

Family Information

Wednesday Outreach Meeting This Week

There will be an outreach (service) meeting this Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 PM. This will be the last Wednesday meeting of the year, due to holiday schedules. For the time being, the meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of every month will be focused on outreach opportunities. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

Service Project This Afternoon

The young adults are helping with "My Very Own Blanket" on a Christmas service project that will make blankets for children in need, and they will meet this afternoon at 12:30 PM in the fellowship room. This will involve cutting and tying, and volunteers would be appreciated. See Emily Kruse or Megan Stover for more information.

What's The Point Of Ezra?

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 Ezra?" The entire series is being posted to Northland's new web site (ncocfamily.com) - under "Resources" there is a link that will take you 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.

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

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 Acts. Contact Karen for more details.

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.

Update On New Web Site

Until the end of this year, both of Northland's web sites will be continually updated by Jack Evans and Becca Strawser. After January 1 the new site, ncocfamily.com, will replace the current site, ncocfamily.org, and after that if you enter the old site address you will be automatically redirected to the new one.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$2307	\$4267
Designated:		\$69



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This We Call To Mind...

This We Call To Mind & We Have Hope

*My soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope . . .
- Lamentations 3:20-21*

When our souls feel downcast, God's promises and his words give us hope; when we become confused or weary or downhearted, we can call to mind our Heavenly Father's unfailing compassion and the message of Jesus, for they will endure forever, and he renews day by day those who open our hearts to him and hold fast to him—
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. - Lamentations 3:22-23

Italian author Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936) often wrote about human identity and human perceptions. In his novel "One, No One, & One Hundred Thousand", a man has an idealized image of himself, both of his appearance and his actions. Yet when a casual observation shows him something he never realized about his appearance, he soon begins to despair as he realizes how many other things he thought about himself were also wrong, and he asks himself who he is.

This world's uproars and sorrows and fears can cause us also to wonder if we even know ourselves, and even whether God cares about us. Yet our Heavenly Father continually reminds us that our identity doesn't come from our appearance or our abilities, for it comes from God, who made us with his compassion and care, and who looks at our hearts instead of outward appearances, and who desires give us the priceless gift of knowing him and being with him—I say to myself, *The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him. - Lamentations 3:24*

In Pirandello's novel, the main character's search for his identity then shows him that other people have completely different views of him, and their views are quite different from one another, as many as one hundred, or as he imagines it, one hundred thousand of them. This unsettles him even more, as he desperately wants to change all of their impressions of him.

God understands this about human nature, so he patiently calls us to seek him and put our hope in him instead, for he knows everything about us and he is good to us—
The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him. - Lamentations 3:25

As Luigi's novel continues, the main character begins to learn not to be pre-occupied with what others think about him, and he finally begins taking an honest look at himself and at his life. Similarly, when we fix our hearts on Jesus and his good news of salvation and eternal life, it brings us lasting peace and hope—*It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. - Lamentations 3:26*

God's words and his promises are trustworthy, and it is good to call them to mind and ponder them.

- Mark Garner

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #1

The words in the following list come from a certain book of the Bible, and they are all hidden in the diagram below. The words can be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally. As you find them, shade in the letters that you use. There will be 23 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out the mystery verse from this week's mystery book.

ABOLISH	EAGLE	MERCY	RINGS
ATTACK	EPHRAIM	MOUNTAINTOPS	STRAYED
BONDS	ESCAPE	PLEASANT	THRESHING FLOOR
CELEBRATIONS	FOLLOWS	PURITY	TRAINED HEIFER
CHILDBIRTH	GRAIN	RANSOM	WILD ANIMALS
COUNTRY	LEOPARD	REALIZE	WOODEN
DASHED	LO-RUHAMA	RIGHTEOUSNESS	

C E L E B R A T I O N S L E
 S P O T N I A T N U O M T Y
 S A W T U N C W T S S R A T
 E C C I C G K O W A A N H I
 N S O H L S W O U I C S S R
 S E M L I D L D N N I K T U
 U M E Z I L A E R L T E R P
 O I R D O S D N O B G R A L
 E A C F H H M B I P E T Y E
 T R Y E E N A O I M A H E A
 H H D I E I L O S R A R D S
 G P F R E A G L E N T L D A
 I E D L O R U H A M A H S N
 R O O L F G N I H S E R H T

The answer, and another puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week.

- Mark Garner

An Anchor For The Soul

Jesus and his message of salvation and redemption give us an anchor for our souls as we endure this world's uncertainties and fears. This week, Tara Neiswonger writes about the peace, safety, and security come from being anchored in Jesus.

An Anchor, Firm & Secure

I found myself stopping during a prayer of gratitude recently and asking myself if what I was praying for was truly what I should be grateful for. I was and am grateful for a steady job, shelter and food, family and friends, and a church home. But I was being asked to dig a bit deeper. The morning reading had taken me through a section of Isaiah. *Isaiah 32:17 "The fruit of righteousness will be peace, the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever" and Isaiah 33:6 "He will be the sure foundation of your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is key to this treasure".*

My gratitude was centered on earthly blessings that provided me peace and safety, but what truly anchors me to security and peace is God. Hebrews 6 begins as a request from the writer to a group of Christians to move beyond six fundamental doctrines of Christianity listed in versus 1-3 and dig a bit deeper into the teachings of Christ and allow that to seep into and nourish their and our life.

Jesus, his life as an example of love, his death as the price for our salvation, is that anchor, a secure line between us and God. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." As the world twists and turns, sways and swirls, I am grateful for this anchor securely connecting me to the peace and safety of my soul found thru Jesus. Christ and his resurrection are the bedrock my soul is anchored to, and allowing that knowledge to permeate my being will provide the peace I seek.

- Tara Neiswonger

Our Prayers

Our prayers break on God like waves,
 and he an endless shore,
 and when the seas evaporate
 and oceans are no more
 and cries are carried in the wind
 God hears and answers every sound
 as he has done before.

- Luci Shaw, 1928-present