

Family Information

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

The Sunday morning adult class resumes this morning, January 9, in room E44 at 9:00 AM. The current series is "It Is True", based on Luke 24. The teachers are Mark G., Phil S., Steve C, and Leon N.

A second Sunday Morning class also begins today, January 9, in the auditorium at 9:00 AM. Jack Dunkin will teach this week, and then Caleb Dillinger will begin a class on January 16 on the book of Ephesians.

Area-Wide Worship Night On January 30

Sunday January 30th Northland will be hosting an area-wide worship night. Time is still being decided, but mark your calendars for Sunday evening January 30th with a theme of "Singing Through the Ages."

Offering Envelopes

On the table on the right side of the foyer as you enter, there are boxes of offering envelopes for 2022, for those who have requested them or have used them in the past. The names are written on each box. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, see Pam Estep or Glenn Culler.

On Line Bible Studies

Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details and the current schedule.

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, resumes this week (on January 11). The current study is on the book of Galatians. Contact Karen 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:	\$6029	\$6029
Designated:	\$50	\$50

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

For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.

Remaining In The Vine

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. - John 15:4

Our Heavenly Father made us and he knows everything about each of us, and he patiently reminds us to remain in him, for he alone can meet our deepest needs. If we rely on human strength and human reasoning, we can produce only outward results that will not last, yet when we walk by faith in Jesus, God makes his strength perfect in our weakness, for he has graciously grafted us into the nourishing Vine of Jesus - *I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5*

Julian of Norwich (1343-1416) lived in one of the grimmest eras of history, a time when the plague was rampant and took most of her family, and a time of ongoing war and violence. Yet because of Julian's devotion to God, she was a constant source of comfort and encouragement to others.

In one of her writings, Julian highlights several things about our walk with Jesus; as she writes, "First, that He Himself is our ground, the soil from which we grow, the foundation on which we are built." Indeed God and his words and the good news of Jesus are our only sure foundation, a trusted foundation for those who walk humbly in the light and love and grace of Jesus - *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. - John 15:9*

Julian continues, "Second, that He guards us and keeps us safe when we are in the midst of sin, when our own choices allow our enemies to surround us, when we do not even realize our own need. Third, that He guards us with care and kindness, showing us where we have gone astray." For when we open our hearts to God, he will gently remove our hardness and he will patiently nurture our mustard seed of faith, as Jesus tells us, *I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener . . . every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. I (John 15:1-2).*

Then, as Julian of Norwich writes, "And fourth, that His presence is always with us, and His loving gaze never wavers, for He wants us to turn back to Him and become united with Him in love, as He is with us." Truly God is always near, and he pours out his care on those who trust in him - *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. - John 15:11*

Our Father in heaven can bring us peace and hope and joy that transcend this world's appearances and circumstances, and there is no other like him.

- Mark Garner



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A Precious Resting Place

I have found a precious resting place
In the shelter of redeeming grace;
Here with joy I see my Savior's face,
Under the atoning blood.

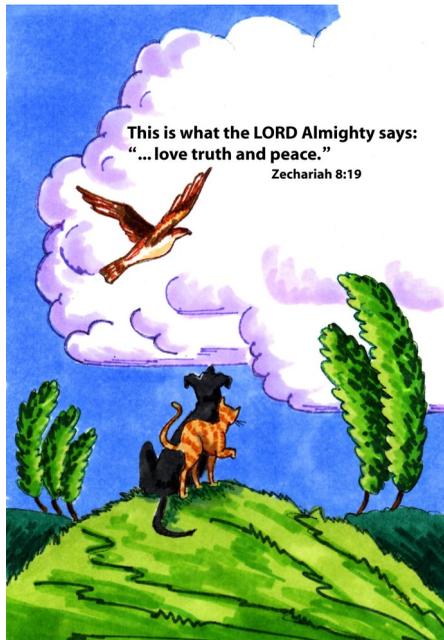
Where shall I the praise of Christ begin?
Gone the heavy burden of my sin!
Grace has changed the world I'm living in,
Under the atoning blood.

Now its healing power makes me whole;
Through its merit Jesus saves my soul.
Savior, keep me while the ages roll
Under the atoning blood.

Under the atoning blood of the Lamb,
Under the atoning blood of the Lamb,
Safely I am hiding, constantly abiding,
Under the atoning blood.

- Haldor Lillenas, 1885–1959

Hymnwriter and publisher Haldor Lillenas was born in Norway, and he came to the United States with his family when Haldor was a child. Lillenas wrote over 1,000 hymns and poems, and he also founded a publishing company devoted to producing hymnals for both adults and children.



Renewed Inwardly Day By Day

This world's futile thinking may perplex us, and its empty ways may hard press us, so in our Heavenly Father's unfailing care he renews us inwardly day by day. This week, Peggy Kaiser writes about what it means to us that we are God's own handiwork.

We Are God's Handiwork

I don't make New Year resolutions any longer; instead the Holy Spirit helps me select a verse to focus on each year. The inspired scripture for 2022 comes from Ephesians 2:10 -

*"For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advanced for us to do."*

I just love the word, "handiwork". It makes me think of all the things we human beings love to create with our hands, such as

- Composing and painting a lovely picture
- Mixing, kneading and baking homemade bread (yum)
- Choosing colors and textures to knit a warm, winter scarf
- Writing a heartfelt letter to someone you love
- Building a piece of furniture out of beautiful wood
- Planning and preparing a delicious meal
- Finding just the right words to express yourself in a poem
- Fashioning a handmade garment
- Arranging beautiful flowers in an elegant vase
- Putting together the just right notes to make a beautiful melody

We feel wonderful joy when we create something unique and beautiful. How much more joy God must feel when He designed and created each one of us. It gives me great hope to know that I am God's very special and creative handiwork. He has laid out a very good life for me because He has prepared good works for me to do. I like to think about the possible good works that God may want me to do, and the good works that He definitely wants me to do.

When we believe that we were created to be beautiful children of God, this gives us a life full of purpose and meaning. We can wake up each new day and know that it is full of good things prompted by our confidence in knowing that "we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works."

- Peggy Kaiser