

Announcements

Work Day This Saturday

This Saturday, September 26, there will be a workday from 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon at the church building. Projects will include: repairing outdoor lights, sweeping up glass and trash from the lots, raking the playground, dealing with water runoff problems, and trimming trees. See Mike Evans for more details.

Fall Festival On October 18

This year's Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th from 5:30 PM -7:00 PM. We will have trunk-or-treat, a hot dog dinner, crafts, games, and a bounce house. There will be a table in the foyer starting Sunday, September 20th for you to ask questions, sign up to volunteer, or contribute candy or money. If you have any questions, please see Meagan Stover.

Events Coming Soon

* New Events Added *

September 26 (Saturday) - Work Day at the church building (see announcement above)
September 27 (Sunday) - Guest speaker, Huston Haynes, in morning worship assembly
October 4 (Sunday) - Combined Bible class at 9:00 AM
October 4 (Sunday) - Guest speaker, Ben Driver, in morning worship assembly
October 4 (Sunday) - Potluck after morning worship
October 11 (Sunday) - Men's lunch
October 18 (Sunday) - Fall Fest (see announcement above)

Needs For The Clothing Closet

With cooler weather coming soon, the Clothing Closet would appreciate donations of clean, gently used Autumn and Winter clothing. We have a particular need for children's and men's items. We currently do not need Spring or Summer items. Thank you for your continued support.

Sunday Service Times

English Bible Study 9:00 AM
English Worship 10:00 AM
Spanish Worship (Annex) 10:00 AM
Twi Bible Study 12:00 PM
Twi Worship 1:00 PM

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Franklin Agyei, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

Auditorium Renovations

The elders are currently considering making some renovations to the auditorium in the church building. These include a new projector, better lighting, better sound, and other features that would benefit both the English-language worship and the Ghanaian congregation. See Jeff or one of the other elders if you have any questions.

Ministry In Ghana

The Seikwa, Ghana Church Of Christ, along with the congregation that now meets at Nkoranman Senior High School, appreciate your continuing prayers and support. Please see Franklin Agyei for ways you can help this ministry.

Current Mid-Week Studies

Mondays at 6:30 PM (Via Zoom) - Women's prayer group, organized by Peggy Kaiser.
Tuesdays at 7:15 PM (Via Zoom) - Women's Bible study. The current topic is "Grace & Gratitude". See Karen Susenna for more information.
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM - A Bible study organized by Jeff McVicker and Caleb Dillinger, meeting in room E41-42. In September and October, they will study 2 John, 3 John, and Jude.
First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans, currently meeting in room E41-42. See Mike or Leisha for more details.

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

We currently have three children's classes (ages 2-3, ages 4-8, and ages 9-10) that begin right after the Lord's Supper. During the 9:00 morning Bible classes, there is a combined class for ages 2-10. Please see Vicki Cowans or Lynn Paden if you can help with these classes, or if you have any questions.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4,822	\$4,994
Designated:	\$70	\$406



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We Too May Live A New Life

Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? - Romans 6:1-2

This world presents its sinful temptations as being new, exciting, sometimes even as being noble. Yet Jesus died and was raised so that we may escape the meaningless existence of living for popularity, indulgence, or fame, and that we could instead live a new life for him:

As Christ was raised from the dead . . . we too may live a new life. - Romans 6:4

Charles Dickens's 1859 novel "A Tale Of Two Cities" is set during the late 1700s, just before and then during the French Revolution. It begins "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness . . . In both countries it was clearer than crystal . . . that things in general were settled forever." The narrator then notes the similarities with any era.

