

## Family Information

### From The Elders & Minister

**Next Phase of Covid Adjustments:** We still have a lot of adjustments to plan this summer - Bible class, Wednesday activities, church events, communion supplies, etc.

Here are the continued precautions we are taking: 1) Face coverings are now optional. 2) Regarding Lord's Supper: We will have individual cups with bread on top packed and ready for each of you. 3) We will have a contribution plate alongside the communion table as well as immediately inside the auditorium near the doors. 4) In place of the invitation song, an Elder will be at a table in the foyer for you to come to and submit any prayer requests.

### Thank You

A gracious thank you to a lovely anonymous donor of the new greenery. Our "aging" trees greatly appreciate the new power boost of new leaves.

Thanks, Pam & Glenn Culler.

### Update From The Allison's

Johnny and Beverly Allison would like to deeply thank all the Northland Church members for supporting Sir Charles while attending the Northland Child Care. This was important in helping Sir Charles prepare to attend kindergarten. He has completed his time at the Child Care and is scheduled to begin attending kindergarten on August 11th at the Columbus Arts and Technology Academy. Your support has been overwhelming, and we want to thank-you for your generosity. We continue to ask for your prayers for Sir Charles as he begins this new adventure in his life.

## On Line Bible Studies

### On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, the current series is, "That Grace May Overflow" (based on Romans 5 & 6). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Mark will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to join.

### More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details.

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. Contact her 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>	\$5041	\$4573
<b>Designated:</b>	\$75	\$83



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August 1, 2021  
Volume 30, Number 31

## Let Us Then Approach God

*The word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. - Hebrews 4:12-13*

God writes his words on the hearts of those who walk in the light of Jesus, and they tell us truths that human minds couldn't have thought of. Nothing about us is hidden from our Heavenly Father; he knows our inmost thoughts and everything we do, to him everything is clear, yet he pours out his mercy and forgiveness and care on those who walk humbly by faith in the Lamb of God - *Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. - Hebrews 4:13-14*

Italian classical music conductor Arturo Toscanini (1867-1957) was well-known for his remarkable musical memory. Toscanini had memorized each note for each instrument for many dozens of symphonies, concertos, and other musical scores; yet for Arturo, it was not a burden to memorize them, for he enjoyed music and he greatly appreciated the ways that composers could blend their themes with the variety of instruments.

In a much deeper way, our Heavenly Father created each of us, he loves each of us for who we are, and he enjoys being with us. Regardless of what others might think of us, to God each of us is a special symphony, with our own notes and themes. Moreover, God's Son came to live as one of us, and he understands everything we endure - *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. - Hebrews 4:15*

An example of Toscanini's memory took place once when a clarinetist approached him before a concert, and apologetically said that he couldn't play, since a key on his clarinet wasn't working properly, so he couldn't make one particular note. Arturo asked him to wait, looked at the clarinet, and then thought carefully. When Toscanini finished thinking, he smiled and reassured the clarinetist that he could still play, because his part that evening didn't include that particular note.

Similarly, our Father in heaven knows all of our weaknesses, he knows which 'notes' we can't play; and he reassures us that he himself will protect us from spiritual foes too strong for us, he himself will be with us wherever his path guides us. God calls us to approach him and to draw near with a soft and reverent heart, so he may give us the grace and compassion we need - *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. - Hebrews 4:16*

And God and his words and the purposes of his heart are the same yesterday, today, and forever.  
*- Mark Garner*

### Adjusted Service Times

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship  
12:00 PM Sunday Ghana Worship  
3:00 PM Sunday Spanish worship

*Classes and devotionals are  
Currently meeting on-line*

**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

## He Giveth More Grace

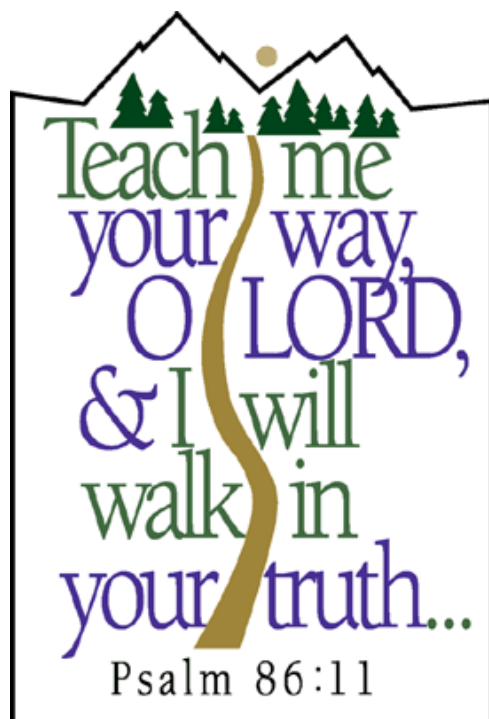
He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;  
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;  
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,  
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;  
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;  
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.

His love has no limit; His grace has no measure.  
His pow'r has no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!

- Annie Johnson Flint, 1866-1932



## As The Mountains Surround Jerusalem . . .

*Psalm 125 uses this image of the ways our Heavenly Father surrounds us and protects us and guides us. This week, Caleb Dillinger writes about the ways God surrounds us during this world's troubles and fears.*

### Surrounded in the Fire

There is no doubt in my mind that 2020 will go down in history as a year of challenges for nearly every country, but most certainly a year of challenges for the United States. The pandemic presented challenges to our health, our economy, our education, and our ability to relate and interact with each other. The division between Black and White Americans bubbled forth hate, racism, anger, and violence. Sides became drawn in our presidential election that quite literally left everyone in doubt as to what the state of our country would be in 2021. Last year felt like we were surrounded by fire.

By the grace of our Lord Jesus, we survived 2020 - not all, as there were millions of deaths in our nation by violence and the virus, but we here at Northland survived 2020. How? I'm reminded of an Old Testament story.

Daniel chapter 3 recalls three faithful men in the midst of fire - Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael (better known by their Babylonian names, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego). I'm sure most of you know this story well. The prideful king sets a statue that demands everyone to bow. The three faithful men won't bow, and are consequently thrown into a fiery furnace turned seven times hotter than its normal levels. The guards who threw the men in actually died from the heat. Then the Bible gives us the beauty of Daniel 3:25 - "I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

Whether that fourth figure is Jesus or an angel really doesn't matter - the truth of the story remains: faithful people suffer, but our God surrounds us in the fire. You survived 2020, not because of your great skill or determination, but because our great God surrounded you in the fire of 2020, and our God will continue to surround us in our suffering until the day we are called to spend eternity with him and our suffering ends. Be faithful, brothers and sisters in faith. Our God has surrounded us in the fire.

- Caleb Dillinger