



On the Same Page

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17 NAS95)

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.**

My Life Bound Up with His

Sunday, November 12, 2017

We can agree that a baby's life is bound up with that of one's mother's. Yes, there are other helpers or, at times, stand-in's. But the baby is a largely dependent creature, and in most cases, that weight on mom. So much so, that if something threatens the life of the mother, then the life of the baby is also imperiled. And otherwise, good health for the mom should generally redound to good health for the baby.

For the follower of Jesus, we can also say that the life of the disciple is bound up with the life of Christ. What happens to him happens to his followers, in at least a couple of ways.

This has application for our present lives. [Jesus, having been raised from the dead, is ascended to heaven and is at the right hand of the Father, with all enemies placed under his feet.](#) Now not all his (our) enemies have met their final defeat, but the resurrection and ascension show how this is going to go. Therefore, since my life is bound up with his, I need not fear evil. Enemies may not be currently completely vanquished, but they have no enduring power. And even if they are able to bring physical harm or death, my future is secured by the One who lives forevermore.

But spiritually, our lives are bound up with Jesus' life in another way. [Romans 6](#) in particular shows that we are bound to Jesus in his death, so that our relationship with servitude to sin and evil is broken. And if we are bound to Jesus in his death, then we are also bound to him in his resurrection, so much so that we now live new kinds of lives, fueled by faith, lived out in love, helped along by hope, all energized by the Holy Spirit given from heaven.

If archeologists were able to find and conclusively prove that they had uncovered the body of the 1st century Jesus - if they were able to disprove the resurrection which is so clearly attested and substantiated in Scripture, then real Christianity would die. Sinners would have lost their Savior. There would be no deliverance, and no hope. Since archeologists and historians can prove little conclusively, my statement is not so helpful, other than to illustrate how literally this maxim is intended: my life is bound up with his.

Or is it? If we can go from Sunday to Sunday with no thoughts of Jesus in between, is my life really bound up with his? If I face a trial or disappointment, and do not turn to Jesus for direction or help, is my life really bound up with his? Once again, what we say we believe needs to be put into practice.

In the second of eight sermons at Wittenberg (1522), Luther warns against compulsory faith.

“In the things which are “musts” and are matters of necessity, such as believing in Christ, love nevertheless never uses force or undue constraint. ... Why? Because is it not in my power of hand to fashion the hearts of men as the potter molds the clay and fashion them at my pleasure. I can get no farther than their ears; their hearts I cannot reach. And since I cannot pour faith into their hearts, I cannot, nor should I, force any one to have faith. That is God’s work alone, who causes faith to live in the heart. Therefore we should give free course to the Word and not add our works to it.”

Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 286.

News and Notes

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

Our Harvest Dinner and special guest puppet team are joining us this Saturday, November 11, 5 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study meets on this Tuesdays, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, studying Matthew’s Gospel. After today, the group will be on break until the first of the new year.

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

Next Sunday, November 19, Samaritan’s Purse Christmas boxes are due back.

The **Scripture Memory Project** has a “share” date of Sunday, November 19. Sign-up in the lobby if you would like to share your choice of memorized verses with the congregation

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



Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, we observed Lord’s Table and considered Luke 8:16-21. **That which we most tend to ignore or avoid is what we most need to hear.** This truth applies to our health, to our finances, and also to our souls. And so Jesus continues to emphasize with his disciples the need to be receptive and responsive to his Word. [Listen to the message here.](#)

This Sunday, November 12, we study the first of 4 miracles that help to prepare the disciples for mission, in this case, **Jesus’ stilling of the storm (Luke 8:22-25).**

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 working early on the story of Christmas.