

Announcements

Special Contribution For Flood Relief

Today and next Sunday, Northland is taking a special collection for relief for those who have been affected by the flood in Texas. You can contribute either by writing the amount on the "Special" line of your contribution envelope, or by indicating the amount on the memo line when giving online. For more information, see one of the elders.

Outdoor Worship This Saturday

There will be an outdoor time of worship at the Dillinger's home (weather permitting) this Saturday, July 26th from 6:00-8:00 PM. This will be a time of fellowship and singing. Everyone is welcome! Hymnals will be provided, though please bring your own chair. See Caleb or Ashley for more information.

Updates From The Ministry In Ghana

Northland and the Ghanaian congregation continue to support the Seikwa, Ghana Church of Christ. Current needs include a motorbike for the preacher, computers for high school students, and support for the prison ministry. You can support the ministry in Ghana with your contribution envelope, or by giving online. Prayers for the ministry and for those involved are also greatly appreciated. You can also see Franklin Agyei for more information, as well as for more things we can pray about for them.

Needs For The Clothing Closet

We currently need to re-stock the clothing closet, and we would appreciate donations of clean, gently used clothes and small household items. We can always use donated blankets and linens. Please continue to let those in need know about our Clothing Closet ministry and have them call or text 614-918-7925 for an appointment. The Clothing Closet Team is very grateful for your donations.

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

Volume 15 By Northland Members

Copies of the next collection of bulletin articles written by Northland's members are available on the table in the foyer. This is the 15th volume in the series, and its theme is "The Lord Himself Is The Rock Eternal". See Mark if you would like a copy of any of the previous booklets.

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

There is a combined children's class available from 9:00- 9:50 AM. Children's worship begins after the Lord's Supper with classes for ages 2-3, 4-8, and 9-10. See Vicki Cowans, Lynn Paden, or Emily Graham if you can help with any of these classes.

Current Mid-Week Studies

Mondays at 6:30 PM (Via Zoom) - Women's prayer group - see Peggy Kaiser for details.

Tuesdays at 7:15 PM (Via Zoom) - Women's Bible study, now coordinated by Tara Lynn Bell. The current study is based on "God, Pass By Me: A Study Of The Names Of God" by Casandra Martin. See Tara Lynn for more information.

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM - A Bible study on the gospel of John, organized by Jeff McVicker and Caleb Dillinger, is currently meeting in the Fellowship Room (E41-42).

First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans, currently meeting in room E41. Contact Mike or Leisha for details.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3,953	\$4,756
Designated:	\$45	\$175

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



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Blessed Are Those Whose Transgressions Are Forgiven

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. - Psalm 32:1

We are so blessed that God forgives our transgressions when we walk in the light and grace of Jesus. We are blessed that God does not count our sins against us when we humbly acknowledge our continual need for his forgiveness and care:

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. - Psalm 32:2

In Norwegian writer Henrik Ibsen's (1828-1906) play "Pillars Of The Community" (sometimes titled "Pillars Of Society"), Karsten Bernick is the prosperous owner of a shipyard, and is seen as a "pillar" of the region. Yet he is facing the consequences of maintaining appearances. Earlier, he had let his wife's brother take the blame for something he himself had done. Next, he was part of a group that secretly bought the land along a new railway, so they can sell it at a large profit. Then, to meet a contract on time, he pressures his foreman to make hasty repairs that could cause danger.

No one knows about all of this, yet his friends and family realize that something is wrong. Karsten realizes that his focus on outward appearances has lost him what had mattered most to him. He decides that he "Must lay fast hold of truth - truth which, till tonight, has been altogether and in all circumstances a stranger." Similarly, when we rely on worldly thinking and human ability, we waste away inwardly, while God renews us when we trust in him instead:

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long . . . I will confess my transgressions to the Lord. And you forgave the guilt of my sin. - Psalm 32:3, 32:5

At a celebration for the new railway deal, Karsten publicly apologizes for all of his misdeeds, giving back the land and reversing the orders to his foreman. As he asks his family and friends for forgiveness, he is particularly anxious with his wife's family, for he was once close with them. So his wife's sister Lona reassures him that "Old friendship does not rust." Likewise, God's compassion never rusts, and our Heavenly Father eagerly forgives us when we approach him with a soft and humble heart:

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found. - Psalm 32:6

Though Karsten has lost his reputation in the community, as well as much of his wealth, he is thankful that he has restored the relationships that meant more to him. When they discuss the idea of "pillars", the play ends with Lona concluding that "The spirit of truth and the spirit of freedom - they are the pillars of the community."

