

Family Information

Wednesday Service Meeting This Week

There will be a service meeting this Wednesday, August 17 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 Has Been Postponed

The work/clean-up day that had been scheduled for Saturday, August 20th, has been postponed. A new date will be determined soon. See Mike Evans for further information.

Re-Scheduling Family Fun Friday

Northland's Family Fun Friday will be re-scheduled soon, and it will be discussed at this Wednesday's service meeting. 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

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:	\$4255	\$4438
Designated:	\$0	\$41

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



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To The Only God Our Savior

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit . . . - Jude 1:20

Our Heavenly Father knows our hearts and he knows our weaknesses, and he patiently reminds us to remain in his Son and hold fast to his message. God calls us to let him nurture the mustard seed of faith that he planted in us, and to stay close with him in prayer and in pondering his words. Our Father in heaven keeps us in his un-failing love, and he gives overflowing grace and eternal life to those who walk by faith in Jesus - *Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. - Jude 1:21*

Poet Luci Shaw (born 1928 in England, later lived in Canada and Australia, currently living in the U.S.) published her first collection of poems in 1973, the first of over a dozen collections, and she continues writing in her nineties. Many of her poems focus on seeing God's hand in nature or even in seemingly mundane circumstances. As she writes, "We have Himself clothed in visions, in metaphors, in parables, in the poetry of the Bible, and in all the ordinariness of the lives we live."

Some of Shaw's poems also focus on what it means to us that Jesus lived as one of us. One poem is titled "Presence"; in it she describes how Jesus continues to pour out mercy and grace on us, "At light speed, God speed, time collapses into now, so that we may see Christ's wounds, his torso, that ready sponge, still absorbing our vice, our toxic shame." Luci understood that Jesus gives us continual cleansing and renewal as we hold fast to him.

For God rejoices in being with us, he considers us his own children, and he upholds us each step - *To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy . . . - Jude 1:24*

We are weak and stumbling sheep, yet God can make us stand when we put our trust and faith in him; we had wandered off the path, yet Jesus has brought us back. As Luci Shaw's poem concludes, "His dying into the earth begins the great reversal . . . so with his rising, we surge into light."

The Son of God has reversed this world's empty ways; by dying, Jesus brought us new life, and by raising from the grave, Jesus brought us eternal life - *To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. - Jude 1:25*

It is good to praise God now and forevermore.

- Mark Garner

Sound His Praise

Ye rocky mountains, sound his praise on high;
In joyful notes, ye verdant hills, reply.
Ye fruitful trees, your Maker's bounty show,
And smile his praise on every loaded bough:
While stately cedars, with the clustered vine,
And lowly plants the silent worship join.

Ye beasts, who wild in forests roam,
Ye gentle herds, who know your peaceful home,
Declare his praise, whose ample stores maintain
The countless tenants of his wide domain.

Ye birds, that high in trackless ether rove,
Or with soft music charm the vocal grove,
In every note your Maker's praise resound,
While humble reptiles whisper from the ground . . .

Let heaven, and earth, and time, and nature, sing
The glorious name of their Almighty King.

- Anne Steele, 1717-1778

*This is from a series of poems Anne Steele wrote based on the Psalms.
This is an excerpt from a poem based on Psalm 148.*

Father, Thou Source Of Life

Father, enthroned above,
Thou source of life and love,
On thine Eternal Name my voice would call.
Hear me this as I pray,
And let a heavenly ray,
Gently as night-dews, on my spirit fall.

While suppliant thus I kneel,
Let me thy presence feel,
In the bright noontide as the evening shade;
When, in the hour of prayer,
I bring to thee my care,
May my heart's confidence on thee be stayed.

- Mary Whitwell Hale, 1810-1862

*Poet and schoolteacher Mary W. Hale also had over 20 of her poems adapted as hymns.
Later in her life, she founded two new schools.*

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, Steve Carver writes about God's compassion and patience with us as we face this world's distractions and obstacles.

God, The Loving Shepherd

The 23rd Psalm and John 10 are two of the most comforting passages of the Bible. In them, God is depicted as a loving shepherd, one who loves and cares for us, one who meets and exceeds all our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. He is with us each step of the way - even (and especially) when our path leads us through "the valley of the shadow of death." His promises are sure and his love is absolute . . . even to the sacrifice of his life to save us from the deepest valley of all.

How do we, as his sheep, "know me (Jesus) . . . follow him because they know his voice" (John 10:14, 10:4)? From one standpoint the answer is simple, we know him because we have developed a relationship with him (and he with us); by listening to his teachings and following him.

Happy is the man who has not followed the counsel of the wicked, or taken the path of sinners, or joined the company of the insolent; rather, the teaching of the Lord is his delight, and he studies that teaching day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, whose foliage never fades, and whatever it produces thrives. Not so the wicked; rather, they are like chaff that wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not survive judgment, nor will sinners, in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord cherishes the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

- Psalm 1 (JPS Tanakh)

From another standpoint, the answer is not quite so simple, or at least easy. One of my favorite all-time movies, for a number of reasons, is the Disney movie, "UP". One of the funniest parts of the movie is watching a squad of focused, well trained dogs, that can electronically communicate with each other, get so easily distracted and disoriented when someone shouts the word, "squirrel". We can have so many "squirrels" in our lives, from the often innocuous pursuit of hobbies and recreation to problems in our work, family, or personal lives to the more troubling "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." (1 John 2:16)

God, because of his great love for us, his sheep, does not abandon us when we wander off from his path and squirrels seem to be getting the upper hand in our lives. He hears our cry, gently lifts us onto his shoulder, and carries us back to his fold (Luke 15:1-7). Hallelujah, what a savior . . . and shepherd!

- Steve Carver