

Family Information

Clothing Closet Lunch Meeting On January 29

Northland is hoping to re-establish the Clothing Closet Ministry, and there will be a lunch meeting in the fellowship room (E41-42) at 11:30 AM on Sunday, January 29th, for everyone who is interested. We will be discussing the needs and opportunities for the future of the Clothing Closet. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP by Jan. 25th to Robbie McVicker, Pam Culler, or Vicki Cowans.

Wednesday Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Wednesday Outreach Meeting will be on February 1 at 6:30 PM. See Jeff or Caleb if you have any questions.

Offering Envelopes For 2023 Now Available

Offering envelopes for 2023 are still available in the church office for those who have requested them. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, see Ashley Dillinger or Glenn Culler.

Faith-Based Book Club Beginning In February

Caleb is putting together a faith-based book club that is open to the church and the community. The first book up for discussion is "Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense" by N.T. Wright. The book club will meet in the fellowship room (E41-42) on Saturday, February 11, from 1:30-3:00 PM.

New Web Site

Northland's new web site (ncocfamily.com) has now replaced the old site (ncocfamily.org). If you enter the old site address, you will be automatically redirected to the new one. Some of the material from the old web site needs to be re-uploaded, and the process will be completed in the near future. See Jack Evans if you have any questions.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$6167	\$5854
Designated:	\$50	\$25

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.

Healing The Brokenhearted

Sunday after Sunday, week after week, people come to God's church with broken hearts. They need a work of hope. And the church has an answer - if it doesn't, it isn't a church. The church must say in substance that brokenheartedness is a fact of life. Don't try to escape when you come to that experience. Don't try to repress it. Don't end up in cynicism. Don't get mean when you come to that experience. The church must say to men and women that Good Friday is a fact of life. The church must say to people that failure is a fact of life.

Some people are only conditioned to success. They are only conditioned to fulfillment. Then when the trials and the burdens of life unfold, they can't stand up with it. But the church must tell men that Good Friday is as much a fact of life as Easter; failure is as much a fact of life as success; disappointment is as much a fact of life as fulfillment. And the church must tell men to take your burden, take your grief and look at it, don't run from it. Say that this is my grief and I must bear it. Look at it hard enough and say, "How can I transform this liability into an asset?"

This is the power that God gives you. He doesn't say that you're going to escape disappointment; he doesn't say that you're going to escape trials and tribulations. But what religion does say is this: that if you have faith in God, that God has the power to give you a kind of inner equilibrium through your pain. So let not your heart be troubled. "If ye believe in God, ye believe also in me."

Another voice rings out, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden." As if to say, "Come unto me, all ye that are burdened down. Come unto me, all ye that are frustrated. Come unto me, all ye with clouds of anxiety floating in your mental skies. Come unto me, all ye that are broken down. Come unto me, all ye that are laden with heavy ladens, and I will give you rest." And the rest that God gives is the rest that passeth all understanding. The world doesn't understand that kind of rest, because it's a rest that makes it possible for you to stand up amid outer storms, and yet you maintain inner calm. If the church is true to its guidelines, it heals the brokenhearted.

*- Martin Luther King, Jr.
(Excerpts from a sermon given in Atlanta, 1966)*



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The Lord's Mercy & Love Are From Of Old

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. - Psalm 25:4

The Lord's ways are trustworthy, and he patiently shows them to those who approach him with an open and humble heart. God's paths are good for our souls, and he eagerly teaches them to those who walk by faith. Our Heavenly Father is our hope all day long—*Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. - Psalm 25:5*

In the first few chapters of Charlotte Brontë's 1847 novel "Jane Eyre", as a young girl Jane goes through a series of ordeals: she loses her parents, is sent to live with a hostile aunt, and then is sent to a boarding school where the students are treated harshly. Jane tries her best to be kind, yet she struggles with bad memories and her feelings of bitterness to all those who have mistreated her.

Then Jane meets Helen, a student who has also faced mistreatment and sadness, yet who remains peaceful and is kind-hearted towards everyone. When Jane asks her how she can do this, Helen first says "Read the New Testament, and observe what Christ says, and how He acts; make His word your rule, and His conduct your example." They then begin discussing their lives and the message of Jesus. As Jane learns, the Lord's mercy and his love are from of old—*Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. - Psalm 25:6*

Helen helps Jane make peace with her past, and she helps her realize that everyone has flaws, yet God is always willing to forgive us when we turn to Jesus. As Helen says, "We are . . . one and all, burdened with faults in this world: but the time will soon come when . . . we shall put them off in putting off our corruptible bodies . . . and only the spark of the spirit will remain . . . pure as when it left the Creator."

Truly, our Heavenly Father desires to be with us, he cleanses us and renews us as we walk by faith in his Son, and his Spirit lives within us—*Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good. - Psalm 25:7*

Helen passes away of an illness early in the novel, and on her grave site a stone says simply "Resurgam" (I shall rise again). As Jane finishes school and proceeds to adulthood with all of its sorrows and joys, she holds on to her awareness of God's nearness and the good news of Jesus. She has learned that "I do not need to sell my soul to buy bliss. I have an inward treasure born with me, which can keep me alive if all extraneous delights should be withheld."

He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. - Psalm 25:9

There is no one like God, who always rejoices in being with us, teaching us, and helping us.

- Mark Garner

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, Renée Jackson writes about the renewal and regeneration that only God can give us.

God Brings Cleansing & Renewal

In studying Ezekiel 36 I noticed how many times "I" is used, underscoring the fact that what is happening came from the Lord and not the people. Taking them back required cleansing with a "new heart" and a "new spirit." Because we all have a stain of sin upon our hearts and lives that we cannot wash away on our own, it is God who brings the cleansing and renewal.

In Psalm 51, David is ravaged with guilt and grief over a terrible sin he's committed, his affair with Bathsheba and him sending her husband Uriah to the frontlines in battle where he was killed. David pleads with God, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." In verse 10 of the chapter he asks God, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

We cannot make our hearts pure. But the good news is that through regeneration, God does a heart transplant in us. Just as an organ transplant hopefully gives one a chance at a longer life, God gives us a new heart and a new Spirit. My son received my donated kidney nineteen years ago next month, and all glory and praise to God he is doing well. The Spirit brings renewal through cleansing. It is through the Spirit that we are given a new heart. God gave His people a new heart and new Spirit because of who He is. He is doing it for His glory. God is holy. His people should represent Him as holy people of faith. God is God all by Himself. He is able to scrub us clean from the filth of our past so we have a new beginning.

We must be cleansed by a renewing of our minds, sinking our thoughts into God's word so that our will can align with what God says. We are precious to the Lord. His thoughts of us are for our good. Although Israel's people had turned their backs on God's word, God still never turned His back on them. He wanted the nations about them to know that He had rebuilt them because He had "spoken it, and I will do it" Ezekiel 36:36. In that way the people would know that "I am the Lord." Ezekiel 36:38 Only God could provide what they needed.

- Renée Jackson