

## Family Information

### Wednesday Service Meeting This Week

There will be a service meeting this 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.

### Work Day This Saturday

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

### Fall Fest

Fall Fest is being planned for Sunday evening, October 23, from 5:30-7:00 PM. If you're willing to help, please see Emily Graham, Josh Evans, or Vicki Cowans.

### Sunday Afternoon Bible Class Schedule

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

### Preview Of New Web Site

In the near future, Northland's new web site will be at [ncocfamily.com](http://ncocfamily.com), which will replace the current site, [ncocfamily.org](http://ncocfamily.org), in a few weeks. You can get a preview of the new site at [ncocfamily.com](http://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](mailto:jevans@ncocfamily.org)).

### 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.

#### 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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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>	\$3202	\$4394
<b>Designated:</b>		\$43



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## Made New In Our Minds

*When you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus . . . - Ephesians 4:21*

The good news of Jesus is full of truth and grace, and it tells us of the redemption and hope and new life that can only be found in the Son of God. The message of Jesus teaches us how he can make us new in our minds and spirits - *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self . . . to be made new in the attitude of your minds. - Ephesians 4:22-23*

Dutch scientist Antonie van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723, a rough pronunciation of his last name is "lay-ven-hook") is known as the founder of the science of microbiology, as well as a pioneer in the development of microscopic studies. Leeuwenhoek was the first person to view and describe microorganisms, and his discoveries led to several changes in scientific understanding. Antonie was a believer in the message of Jesus, and as he learned about these previously unseen creatures, he saw the splendor and care of God, as he wrote, "We cannot in any better manner, glorify the Lord and Creator of the Universe, than that, in all things, however small so-ever they appear to our naked eyes, but which yet have received the gift of life."

Likewise, when we set aside worldly thinking and let God open our eyes, God teaches us of eternal truths and things unseen by human eyes. As Leeuwenhoek says of the world of microorganisms, "We contemplate the display of his Omniscience and Perfections with the utmost admiration," God's words can also move us to awe, and they help us let him transform our minds and hearts - . . . *and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. - Ephesians 4:24*

Many scientists were skeptical of Leeuwenhoek's findings, and it was not until several years later, after the Royal Society in London examined his research and verified it, that Antonie's findings were finally accepted. As he hoped, his research could "draw the world away from superstition, to go over to the Truth." Similarly, God calls us to turn away from this world's empty thinking, and to hold firmly to the message of Jesus.

Antonie van Leeuwenhoek also writes, "From all these observations, most plainly we discern the incomprehensible perfection, the exact order, and the inscrutable providential care with which the most wise Creator and Lord of the Universe has formed the bodies of these animalcules (his term for microorganisms), which are so minute as to escape our sight." Similarly, our Heavenly Father calls us to walk humbly in the light of Jesus, and let him awaken our spirits - *Everything exposed by the light becomes visible . . . This is why it is said: Wake up, sleeper . . . and Christ will shine on you. - Ephesians 5:13-14*

Jesus is the light of the world, and he brings the light of life to those who follow him.

- Mark Garner

## God Is Our Strength & Our Refuge

God is our strength, omnipotence our stay  
Our refuge, present still when troubles rise.  
Safe in his care, no fear shall reach our souls,  
Though earth be from her firm foundations moved,  
And mountains with tremendous shock are torn,  
Deep from their ancient basis torn, and hurled  
With dreadful dash amidst the roaring waves . . .

There is a river of immortal peace,  
Clear springing from the high eternal throne,  
Which flows in blissful streams through all the groves  
Of paradise - from this eternal spring  
Some little rivulets descend, to cheer  
The city of our God, the sacred place  
Of his abode on earth, though all around  
Be discord and commotion, she shall dwell  
Unmoved, serene, and safe, for God is there.  
His arm omnipotent is ever near  
Her present help, her all-sufficient guard.

- Anne Steele, 1717-1778

*This is from a series of poems that English poet Anne Steele wrote based on the Psalms.  
This is an excerpt from a poem based on Psalm 46.*

## Love Divine, All Else Transcending

O Love divine, all else transcending,  
In Jesus present evermore,  
We worship Thee, in homage bending,  
And all Thy wondrous might adore.  
Yea, let my soul, in deep devotion,  
Bathe in love's mighty, boundless ocean.

Thou art my Rest, no earthly treasure  
Can satisfy my yearning heart,  
Nor is there aught that lends the pleasure  
I find in Thee, my chosen part.  
Thy love, so tender and caressing  
Is fraught with grace and ev'ry blessing.

To Thee my heart and life be given,  
Thou art indeed my highest Good;  
For me Thy sacred side was riven,  
For me was shed Thy precious blood.  
O Fountain of the world's salvation,  
Be Thine my love and adoration.

- Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697-1769 German writer Gerhard Tersteegen was also known as a public speaker.  
He also wrote many hymns in German, though most of them have not yet been translated into English.

## 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, Karen Susenna writes about the closeness that our Shepherd wants to have with us, and the hope and assurance this gives us.*

## The Lord Is My Shepherd

I love the personal pronoun that David uses in Psalm 23: The Lord is MY shepherd. David affirms the close relationship he has with the Lord – so close that he relies on Him to guide him in all he does. I had an example of God shepherding His children while teaching 9- and 10-year-olds at summer camp this year. They were so open and teachable. It was evident that the Lord was shepherding them and guiding them as we spoke about Creation. One boy asked, "how do we return to the garden?" I was stunned, but was able to explain that only Christ's sacrifice could pay for our sin and return us to the Father -- in essence return us to the garden -- to be with God now and ultimately forever.

Jesus says *"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me . . . I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."* (John 10:14, 10:16) Jesus calls all mankind to the Father.

In Luke 15, shepherd Jesus leaves the 99 sheep to pursue the "one" who is wandering. He knows that the life of the wanderer is no life at all. He searches and finds the one and brings him back to the flock. In the children I taught at camp, I could see this in their eyes: wondering if God really loves them that much, wondering if what He says is true, wondering if they can really trust Him. The topic of Creation was a perfect one. It showed the kids the entirety of God's plan. God chose to create them, to give them a purpose and to call them back to Himself thru Jesus Christ.

*"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth . . . he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us . . . For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."*  
(Acts 17:24-27, 31)

As we were packing to leave camp, a boy walked up to me to ask if he could take home the Bible he used during class. Again, stunned, I said yes. God is working in the hearts of His children and shepherding them into His Kingdom. We may not know the timing, we may not see the final result, but we can be sure He is working: Our Lord the Shepherd.

- Karen Susenna