

Family Information

Holiday Schedules

Sunday Morning Bible Class in E44 - The class resumes meeting this morning, January 1.

Sunday Morning Bible Class in the Auditorium - The class resumes meeting this morning, January 1.

Sunday Afternoon Worship (4 PM) - The class is off today, and it will resume meeting next Sunday, January 8, at 4:00 PM.

Monday Women's Prayer Group - The prayer group has resumed meeting each week.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study - The Bible study is taking a break on January 3, and it will resume meeting on January 10.

Wednesday Outreach Meetings - The group will meet this Wednesday, January 4, at 6:30. See Jeff or Caleb for updates.

Friday TGIF Bible Study - The group will resume meeting this Friday, January 6. See Leisha or Mike Evans for updates.

Switch To New Web Site This Week

This Wednesday, January 4, Northland's new web site (ncocfamily.com) will replace the old site (ncocfamily.org). After that, when you enter the old site address you will be automatically redirected to the new one. See Jack Evans if you have any questions.

Offering Envelopes For 2023 Now Available

On the table on the right side of the foyer as you enter, there are boxes of offering envelopes for 2023, for those who have requested them. The names are written on each box. Please note that your envelope number may have changed. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, see Ashley Dillinger or Glenn Culler.

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

What's The Point Of Nehemiah?

The next installment of the monthly series on the books of Scripture is now available in the racks in the foyer. This month, Caleb Dillinger and Mark Garner have each written one page on "What's The Point Of Nehemiah?" The entire series is being posted to Northland's web site (ncocfamily.com) - under "Resources" there is a link that will take you to the series.

New Small Groups - Sign-Up Sheets Available

Sign-up sheets have been posted in the foyer for anyone interested in joining a new small group sometime this winter. These will help in setting up the new group(s). There is one sheet for anyone interested in joining a group that would meet every 2 weeks, and there is another sheet for anyone interested in joining a group that would meet once per month. If you have any questions, please see Caleb or one of the elders.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$6261	\$4306
Designated:	\$450	\$80



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Jesus' Little Ones

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 18:3

Each of us is dear to our Creator; he alone can satisfy the truest needs of our souls, and like little children, each of us needs God's care and guidance and mercy every step. Our Heavenly Father rejoices in pouring out his compassion and grace on those who seek him humbly and reverently, and he calls us his own children of light -

Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. - Matthew 18:4-5

Of this, medieval German philosopher Eckhart von Hochheim (approx. 1260-1328, known in history as Meister Eckhart) writes, "Be willing to be a beginner every single morning." Truly, every day we can learn more about God and his nature, and each day holds its own joys and sorrows, so God asks us to walk by faith and let him carry us and teach us each step.

Eckhart wrote of life in this world, "Spirituality is not to be learned by flight from the world . . . Rather, we must learn an inner solitude wherever or with whomsoever we may be. We must learn to penetrate things and find God there." We must face this world's fears and the accuser's snares, yet we are all Jesus' little ones, and he protects us from spiritual foes that are too strong for us -

If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble . . . Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come. - Matthew 18:6-7

Eckhart encouraged each believer to learn about God for themselves, and he taught about the value of each soul, as he says, "Every creature is a word of God and is a book about God." For Jesus cares about each of his little ones, regardless of what anyone in this world thinks of us; he is our good Shepherd who watches over us -

If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not . . . go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep . . . In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. - Matthew 18:12-14

Eckhart also continually reminds us that God is near with every one of us, so that we can be with our Heavenly Father anytime and anywhere, as he said, "There is no need to look for God here or there. He is no farther away than the door of your own heart." As Jesus also reassures us -

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. - Matthew 18:20

It is good to be near God.

- Mark Garner

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above.
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.

- Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879

British poet and hymnwriter Frances Havergal wrote these verses for a poem that she wrote on the New Year's greeting cards (for 1874) that she sent annually to her friends and family.

Jesus, O Precious Name

Jesus, O precious name,
By Heaven's herald spoken,
Jesus, O holy name,
Of love divine the token.
Jesus, in Thy dear name
This new year we begin;
Bless Thou its opening door,
Inscribe Thy name within.

Jesus, O precious name,
In Thee our hopes are centered,
In Thee, O mighty name,
This new year we have entered.
Though seasons come and go,
Thou, Lord, art still the same;
Immovable is still
That solid rock, Thy name.

- Anna Bernadine Dorothy Hoppe, 1889–1941

Poet Anna Hoppe began writing poetry in her early teens, and she soon focused on spiritual poems. In her 20's, her poems began to appear regularly in religious periodicals.

Answer To Last Week's Puzzle

The answer to last week's bulletin puzzle is *Grace and truth came through Jesus.* - JOHN 1:17

A New Heart & A New Spirit

In Ezekiel 36, God tells us that he will give us a new heart and a new spirit when we realize our need for him and turn to him humbly. This week, Don Milnor writes about some of the ways that God can help us with our perspectives and attitudes.

An Attitude Adjustment

Of course having the right attitude and focus is important for any Christian. This is not something which comes naturally (for many people anyway) or doesn't matter. Satan is a master of marketing, and will convince us that we have it really bad if we let him. However, while we actually have it pretty good, we do need to make efforts to think the best possible ways as a Christian to be joyful.

The book of Philippians is a good passage of Scripture, especially Philippians 4:4-9, to help us to have the attitude we should have.

Keep in mind that Philippians was not written under ideal circumstances, but at the very least, it was written in a difficult situation, when Paul was in a Roman prison, and not everyone away from him was doing what he wanted them to.

Let us look at this passage:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. -Philippians 4:4-9

A few things to note:

Rejoicing is something which we need to do, always, and which Paul even repeated (verse 4).

Paul not only tells us not to be anxious, but as he often does, tells us what we should do in its place. It's much better for us to take a concern before God, than to try to deal with it ourselves, possibly not knowing what we're going to do about it anyway (verses 6-7).

We need to think about the good things, not the bad ones. I wish I had this mastered (verse 8).

While Paul specifically mentions our imitating him here (also mentioned in 1 Cor. 11:1), we can look up to about any mature Christian, and probably find some good things to emulate (verse 9).

- Don Milnor