

## Family Information

### Area-Wide Worship Night Postponed

The area-wide worship night has been postponed, and it will be rescheduled sometime this Spring.

### Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful flowers in honor of my grandmother. Thank you for allowing us to honor Karen in a place she loved. We wanted her to be in a place she would have been comfortable in. She loved her Northland family. Love, Bill Chavis & Ashli Hensel

### Missions Group Meeting

The next Missions Group meeting will be held on Wednesday February 9th. Contact Jeff McVicker if you have questions or suggestions.

### Contribution Statements For 2021

Contribution statements for 2021 are available in the church office. Please see Pam Estep or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement.

## 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 on Colossians. 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
<b>General:</b>	\$3044	\$4534
<b>Designated:</b>	\$75	\$31

### 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	4:30 PM

**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

For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.



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## We Will Be with The Lord Forever

*We sent Timothy . . . to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. - 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3*

As we endure this world's trials and sorrows, the message of Jesus and him crucified and him risen gives us an enduring hope. We often face circumstances that cause us to become discouraged or fearful, so our Heavenly Father comforts us with his truths and reassures us that he is always near.

For centuries the ailanthus tree has been known in its original range in Asia as "the tree of heaven", though not for its appearance. Rather, its ability to grow where nutrients are scarce, and its ability to regenerate by producing root sprouts that can make a new tree, made it a symbol of life and perseverance. Similarly, in a deeper way our Father in heaven regenerates us when we walk by faith in Jesus, he strengthens our hearts with his grace, and he cleanses and sanctifies us - *May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. - 1 Thessalonians 3:13*

An ailanthus is used metaphorically in the novel "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn", written in 1943 by Betty Smith (and made later into a movie). In Smith's story, a down-trodden family living in crowded conditions in 1910s Brooklyn finds comfort in looking at an ailanthus that grows in the tenement courtyard. One day their daughter is especially sad when the landlord cuts off all of its branches (the ailanthus is often considered a weed since it spreads so quickly).

Her father explains about the ailanthus, and he promises that it will come back. The family endures hardships and tragedies together, including the father's passing, yet they stay close, an aunt comes to help, they have a few successes; later, the daughter looks contentedly at the ailanthus growing and flourishing again as her father had promised. Likewise, God's promises are trustworthy, and he who raised Jesus from the dead gives eternal life to those who walk humbly in his light - *Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed . . . so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again. - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*

Betty Smith's book came out during the world war, and Smith was surprised at how many letters of thanks she received from military personnel. The novel had nothing to do with war, yet as these people faced constant danger far from home, they realized that Betty's story was a timeless message to care for one another and to encourage one another to persevere. Similarly, the good news of Jesus is a timeless message of hope and compassion, and a promise of what lies ahead - *And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. - 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18*

We will be with the Lord forever, for God's words are true, and his promises are trustworthy. - Mark Garner

## Jesus Is Mighty To Save

When the tempests rage and the storms beat high,  
There is refuge near, and a shelter nigh;  
He who calmed the winds and the rolling wave  
Is Jehovah still, and is strong to save.

Mighty to save and strong to deliver,  
Jesus is mighty to save;  
Mighty to save and strong to deliver,  
Jesus is mighty to save.

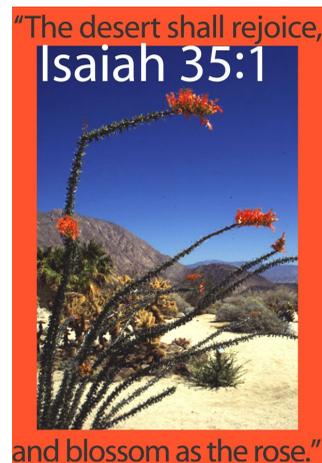
Not a cloud so dark, but His love shines thro',  
Not a shade so deep but His face we view;  
For His arm is strong, and His heart is kind,  
All who in Him trust shall a Savior find.

Not a tear drop falls but the Savior knows,  
And His great heart throbs with our bitter woes;  
For He knows our flesh and our feeble frame,  
Every pang we feel, He has known the same.

Never yet in vain has a sinner cried,  
Never yet in vain was the blood applied;  
Whosoever will may in Him be blest,  
Whosoever will find a perfect rest.

- Lelia Naylor Morris, 1862-1929

*This is one of over 500 hymns written by Ohio shopkeeper and hymnist Lelia (sometimes spelled Leila) Morris. Morris wrote both the words and the music for each hymn; when her eyesight began weakening in her fifties, her children set up a 28-foot long chalkboard with oversized staff lines to make it easier for her to continue composing hymns.*



## Renewed Inwardly Day By Day

*This world's futile thinking may perplex us, and its empty ways may hard press us, so in our Heavenly Father's unfailing care he renews us inwardly day by day. This week, Caleb Dillinger writes about how God renews us even when our emotions are at their worst.*

## My Bitter Soul Finds Renewal

As I think about being renewed inwardly, day by day, my mind instantly drifts to one of my favorite psalms. I actually preached on Psalm 73 two years ago, but let me briefly summarize it here and remind you why it is such a source of encouragement to me.

Written by Asaph, a worship leader for Israel during the reign of King David, Psalm 73 tells the story of a faithful worshipper of God who is struggling with jealousy of the wicked, selfish people who seem to have some great life whereas he in his faithful life is unsatisfied. I have definitely related to this struggle in my own walk with God, wondering why my faith isn't making me feel good all the time. Then, like the Psalmist, I feel terrible for thinking such thoughts! But, also like the Psalmist, I am reminded of God's faithfulness despite my failures. Listen to these encouraging words:

"When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory." (Psalm 73:21-24)

Have you ever felt embittered? Have you felt ignorant towards God before? I have to confess I have. And I have honestly felt like a beast toward God before. And yet . . . he continually stays with us. He holds our hands and guides us with his counsel. And yes, even on our bad days, God promises to receive us to glory if we maintain faith in him.

So this week, as you struggle with whatever emotions come your way, I want to encourage you to find that renewal in God, even if you feel bitter and like a beast! God is there for you, loves you, and is eager to share eternity with you. May you remain faithful and find renewal in our Lord Jesus.

- Caleb Dillinger