

Family Information

From The Elders & Ministers

We are 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.

Offering Envelopes in the Foyer

On the right side of the Foyer, on the table where the Elders sit to take prayer requests, Pam Estep has placed offering envelopes for those who have requested them or used them in the past. Your names are listed alphabetically and should be easy to locate. If you need them mailed to you, please let us know.

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, the current series is: "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, Phil 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 January 15 - 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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3776	\$4658
Designated:	\$100	\$64
Scholarship Fund Current Total		\$ 564
See The Elders If You Have Any Questions		



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When We Pray . . .

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. - Matthew 6:5-6

This world offers temporary rewards of fame and praise and popularity to those who conform to its ways, yet God knows our hearts and our thoughts, and he gives eternal blessings to those who seek him humbly and acknowledge our need for him. When we pray to our Heavenly Father, he does not ask us for eloquent words nor lofty requests, rather he asks us to pray with a soft and grateful heart, with our hope in his compassion and mercy, not in human efforts or human abilities.

Abraham Lincoln understood his need for God's constant care and grace and guidance, as he said, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." Indeed, this world's voices rely on worldly methods and on worldly thinking. Instead, God reminds us that he already knows what we really need, and asks us to open our hearts to him - *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. - Matthew 6:7-8*

When we pray, our Father in heaven asks us to let him clear our minds of earthly affairs and human ambitions, and to let him fill us with his Spirit and his words. As Teresa of Calcutta (often known as 'Mother Teresa') wrote, "Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."

All of us are so flawed and all of us understands so little, and prayer gives us refuge from this world's loudness and false hopes, a chance to tell God our troubles and to let him replace our anxieties with thoughts of things that will never disappear. As Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) wrote, "Prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."

This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done . . . Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. - Matthew 6:9-12

Jesus gives us this prayer to help us remember what we will always need, and he reassures us of God's desire for us to be close with him and to give us spiritual blessings that transcend this world's circumstances and appearances.

- Mark Garner

Be Thou My Vision

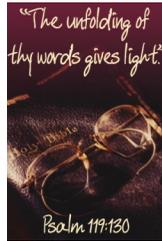
Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

-- Dallán Forgaill, AD 560-645 (approx.)

(Irish poet Dallán Forgaill wrote numerous poems about God and other subjects, though only a few of his poems are known today. This poem was first translated from Old Irish into English in 1905 by linguist Mary Byrne, and later it was modified and set to music as a hymn.)



Near The Cross

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star
Sheds its beams around me.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadows o'er me.

- Frances Crosby, 1869

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, Paula Robbins writes about the many gifts that Jesus brings to us.

God's Gift of Himself

*For the commandment that I gave you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. . . . But the word is very near to you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.
- Deuteronomy 30:11, 14*

More than a thousand years after these words were spoken, God's Word arrived in the world in a way that few people longed for and most people did not recognize (John 1:1-11). The Word opened the promise of sonship to all who believe on him, a status previously limited to the descendants of Abraham and the keepers of the Mosaic Law (John 1:13). The Word lived in the world as a man and put God's glory on display to all people (John 1:14). He was not only the source of spiritual life and illumination, but the source of endless measures of grace; favor from God that we do not and can never hope to deserve (John 1:16).

The Word, with all the authority and power that was inherent to his nature, gives us a relationship with God based on grace and truth rather than law-keeping (John 1:17). In addition to all this, Jesus, God's Word, promises not only to be continually present in our lives (Matthew 28:20) but also to continue his ministry through us (Acts 1:1-2). We each are the fulfillment of the mystery alluded to in Deuteronomy 30: Jesus, the Word, dwells in us (Colossians 1:27). His presence in our lives is the source of our justification and salvation (Roman 10:5-10). He is indeed in our mouths and in our hearts, as close and as personal as our next breath.

Of all the benefits God has poured out on people since the beginning of the world, he gives us his best. In the Jesus he gives us Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23). He gives us himself.

- Paula Robbins,