

Family Information

Church Picnic This Saturday

The church picnic is this Saturday, September 17 at the Blendon Woods Sycamore Pavilion, beginning at 4:30 PM.

Preview Of New Web Site

In the near future, Northland's new web site will be at ncocfamily.com, which will replace the current site, ncocfamily.org, in a few weeks. You can get a preview of the new site at ncocfamily.com, as Jack Evans and Becca Strawser continue transferring material from the old site. If you see any errors, broken links, or misinformation, please notify Jack (jevans@ncocfamily.org).

Sunday Afternoon Bible Class Schedule

The 4:00 PM Sunday afternoon Bible class will be taking a break for the rest of this month, and it will resume meeting in October.

Church Secretary Search

The elders are looking for one of the members of our congregation to be a part-time church secretary (for an average of 10 hours per week). If you are interested, please talk with one of the elders today.

Work Day On September 24

There will be a church work/clean-up day on Saturday, September 24, beginning at 9:00 AM. See Mike Evans for further information.

Next Wednesday Service Meeting

The next service meeting will be on Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30 PM. For September, the Children's Ministry and Outreach meetings are combined. See Jeff or Caleb for additional 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

Potluck For Pam & Darrell Estep

Please mark your calendars for Sunday November 6th, for a Potluck immediately following services in the fellowship hall (rooms E41 & E42). We will be gathering to honor Pam and Darrell Estep for the many years they have served our congregation.

New Small Group

If you would be interested in joining a new small group (either being part of one or hosting one) this fall or winter, please see the elders or Caleb.

Children's Classes

We currently have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them begins after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details. The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

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:	\$3995	\$4394
Designated:		\$43



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Water In The Wilderness

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up. - Isaiah 43:19

Jesus has made everything new through his message of God's salvation and grace and understanding; our Heavenly Father renews our minds and hearts, and he gives us his Spirit who helps us understand God's words and his ways. God has made a way through this world's confusion and emptiness, and Jesus has made streams of living water flow through the wastelands - *I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. - Isaiah 43:19 (concluded)*

The koala, another of Australia's remarkable animals, is ideally adapted to its unusual environment. Where koalas live, there is little or no water, it is usually hot and dry, and there is little to eat other than eucalyptus leaves (eucalyptus trees make up over 75% of Australia's woodlands), yet eucalypt leaves contain toxins, so very few animals can eat them. So our Heavenly Father prepares the koala to live in this inhospitable environment.

The name koala means "no water" in one of Australia's Aboriginal languages, for koalas rarely drink water. Eucalypts store large amounts of water, which provides enough water for the koalas who eat them. Then, koalas' digestive systems contain microbes specially designed to neutralize the toxins in eucalypt leaves. As God provides water in the wilderness and food in the wastelands for the koala, he also nourishes our souls even amidst this world's spiritual droughts and famines - *The wild animals honor me . . . because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise. - Isaiah 43:20-21*

Other than the water they provide, eucalyptus leaves provide few other nutrients, so God gives koalas keen noses so that they can distinguish the best types of eucalypts to eat. Since their diet still provides minimal energy, koalas need to take a lot of time resting in the trees where they spend their lives. So God gives these small marsupials spines that are especially flexible, and gives them thick fur to cushion them, so that they can find comfort anywhere among the branches.

We too need times of rest from this world's loudness and distractions, so God reminds us to take some time to let him comfort us as we ponder the truths in his words and the many spiritual blessings he pours out on those who walk humbly in the light of Jesus. For our Heavenly Father has blotted out our transgressions, he makes his strength perfect in our weaknesses, and gives us many more blessings than we could ever count - *I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. - Isaiah 43:25*

God is so mindful of each of us, he rejoices in being with each of us, and the message of Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- Mark Garner

There Is A Path That Leads To God

There is a path that leads to God
All others go astray;
Though narrow, pleasant is the road,
And Christians love the way.

Be Thou, O Lord, my guard, my guide,
Nor let me from Thee stray;
Uphold my footsteps, lest I slide
Or wander from Thy way.

Then I may go without alarm
And trust His Word of old
"The lambs, He'll gather with His arm,
And lead them to the fold."

Thus I may safely venture through
Beneath my shepherd's care;
And keep the gate of Heaven in view,
Till I shall enter there.

Jane Taylor, 1783-1824

English poet and novelist Jane Taylor was the editor of a religious periodical, and she also published two collections of poems with her sister Ann, who was a poet and hymnwriter.

Hold Thou My Hand

Hold Thou my hand; so weak I am, and helpless,
I dare not take one step without Thy aid;
Hold Thou my hand; for then, O loving Savior,
No dread of ill shall make my soul afraid.

Hold Thou my hand; the way is dark before me
Without the sunlight of Thy face divine;
But when by faith I catch its radiant glory,
What heights of joy, what rapturous songs are mine.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

This is an excerpt from one of the many hymns and poems written by Frances Crosby. She said that she wrote this while she was going through some difficult times, as God was constantly giving her guidance and spiritual comfort.

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, Caleb Dillinger writes about the ways our Shepherd also teaches us as he guides us.

The Good Shepherd Is A Good Teacher

Showing up in all three synoptic gospels is the story of the rich young ruler. In two of those accounts, his question to Jesus begins with "Good Teacher". Jesus responds with, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone." (Luke 18:19)

When we call Jesus our "Good Shepherd", we are acknowledging Jesus as God. He's not just a good guy from whom we can learn life teachings. He's not just a good leader, who can keep us in line. He is God.

Here at Northland, we have some good shepherds - elders of the church. They are kind, loving, Christian men who seek after God. But no matter how good they are, they'll never be the "Good Shepherd" like Jesus.

Jesus, when he responds to the rich young ruler, is not rebuking him for calling him good. Rather, Jesus is pointing out that by acknowledging Jesus as a Good Teacher, he is acknowledging Jesus as God. There are plenty of talented shepherds in the world - elders in churches and actual shepherds in pastures. They can manage people and sheep in exceptional ways! Both sheep and people can be stubborn - and good shepherds can still direct them.

But I am comforted by the fact that the spiritual Good Shepherd is also a Good Teacher - someone who not only guides me to where I need to be, but instructs me as to why I need to be there in the first place.

The Good Shepherd Jesus teaches us about purity and service, not just as righteous deeds that should be done, but as pathways for us to deepen our relationship with the Father. When you read your Bible (the "good book"), you will receive tender loving care from the Good Shepherd, but even more than that, you'll find the Good Teacher explaining why you should come to him for guidance instead of the world. Trust in the Good Shepherd. Lean on his good teachings.

- Caleb Dillinger