

Family Information

From The Elders & Minister

Next Phase of Covid Adjustments: We still have a lot of adjustments to plan - Bible class, Wednesday activities, church events, communion supplies, etc. We are currently working on updating the E44 classroom (formerly a Wednesday Night classroom/Spanish classroom). More details to come as we work on it this month.

We are tentatively scheduling a church building "work day" on Saturday, September 11th. We'll be doing some cleaning, organizing, and various projects to improve the building. We'll keep you updated on time and a definitive plan later.

See the elders for details on the continued precautions we are taking.

Upcoming Birth

Our friend and sister in Christ, Micah Evans is due in a short couple months with baby Marshall. We'd like to gift them a monetary blessing from their church family. If you are willing and able to give, you can give cash or gift cards to Meagan Stover or Ashley Dillinger by **today**, Sunday August 29. Thank you!

Northland Child Care Update

Please pray for quality teachers. We are in critical need of teachers. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. You can help our current teachers by volunteering to read or teach lessons to the children. If you have questions of what this involves you can discuss with Mike and/or Lynn Paden as they are currently developing and teaching a curriculum based on stories in the Bible.

This ministry not only involves the children but also their families and our staff. One of our teachers is off on maternity leave which is creating a financial hardship for her. We are helping to support her from the benevolence fund. Thanks for your support! Additional needs include boxes of tissues.

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: Luis Valdez

On Line Bible Studies

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, this week Steve C. will teach the class on selected Psalms, beginning at 2:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to join. Next Sunday, September 5, we'll take the week off, and we'll resume on September 12.

More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - 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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$2852	\$4491
Designated:	\$50	\$98



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Unless The Lord Had Helped Us...

Unless the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. - Psalm 94:17

Unless the Lord had poured out his compassion on us, we would have been overwhelmed by this world's futility and emptiness. Unless the Son of God had come to be the Way and the truth and the life, we would have wandered aimlessly without finding lasting meaning. Our Father in heaven sustains us with his unfailing grace and his abundant care - *When I said, My foot is slipping, your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. - Psalm 94:18*

Irish poet Joseph Scriven (1819-1886) is usually remembered today for a poem that he never expected to be published. Joseph came from a prosperous family and he had a peaceful life until he was 25, when his fiancée passed away suddenly in a swimming accident just before their wedding day. Scriven found solace in prayer and in the message of Jesus, as his poems reflect.

In a poem about Jesus' time with the Samaritan woman at the well, Joseph writes, "Oh the gift of God so precious, Oh the victory of Love, Oh the just one, still so gracious, Now enthroned above." Just as Scriven in his grieving found comfort and hope in Jesus, just as the weary woman at the well found peace and reassurance in Jesus, our Savior comforts us too when we turn to him and give him our anxieties and sorrows and disappointments - *When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. - Psalm 94:19*

Later, as he was travelling far away from home, Scriven learned that his mother was suffering from a severe illness; unable to be there, Joseph wrote a poem for her to reassure her of God's care. The poem helped comfort Joseph's mother as she recovered; then a neighbor noticed the poem, had it published, and later it was set to music as the hymn we know as "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."

Drawing on what had consoled him, Scriven wrote, "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer" and encouraged his mother to stay close with God in prayer. As he continued, "Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer." For indeed God is our refuge, our Rock of compassion and understanding - *The Lord has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge. - Psalm 94:22*

The Lord himself is our Rock eternal, a refuge from this world's uproars and confusion, and the purposes of his heart will stand forever.

- Mark Garner

At The Cross There's Room

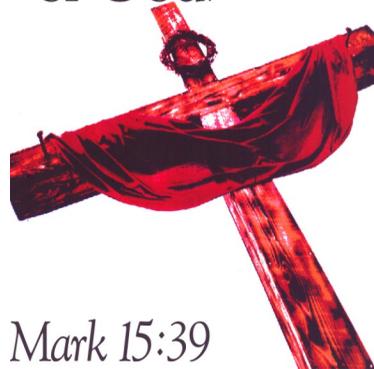
Mourner, wheresoever thou art,
At the cross there's room!
Tell the burden of thy heart,
At the cross there's room!
Tell it in thy Savior's ear,
Cast away thine every fear,
Only speak, and He will hear;
At the cross there's room!

Haste thee, wand'rer, tarry not,
At the cross there's room!
Seek that consecrated spot;
At the cross there's room!
Heavy laden, sore oppressed,
Love can soothe thy troubled breast;
In the Savior find thy rest;
At the cross there's room!

Blessèd thought! For every one
At the cross there's room!
Love's atoning work is done;
At the cross there's room!
Streams of boundless mercy flow,
Free to all who thither go;
Oh, that all the world might know
At the cross there's room!

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

“Truly this man
was the Son
of God!”



Mark 15:39

As The Mountains Surround Jerusalem . . .

This week, Phil Stafa writes about learning to trust in God during difficult times.

Learning To Be Still Before The Lord

A scripture that has helped me with a lack of peace when I feel that I have already done everything I can to make peace, is Psalm 37. It starts, "Do not fret because of those who are evil", later it says "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun." When others speak falsehoods about us, this scripture allows me to let go and to not fret. These phrases instruct us to trust in God when things do not go the way that we feel that they should. He further instructs us to "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him." Being still is a difficult thing to do, but God has slowly taught me over the last few years to be able to start to do this.

Once we are still before God, he can more clearly show us how to "Refrain from anger . . . do not fret." Whenever I feel like fretting, I pray that I can trust in God, be still and then I redirect my thoughts to pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ. I had a sister tell me that she prays for me when she cannot sleep at night because she remembers me going forward to ask for prayers about that more than a year earlier. That was so special to me and encouraged me in such a strong way that I now do the same for any others that I hear struggle with the same thing. Redirecting my thoughts to praying for others helps me to avoid fretting.

This psalm speaks as to what will happen to those who are evil, not so that we rejoice when we see those who are evil suffer, it is to know that God will take care of all things for us. He says "Those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land", and "but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming." If we can fully trust in God, we can laugh too and not allow Satan to get us to fret. When we feel like we are under attack, we can know that we are not the only ones who have been through this type of feeling. "The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow . . . But their swords will pierce their own hearts."

I'm still learning to be still and trust in God. He allows for us to be imperfect and still guide us, "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand." Many other verses of the Psalm reassure us that we can trust in God and that he will take care of us and that we don't need to fret. God knows that this will not always be easy for us, but this is a psalm that we can read over and over again as we learn to let go.

Finally, the Psalm finishes, "The Lord helps them and delivers them . . . because they take refuge in him." I still struggle on a regular basis with a difficult situation in my life. While God has not answered my prayers exactly as I wished he had, I have been learning to trust in him more and to worry less. In this way I have learned much through my struggles and Psalm 37 has been a great comfort to me. I hope that it is to you as well.

- Phil Stafa