For indeed, none of us is strong or wise enough to be considered "pillars", yet the message of Jesus and God's promises are trustworthy pillars for our lives, and God assures us, *I will counsel you with my loving eye on you (Psalm 32:8).*

- Mark Garner, July 2025

Never Shone A Light So Fair

Never shone a light so fair,
Never fell so sweet a song,
As the chorus in the air
Chanted by the angel throng;
Every star took up the story.

Still that Jubilee of song
Breaks upon the rising morn;
While the anthem rolls along,
Floods of light the earth adorn;
Old and young take up the story:

"Christ has come, the Prince of glory,
Come in humble hearts to dwell;
God with us, God with us,
God with us, Immanuel!"

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

Eyes That Are Weary

O eyes that are weary, and hearts that are sore,
Look only to Jesus, now sorrow no more.
The light of His countenance shineth so bright,
That here, as in Heaven, there need be no night.

While looking to Jesus, my heart cannot fear;
I tremble no more when I see Jesus near;
I know that His presence my safeguard will be,
For "Why are you troubled?" he says unto me.

Still looking to Jesus, O may I be found,
When Jordan's dark waters encompass me round;
They bear me away in His presence to be;
I see Him still nearer whom always I see.

- Horatio Richmond Palmer, 1834-1907

Songwriter and editor Horatio Palmer wrote several dozen hymns, edited a music periodical, and wrote a textbook about music. This hymn was first published in a hymnal edited by Anna B. Warner, a writer and hymnwriter best remembered today for "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know".

Like A Mustard Seed

In Matthew 13 and Mark 4, Jesus compares God's kingdom with a small mustard seed, for God can take the smallest of beginnings, nurture it, and make it grow. This week, Renée Jackson writes about how the kingdom of God grew from a "mustard seed", and how God helps our faith grow.

Though The Smallest Of Seeds

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that birds come and perch in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32)

The reference to the mustard seed is also recorded in Mark 4:30-32 and Luke 13:18-19. It was the smallest garden seed with which Jesus' listeners were familiar. Mustard was a garden plant that grew about 15 feet. It was cultivated for its seeds which were used as a condiment and for oil.

The small seed could produce plants so sturdy that birds could build nests in the branches. The kingdom of God is likewise amazing because of its insignificant beginning and its worldwide effect through all ages. As we think of the babe born in a manger and the subsequent manner in which a man from Nazareth was despised, it is amazing that God's kingdom survived and grew, especially when we think further of the uneducated Galileans Jesus chose and commissioned to preach the word, but the seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11).

This parable is not only about the smallness of the mustard seed, but it shows the contrast in size between the small seed and the eventual product. From the small mustard seed grows a plant large enough for birds to make nests in its branches. In a similar way, the Lord's kingdom - the church - has grown from a small group of disciples into a body that spans the globe. Although the church's beginning was very small, it grew rapidly during the first century and continues to expand throughout the world today. This parable is prophetic, and is still in the process of fulfillment.

The main point of the mustard seed was how the smallness of the seed compared with what it produced. We should never underestimate the way small things produce great results when God is in control. *"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. . . it will itself endure forever." (Daniel 2:44-45)*

It is easy to be discouraged when we think we have to launch huge initiatives to accomplish kingdom pursuits. But we must remember that seemingly too small endeavors are the seeds of massive accomplishments. So pray the tiny prayer, have the tiny conversation, and plant the tiny gospel seed. God will give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).

There is encouragement in this parable. God plants a small seed of faith in our lives. Over time that faith can grow until it makes a significant difference in our lives, and we are able to make a difference in the world where we are planted. The mustard seed serves as a profound reminder of the transformative power of faith. We can conquer the seemingly impossible and inspire those around us. Just as the mustard seed becomes a mighty tree, our faith can grow into an unwavering force, impacting lives and the lives of others in profound ways.

- Renée Jackson, July 2025