

Family Information

Camp Begins Next Week

Next week, July 17th through July 23rd, is Northland's camp week with Bill Hopkins at Fort Hill. 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 Mike Evans or Josh Evans.

Next Wednesday Service Meeting

The next service meeting will be on Wednesday, July 20 at 6:30 PM. The third Wednesday of every month will be focused on outreach opportunities, meaning anything to do with non-Northland members. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

Work Day Next Month

There will be a work/clean-up day on Saturday, August 20th. If it rains, then the following Saturday, August 27th, will be the backup date. See Mike Evans for further information.

Family Fun Friday Re-Scheduled

Northland's Family Fun Friday has been re-scheduled to August 5th. If it rains that Friday, the activities will be held indoors. If you'd like to participate or have questions, see Caleb.

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.

On Line Bible Studies

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.

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.

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
General:	\$5512	\$4507
Designated:	\$75	\$44

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

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.

And God Said, Let there Be Light

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. - Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning the earth was formless and empty, yet God was near, his Spirit hovered nearby, and in the beginning the Word was with God. In the beginning God brought light and meaning into this world - *And God said, Let there be light, and there was light. - Genesis 1:3*

Similarly, our lives lacked enduring meaning until we turned to Jesus. As this world's light reminds us of our Heavenly Father's light that we cannot see with earthly eyes, Jesus became flesh and blood and he lived among us, to be the light of the world. As poet T.S. Eliot (1888-1965) wrote, "Light, Light, The visible reminder of Invisible Light." God's light is good, and Jesus has brought the light of life - *God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. - Genesis 1:4*

In this world, there is light and darkness, and God has called us out of this world's gloom and confusion, and to walk humbly in the light of his Son. In this world we will see light and beauty and simple joys that help us remember God's constant presence and his unfailing care.

In this world we will also see fears and sorrows and disappointments that remind us to put our hope in God instead of in human thinking and human strength. French author Victor Hugo (1802-1885) writes, "The pupil dilates in darkness and in the end finds light, just as the soul dilates in misfortune and in the end finds God." For lasting hope and enduring peace come from heaven, and God has put the sun and the moon in the sky above to remind us that light comes from him - *And God said, Let there be lights in the vault of the sky . . . and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth. And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. - Genesis 1:14-16*

Poet Mary Oliver (1935-2019) says about her walk with God, "Lord, I will learn also to kneel down into the world of the invisible . . . bathed in light, like the wanderer who has come home at last and kneels in peace." Our Heavenly Father alone gives us light for our souls; only God can meet the deepest needs of our spirits.

And God saw that it was good. - Genesis 1:18

In this life we can see the wonders of God's light in what he has made and in what he has done for us, and the full splendor and care and understanding of our Heavenly Father are beyond human words to describe.

- Mark Garner



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At The Name Of Jesus

At the name of Jesus,
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.

Mighty and mysterious
In the highest height,
God from everlasting,
Very light of light:
In the Father's bosom
With the Spirit blest,
Love, in love eternal,
Rest, in perfect rest.

At His voice creation
Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces,
All the hosts of light,
Thrones and wide dominions,
Stars upon their way,
All the heav'nly orders,
In their great array.

In your hearts enthrone Him;
There let Him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true;
Crown Him as your captain
In temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you
In its light and power.

- Caroline Maria Noel, 1817-1877

British poet Caroline Noel had to endure some long periods of illness, and she wrote most of her poems for friends and acquaintances who themselves were suffering or were discouraged. When she was in her forties, many of her poems were collected and published together. Her poem "At The Name Of Jesus" was later set to music as a hymn.

Jesus, Our Good Shepherd

Jesus is often described as our good Shepherd, for all of the ways he cares for us, guides us, and protects us. This week, Leon Norwood writes about what our Good Shepherd has done for us and about some of the aspects of being part of his flock.

Jesus Christ - A Lesson from The Shepherd King

In John 10 verses 14-15 we read, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep."

"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" implies that this kind of shepherd stands ready to sacrifice his total self if need be. Jesus makes this prophetic statement about himself at least two times in John 10, once in verses 11 and again in verse 14 which alludes to, of course, his sacrificing his own life for us as the means of our reconciliation to God.

In these times, my guess is that few of us know any individuals who actually work as a shepherd, but it's quite likely that we do know people who give of themselves to shepherd others along the right path. This too requires providing what's needed (direction, encouragement, friendship) plus offering protection if circumstances warrant. And yes, there could be some sacrifice involved, especially in the giving of personal time and resources. But it's important to understand that it was Love that motivated Jesus the Good Shepherd to action, and likewise love must also motivate us today. In spite of what we see or hear it is chiefly through the power of God and love that we can have the greatest influence on those around us. Shepherding the wounded and the hurting is one of the greatest needs we have in the world and church today. But caring for others is not an easy job and always requires some sacrifice.

Rather than fretting about how daunting the task may be, let us gain inspiration from the words of the Good Shepherd, Jesus in Matthew 25 verses 37-40. "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. quoted "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." And Jesus drives home the point for us in Matthew 23:11 "The greatest among you will be your servant." May these words give you some real food for thought and encourage you to serve others as Jesus the Good Shepherd continues to love and serves us.

- Leon Norwood, Jr.