

## Family Information

### Camp Weeks

July 17th through July 23rd is Northland's camp week with Bill Hopkins at Fort Hill. If you sign up before July 4 the cost is \$190; after that the cost is \$200. July 24th through 30th is Northland's 2nd camp week with Nick Strawser at NWOCYC, and the cost is \$200. If you plan to go to either of these, sign up in advance to avoid possible registration delays. If you have any questions or if you can help out in any way for either week, see Josh Evans.

### Children's Classes

We now have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them will begin after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details.

The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. The classes already have teachers, so this is a good opportunity for training. These positions are staggered so that no one needs to serve for extended periods. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

### Family Fun Friday On July 8

Friday July 8th from 6:30-8:30 pm will be Northland's Family Fun Friday at the church building - if you'd like to participate or have questions, see Caleb.

### Wednesday Singing Practice

Northland's praise team is looking for additional people. Anyone who would be interested, can sing, preferably can read music, and would like to join us for a practice, please let Don or someone in the praise team know, so we can plan for you. We usually practice Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, in the auditorium.

#### Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Spanish Worship 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Ghana Worship 12:00 PM  
 Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 PM

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

## On Line Bible Studies

### Parking Reminder From The Elders

Please note that the access roads along the front and sides of the building need to be clear to allow easy access for emergency equipment, and it is a fire code violation to park in these areas. We can continue to park temporarily in these areas for loading and unloading, as long as we move afterwards. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Wednesday Service Meeting Schedule

The next service meeting will be on Wednesday, July 6 at 6:30 PM. The first Wednesday of every month will be devoted to children's ministry, including Sunday ministry and our Child Care. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

### 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. The current study is in Philippians. Contact Karen for more details.

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$3937	\$4445
<b>Designated:</b>	\$0	\$45

**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



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## He Came From The Father

*Jesus went on to say, In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me. At this, some of his disciples said to one another, What does he mean? - John 16:16-17*

Many of the things Jesus says may confuse earthly minds, yet God helps us understand them when we open our hearts and minds to him. In this world, we may undergo times of grief and anxiety and confusion, yet God gives us lasting hope and peace and joy that no one can take away - *Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. - John 16:22*

Swedish writer Pär Lagerkvist (1891-1974) is best known for his novel "Barabbas", a fictional account of what Barabbas's life might have been like after he was released by Pontius Pilate while Jesus was sent to be crucified. In Lagerkvist's novel, as Barabbas learns about Jesus, he must face his own past, and he has many questions about Jesus.

In Pär's story, Barabbas is astonished by his release; he decides to watch Jesus' crucifixion, and he goes to a meeting of the believers hoping to hear more about Jesus, yet many things don't make sense to him. He encounters Peter, who speaks graciously to him and tells him that Jesus came from our Heavenly Father, and that our only hope is in the mercy and compassion of God - *The Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father. - John 16:27-28*

Soon Barabbas falls into his old habits, is arrested, and is sentenced to labor in a mine. There he meets a believer who renews his desire to know Jesus, and the believer has him inscribe Jesus' name on the back of the metal tag the convicts wore. Later, Barabbas is brought to the governor and accused for his faith, and he doesn't know what to say. The governor thinks this is a denial of Jesus, so he crosses out Jesus' name on the tag and releases Barabbas, which troubles him.

In the novel, later Barabbas is arrested with many other believers when Nero has Rome set on fire and blames it on the Christians. He is confused and distressed, but he sees Peter, who reassures him to put all his trust in the basic truths of Jesus and in the forgiveness God gives to those who turn to him. As Barabbas then goes to his execution, he calls to God, "To thee I deliver up my soul." Similarly, as we walk by faith in Jesus, God can make his truths clear to us - *Then Jesus' disciples said, Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we . . . believe that you came from God. - John 16:29-30*

Jesus came from heaven, and he has overcome this world's futility and emptiness - *In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33).* And he brings redemption and salvation to those who hold fast to him.

- Mark Garner

## In The Rock I'm Safely Resting

In the Rock I'm safely resting,  
Storms may beat, and tempests rave,  
But secure I stand undaunted,  
Christ will shelter, He will save.  
While the billows in their fury  
Madly dash, and breakers roar,  
Closer still I'll cling to Jesus,  
He's my refuge evermore.

In the blessed Rock I'm resting,  
He's the anchor of my soul;  
And tho' lives are filled with anguish,  
Broken hearts doth He make whole.  
Christ will bless and not forsake me,  
He's my comfort and my stay;  
With His tender hand so loving,  
He doth wipe my tears away.

- Laura Emeline Newell, 1854-1916

*Orphaned as an infant, poet Laura Newell was adopted by her aunt, who was a schoolteacher. With her aunt's encouragement, she began writing poetry when she was 12, and her poems began to be published when she was 14.*

## Father & Infinite God

Father and Infinite God,  
My Refuge and Fortress Rock,  
Where I hide from the tempest's wrath,  
And feel not the earthquake shock.  
So I bide with a soul serene  
And a heart that is undismayed  
He is my Strength and my Shield;  
Of whom shall I be afraid?

- Annie Johnson Flint, 1866-1932

## God Gives Us Hope & A Future

*In Jeremiah 29, God reassures the exiles in Babylon that he is near, that he cares for them, and that he will give them hope and a future. This week, Mike Paden writes about the assurance it can give us to remember that God will always know our circumstances and our deepest needs.*

### God Has A Plan

After Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians invaded Judah and attacked the cities, they took a number of rulers, nobles and upper-class citizens as hostages in order to make sure that the tributes and compliance to the peace negotiations would be honored.

In 596 BC, the king of Judah, Jehoiachin was deposed and subsequently installed as a vassal, that is, a puppet king. But again he rebelled and about 10,000 inhabitants were taken into captivity to Babylon. The largest deportation took place in 586 BC when the Babylonian army sacked and destroyed Jerusalem.

In Jeremiah 29 the prophet has a message for the captives—do not believe what the false prophets are telling you, there will not be a quick return to the homeland, but rather 70 years will pass before the exiles return. In the meantime, they are instructed to establish a life, a community, marry, have a family, and engage in a trade in order to earn a living. This is the background for the Lord's assurances and words of encouragement.

*"When 70 years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you" declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 29:10-14)*

In the same way as the captives in Babylon, so are we aliens in a foreign land. This world is not our home, however, while we are here we are to live our lives, have a family, engage in trade, realizing that our time here is limited.

We should have the same attitude as Abraham,

*By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:9-10)*

God knows our needs, reread Matthew 6:25-34, and notice how he assures us He will provide. In the Jeremiah passage, God wants his people to return to Jerusalem and worship Him. Until we are taken up into Heaven, He asks the same of us, and our service and worship is to fulfill his mandate to evangelize and to do His work. Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

- Mike Paden