

Family Information

Prayers & Sympathy

Norma Stafa's husband Walt passed away on Sunday, January 15. The Stafa family has been a special part of the Northland church family for many years, and many of us have them in our thoughts and prayers. Please pray for Norma, Phil, Angela, and the rest of their family.

Contribution Statements For 2022 Available

Contribution statements for 2022 are available in the church office for anyone who used offering envelopes or gave online. See Ashley Dillinger or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement. Call or email the church office if you would like your statement mailed to you.

Clothing Closet Lunch Meeting Next Sunday

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 next 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.

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.

On Line Bible Studies

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.

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.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5578	\$5572
Designated:	\$0	\$17

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

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.

God Has Made Us & He Will Carry Us

Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born. - Isaiah 46:3

Since we were born, our Heavenly Father has always been near, he has upheld us every step, and he has given us life and breath and everything else we have. To our old age God will sustain us, and he gives lasting peace and hope to all who believe in the message of Jesus and who walk humbly by faith—*Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you . . . - Isaiah 46:4*

Swifts are small birds (species range from 3.5-9 inches, most are 6-7 inches long) that are known for their exceptional speed. They can cruise at 70 miles per hour for long periods, and some can reach over 100 mph while travelling. Moreover, they spend almost all of their adult lives flying, for our Creator has ingeniously designed them for this unusual lifestyle.

Just as God carries the swifts each moment, our Father in heaven not only sustains us and meets our physical needs every day, for he also meets the most meaningful needs of our souls—. . . *I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you. - Isaiah 46:4*

The wingtip bones in swifts are longer proportionally than in other birds, and they can rotate their wings from the base, giving them maximum maneuverability as well as enabling them to get more force from both their wings' downstrokes and upstrokes. Then, the shape of their wings and tails are designed for speed, and their feet are so small that they don't hinder flight. Swifts eat in the air (by catching insects), and they drink and wash while flying by sweeping through bodies of water.

God has also given us what we need to live our lives by faith; when we open our minds he will fill them with his truths, when we open our hearts and spirits he will cleanse them and renew them. There is no one like God - *With whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared? - Isaiah 46:5*

Perhaps most remarkably, swifts can sleep while they fly. One half of a swift's brain can go to sleep while the other half remains active (biologists call this unihemispheric slow-wave sleep), giving each half some time to sleep while the bird keeps flying. As our Heavenly Father enables swifts to achieve this seemingly impossible feat, God's Spirit lives in us, God renews us inwardly day by day, and he guides us and teaches us each step. For God's promises are truly trustworthy - *What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do. - Isaiah 46:11*

To whom could we possibly compare our Heavenly Father?

- Mark Garner



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In Tenderness He Sought Me

In tenderness He sought me,
Weary and sick with sin;
And on His shoulders brought me
Back to His fold again.
While angels in His presence sang
Until the courts of Heaven rang.

He pointed to the nail prints,
For me His blood was shed,
A mocking crown so thorny
Was placed upon His head;
I wondered what He saw in me,
To suffer such deep agony.

I'm sitting in His presence,
The sunshine of His face,
While with adoring wonder
His blessings I retrace.
It seems as if eternal days
Are far too short to sound His praise.

- William Spencer Walton, 1850-1906

British writer W. Spencer Walton was also frequently involved in distributing Bibles, on various journeys to mission sites as well as to soldiers and sailors. Several of his books were about the nations he had visited.

The Risk Of Birth

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn -
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn -
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

-- Madeleine L'Engle, 1918-2007

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, Peggy Kaiser writes about the cleansing and other spiritual blessings that come when we acknowledge our need for God's forgiveness.

Confession & Cleansing

When I think of God giving us a new heart and a new spirit, I think of the cleansing beauty of confession. This beauty is like the light snow fall that covers the ground and trees and everything that it touches. The snow makes the city quiet, as it gently falls from the heavens. Snow transforms the city streets into a magical place. We can receive forgiveness and purification from God when we admit our wrongdoing to him. God's word tells us,

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us." 1 John 1:8-10

The apostle John wrote these words to those who had confessed their faith in Jesus. To those who were walking with him and knew him. Deception and lies keep us from knowing the truth and are blinders that prevent us from seeing God and ourselves clearly. We cannot know the truth or live out the truth when we are held captive by sin. God gives us a way to be forgiven and made pure from all unrighteousness. The act of telling God our wrongdoing and admitting our iniquities shows God that we are in great need of him.

I don't practice confession on a daily basis. I don't like to think about all the ways that I have let God down. But this is the whole point of confession, we get freed from the burden of sin and are forgiven when we open our heart and mouth to tell God all about our wrong thoughts and behavior.

We don't have to carry the burden of sin, God wants us to come to him and confess our iniquities. He wants to provide forgiveness and purification.

- Peggy Kaiser

**"Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit
within me."**
Psalm 51:10