

Family Information

Wednesday Service Meeting This Week

There will be a service meeting this Wednesday, August 3 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.

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 This Week

This Friday, August 5th, is Northland's Family Fun Friday. If it rains, the activities will be held indoors. If you'd like to participate or have questions, see Caleb.

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.

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.

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

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.

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:	\$3131	\$4466
Designated:	\$	\$40



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That We Might Have Hope

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. - Romans 15:4

The Scriptures teach us of God's care and understanding, that we might have lasting hope in him as we endure this world's harshness and confusion. God's words encourage us to put our hope in the message of Jesus instead of in this world's futile ways; our Heavenly Father's truths teach us how to endure this world's emptiness and they tell us of eternal things, that we might have hope - *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had. - Romans 15:5-6*

Kangaroos live in Australia's vast, sparse 'outback', where they may have to travel long distances to find plants and water. They are particularly known for their endurance, as God constructed their bodies for hopping instead of running. The red kangaroo can hop at steady speeds of 15 mph or more (40 mph for short distances) for as much as 200 miles. Each hop can carry them 20 feet or more, saving energy and giving their bodies rest.

Similarly, when we walk by faith in Jesus, God renews us inwardly, and he gives us rest for our souls even as we endure this world's sorrow and fears. Our Creator also designed kangaroos to get water and nourishment even from even meager vegetation. Likewise, God writes his words on our hearts that we might have hope. As our Father in heaven shows kangaroos his care and wisdom, his truths nourish our souls and they tell us of the salvation that comes through Jesus - *To him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel . . . in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known . . . to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen. - Romans 16:25-27*

Another unusual feature of the kangaroo is that it cannot move backwards. Australia's coat of arms depicts a kangaroo and an emu (a large bird similar to an ostrich) holding up a shield representing the nation's states and territories. These animals were chosen because neither of them can move backwards, to indicate the nation's hope to be always moving forward.

Similarly, our Heavenly Father calls us to learn from the past while not being held back by it, and to focus on Jesus and the lasting hope and meaning and peace he brings to those who believe in his good news and follow him, for God has prepared an eternal home for us - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13*

God's promises are trustworthy, and his grace overflows to those who walk humbly in the light of Jesus.

- Mark Garner

Tis Eternal Life To Know Him

'Tis eternal life to know Him,
O how He loves.
Think, oh think, how much we owe Him,
O how He loves.
With His precious blood He bought us,
In the wilderness He sought us
To His fold He safely brought us,
O how He loves!

Blessed Jesus! wouldst thou know Him?
O how He loves.
Give thine heart, thine all unto Him;
O how He loves.
Is it sin that pains or grieves thee,
Unbelief or trials seize thee?
Jesus can from all release thee;
O how He loves!

- Marianne Nunn, 1778-1847

*British writer and poet Marianne Nunn had several of her poems set to music as hymns.
Her younger brother William also wrote the words to several hymns.*

I Am Thine O Lord

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

O the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God
I commune as friend with friend.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

*One day when Frances Crosby was visiting with some friends, they talked about the nearness of God,
and their discussion encouraged her to write these words to a hymn that evening.*

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, Don Milnor writes about Psalm 23 and what it tells us about our Shepherd.

The Shepherd Analogy

God's word uses many times the analogy of a shepherd watching over sheep, to represent God, or his representatives, watching over his people. This in and of itself tells us a lot about both God and us. I'll be looking at one of the most well-known and beloved passages in Scripture, Psalm 23:

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. - Psalm 23*

Some general things to note:

Most of us would probably like something we don't have. We have everything we need (v. 1). Maybe some of what we would like would even be bad for us, so God is helping us out by not giving it to us. Just as a shepherd leads sheep to green pastures and quiet waters, God leads us to what we need (v. 2). There are lots of alternate paths we could take to God's way. None are good. We need his guidance (v. 3).

Sometimes, God allows us to go through difficult ways which we wouldn't have chosen, and sometimes we wonder why. He still knows what he's doing, and he's still with us when we go through the difficult paths. I'm sick as I write this. I'd rather not be. But I know if I had everything go my way, instead of God's way, it would be a disaster. He promises that all things work together for good for those who love him (Romans 8:28). We need to believe and trust him, even when we don't understand. His rod corrects, and his staff guides. We need both (v. 4), even, perhaps especially, when we'd rather do our own thing.

He doesn't always remove our enemies from us, but he takes care of us right in front of them (v. 5). Sometimes he uses these situations to lead others to Christ. And we must remember and cling to his promises, for this life, and all eternity (v. 6). We do so much better submitting to our Lord, and letting him lead us.

- Don Milnor