



# On the Same Page

“you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” (2 Corinthians 3:3 NAS95)

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## A Developing Direction

### Forever-Family Fellowship

**We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever**

### All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

### Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

### Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

## Dear ... ,

Sunday, October 22, 2017

Letter-writing has been a large window into which we have come to understand a rather personal side of human history. There was, of course, a time when letters were not circulated. Engravings in stone tablets were slow and difficult. But with pen and paper, time and candlelight, men and women could pour out their heartfelt thoughts in compelling ways.

If there was a time before letters were widely written, I fear there will also be a time (perhaps soon) when they are written no more. Facebook posts do not count as letters and can hardly be regarded as the outpouring of hearts. Tweets and Snapchats are worse. The medium definitely affects the message.

There are things that we learn about a person through their letters that we do not grasp through their other communications. Former president Obama has just released letters written during his presidency. It is much more difficult to vilify a person when seen through such a personal lens. Martin Luther is known through his books, in which he is formidable, and through his essays, which contain verbal daggers. But when you read his letters, it is a man burdened to communicate with another, and the heart is revealed.

We are glad, then, to find so many letters in the Bible. Especially revealing are Paul's letters written to individuals, to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. He writes about himself, and he writes about the recipient. He works to integrate faith with the challenges of life, and he puts his finger on the sore spots, the dangers and deficiencies, as though it is his heart wrestling with theirs. In Scripture, then, we find that we not only come close to the heart of Paul, but also to the heart of God, as God Himself strives to warm and woo our hearts.

And then Paul (and God) helps us take one more step. Paul tells us, in a letter, that we ourselves, whether individually or communally, are a letter of Christ himself, addressed, as it were, to the community around us, that they might know something of the heart of Christ through us. And I wonder, how are we doing at this? Can the heart of Christ, like tear drops on a page, be discerned in our lives? Is his grace and love made clear? Or are we more like a tweet, a post, or a bite. May those rightly related to God through Christ be so moved and motivated by His Spirit that we are actually able to communicate something of His heart and purpose, so that others are drawn, not to the letter, but to the Author.

In the first of eight sermons at Wittenberg (1522), Martin Luther reminds of the basics of the Gospel. Here is the second of four points (the others will be added in future weeks).

**“Secondly, that God has sent us his only-begotten Son that we may believe in him and that whoever trusts in him shall be free from sin and a child of God, as John declares in his first chapter, ‘To all who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God’ (John 1:12). Here we should all be well versed in the Bible and ready to confront the devil with many passages.”**

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 283.

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## **News and Notes**

**Prayer Time:** Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., at the Milford Tim Hortons; Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

**Ladies Bible Study** meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, studying Matthew's Gospel

**Awana meets on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade.**

**Welcome Feedback from our Milford Memories outreach:** *"I was one of the Artists that attended your service during Milford Memories, August 13th. I had been away from my Husband in Florida for 3 months and needed the fellowship that you and your wonderful congregation shared with me. You could really feel the love of The Lord in that place! Thank you all again for the gracious Brunch you shared with us. Sometimes when your away from Home you just need a hug! Got lots of those that Sunday! God Bless each and everyone of you. See you next year."*

The **Scripture Memory Project** is a challenge to the congregation to involve yourself and family members in the practice of memorizing Scripture. We are planning our worship gathering on Sunday, November 19 to share your choice of memorized verses with the congregation, if you would be willing. So start now!

**Please note the church's phone number: 248-717-3564**

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## **Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**

**Last Sunday** we studied the 3 characters of Luke 7:36-50 in a message called "A Dinner to Remember." We were struck by the broken-heartedness of the unnamed woman, by the hardheartedness of the Pharisee, and the gracious forgiveness of Jesus. [Listen to the message here.](#)



**This Sunday**, we find that the presence and ministry of women was an important feature of Jesus' ministry (Luke 8:1-3), as it is in our local churches, and as well in our families and in so many sectors of our society. Join us as we consider this timely and challenging subject.

**Sunday School meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m.** Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message; a class for youth; the children's class is learning key characters in each of the books of the Bible.