Indeed, despite changes in outward appearances and temporary circumstances, essential things never change: human nature, sin, God's words, and our need for God. When we let Jesus crucify our old selves, he frees us from the hold of this world's futile teachings and its empty hopes:

Our old self was crucified with him . . . that we should no longer be slaves to sin. - Romans 6:6

In the novel, Sydney Carton's lack of self-discipline has derailed his life and career. He still has a keen mind, so he helps his friend, a lawyer. When another character, Charles Darnay, is wrongly accused, Sydney helps him get acquitted. They closely resemble one another, and befriending Charles and his family brings new meaning to Carton's life. Similarly, when we trust in God alone, and follow Jesus closely, he gives us new life:

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. - Romans 6:8

When Darnay visits France, he is condemned for being related to an aristocrat, so Carton uses their similarity to switch places with him. When Sydney is being taken to the guillotine, he comforts a terrified, unfairly condemned seamstress, quotes John 11:25-26, and they face death peacefully. Even the bloodthirsty crowd murmurs of Carton, "it was the peacefulest man's face ever beheld."

Sydney's last words are, "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known." Likewise, when Jesus died for us, it was truly a far greater thing than we can begin to imagine; and when we humbly give our hearts and minds to God, it is a far better thing than anything else we've done:

Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. - Romans 6:11

- Mark Garner, September 2026

Jesus, Thou Hast Bought Us

Jesus, Thou hast bought us,
Not with gold or gem,
But with Thine own life-blood,
For Thy diadem.
With Thy blessing filling
Each who comes to Thee,
Thou hast made us willing,
Thou hast made us free,
By Thy grand redemption,
By Thy grace divine;
We are on the Lord's side;
Savior, we are Thine.

-Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879

Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd

Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd,
children all are dear to you;
may your loving arms enfold them
in your care their whole life through.
By your tending and protecting
keep them safe in all they do.

Tender Shepherd, never leave them,
never let them go astray;
by your warning love directed,
may they walk the narrow way.
Thus direct them, thus defend them
lest they fall an easy prey.

By your holy Word instruct them,
fill their minds with heavenly light;
by your powerful grace convince them
always to approve what's right.
Let them feel your yoke is easy,
let them find your burden light.

- Jane Elizabeth Leeson, 1808-1881

British writer Jane Leeson wrote several books about the Scriptures and the message of Jesus, as well as writing the words to several dozen hymns. She also translated numerous works from medieval Latin into English. Her best-known hymn, "Loving Shepherd Of Thy Sheep", was in the Northland bulletin a couple years ago.

The Eternal God Is Our Refuge

In this world, we may often find temporary refuge from its storms and other physical perils. But God alone can give us lasting refuge and shelter for our souls. This week, Steve Carver writes about this world's spiritual storms, and how God can give us refuge from them.

Finding Refuge For Our Souls

God is the God of love, for all of his creation, especially for his dear children. But God is also the God of justice and righteousness. Even the best of his children fall well short (by our own devices, whether intentional or unintentional) of what he deeply desires for each of us, which would allow us to stand before him in love. In short, we are all sinners. No amount of self-righteousness, self-reliance, pride, position, wealth, power, reputation, or any other characteristic we might strive for will change our condition. They also can't provide the refuge, peace, inner joy, or purpose for which our souls seek. Only the willing, humble, loving, and faithful (even if only the size of a mustard seed initially) submission to God will do so. It is only in the love expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that the justice and love of God merge for and in us, which enables us to stand before him in his love - because he no longer sees our ugly sin-stained hearts and souls, but the beauty and purity of his Son living within us.

There will be times in our lives when by circumstances of life, the actions of others, or the consequences of our own mistakes and sins, we will become severely discouraged, question God's love, and even be tempted to give in or give up. There will be times when the dark and overwhelming storms of life seem to hide God's presence from our view and we are left floundering in the "raging seas" of life. Even Jesus, in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross, experienced this kind of soul-agonizing despair. At these times, we can only take refuge in him through the storm with the eyes of faith, knowing that he has promised: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Joshua 1:5) and say, as Jesus did, "Yet not my will, but yours be done. ... Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 22:42; 23:46).

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. — Deuteronomy 33:27

LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me, or they will tear me apart like a lion and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me . . . My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart . . . But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. - Psalm 7:1-2,10; Psalm 5:11

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore. - Psalm 125:1-2

- Steve Carver, September 2026