Please let Josh know if you plan on attending or are interested.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$2788	\$4778
Designated:	\$5	\$111
Scholarship Fund Current Balance	\$ 1547	



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The Lord Is A Shield Around Us

*You, Lord, are a shield around me . . . I call out to
he Lord, and he answers me. - Psalm 3:3-4*

God is a shield around those who walk in the light of the Lamb of God; the Lord guides us with his hand and his words. In this fallen world we are surrounded by snares and distractions and loud voices and false hopes, yet our Heavenly Father sustains us each step, and he protects us from spiritual foes too strong for us - *I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side. - Psalm 3:5-6*

Annie Johnson Flint (1866-1932) was a young schoolteacher when she was stricken by illnesses that left her unable to walk for the rest of her life. She began writing poems about God and his understanding and his compassion and the many blessings she had in spite of her afflictions.

In one of her poems, she writes "When I meditate on Thee and Thy works, O Lord, on Thy strength and majesty, on Thy changeless word . . . and Thy patient, watchful care over such as I . . . When I number all the gifts given in Thy Son . . . my soul can rest in peace, fed and satisfied." For God gives us salvation and he pours out spiritual blessings on us - *From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. - Psalm 3:8*

Annie and her sister had already gone through difficult times. When they were children, their parents passed away; they were adopted by the Flints, devoted and caring parents who also taught them about God, yet their adoptive parents also passed away around the time Annie became ill.

Annie called such times, "The Red Sea Place", and in a poem with that title, she writes "Have you come to the Red Sea place in your life, Where, in spite of all you can do, There is no way out, there is no way back, There is no way but through?" She goes on to describe the care God promises us when we put our faith in him: "His hand will lead you through . . . The tossing billows may rear their crests . . . But over their bed you will walk dry shod In the path that the Lord will make."

God is always near, he hears us when we call on him with a soft and humble heart, he comforts us with his compassion and he reassures us with his words - *Answer me when I call to you . . . have mercy on me and hear my prayer. - Psalm 4:1*
In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. - Psalm 4:8

Annie Johnson Flint writes in one of her poems, "His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known to man, For out of His infinite riches in Jesus He giveth and giveth and giveth again." Truly our Father in heaven shows us kindness and grace in more ways than we could count, and the purposes of his heart will stand forever.

- Mark Garner

O Holy Savior, Friend Unseen

O Holy Savior, Friend unseen,
Since on Thine arm Thou bid'st us lean,
Help us throughout life's changing scene
By faith to cling to Thee.

When far from home, fatigued, oppressed,
In Thee we found our place of rest;
As exiles still, yet richly blest,
We cling, O Lord, to Thee.

Though faith and hope are often tried,
We ask not, need not, ought beside;
So safe, so calm, so satisfied,
The soul that clings to Thee.

Blest is our lot, whate'er befall;
What can disturb or who appall?
Thou art our strength, our rock, our all,
Savior, we cling to Thee.

- Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

(Poet Charlotte Elliott is best known for writing the lyrics to the hymn "Just As I Am.")



Let heaven and earth praise him.

PSALM 69:34, NRSV

All Kinds Of Prayers On All Occasions

God always welcomes our prayers, whatever our circumstances may be and however we may be feeling. This week, Don Milnor writes about how consistent prayer can help us become closer with God and can help us better understand God's will.

Not My Will, But Yours Be Done

I believe that one of the most difficult things to pray . . . and to mean it . . . is for God's will to be done, in my life, rather than my own will. If I were Jesus, would I have an easy time bringing my will in line with that of the Father? Well . . . no, not while on earth anyway. Jesus may be Jesus, but while on earth, he was tempted as we are (Hebrews 4:15). Matthew has a short account of what Jesus prayed for in the garden of Gethsemane, just before he was betrayed and arrested:

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." . . . He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." . . . So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. -Matthew 26:39, 42, 44.

A few of the things we can learn from this passage:

If one time isn't enough, keep asking God whatever it is that you need to keep asking him. Have you ever felt like praying for God to help you get your will in line with the Father's just one time wasn't enough? If so, you have something in common with Jesus. We also learn this from the parable of the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8), on continuing to go to God, asking for help, as much as we need to.

Pray that God's will be done. We also learn this in Jesus' model prayer in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:10), and we see other Christians praying this (Acts 21:14). In Matthew 26 (and other accounts of this as well), in addition to Jesus' example, he said to his disciples, *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."* -Matthew 26:41

Satan will continue to work overtime to make it difficult for us to consistently put Jesus first in our lives. We should remember: ". . . *apart from me you can do nothing.*" -John 15:5

However, while our strength alone cannot compete with Satan and his allies, God can strengthen us so that we can stand up to him. Paul, who certainly accomplished a great deal, wrote, *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.* -Philippians 4:13

. . . *pray continually* . . . -1 Thessalonians 5:17

May God's will be done, in your lives and mine.

- Don Milnor