



On the Same Page

“For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

(1 Peter 2:25 ESV)

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.**

“Where Are You?”

Sunday, November 26, 2017

I'm blind on the inside of my mouth. My tongue is clumsy and can't see. So when I broke a tooth, and the phone-person was trying to have me do a little self-diagnosis, I wasn't much help. I've heard the hygienist label and describe, but the correspondence is lost on me.

It occurred to me that if I am blind on the inside of my mouth, then I am much more so on the inside of my soul. I am aware of good things, like peace, joy and gratefulness; and also of bad things, like anger, discouragement and bitterness. How these things are related, and where they are rooted, is lost on me.

When the Lord God approached Adam and Eve in the garden, He called out the question, “Where are you?” I do not assume for an instant that God did not know where Adam was. He knew exactly. It was for Adam to figure out the answer. And from the answer he gave, it is clear that Adam was lost in his own mouth, and lost in his own soul.

This might be regarded as the first prayer in the Bible. God calls. Man answers. And, if this is a prototypical prayer from the prototypical man, then our prayers, like Adam's, are marked by stuttering and stumbling. “I...I...I...I.” On the outside, “I heard” and “I hid,” but on the inside, how do I describe it, “I was afraid,” because “I was naked.” I don't know how all these things are related, or where they are rooted, but there's my answer, such as it is.

It seems that a prayer exercise that seeks to answer the question, “Where are you?” would be good for all of us. Not geographically, though the story might start there. But where are you in relation to God? Where are you in relation to God's words, God's commands? This was key for Adam. I suspect that it is for us as well. Where are you in relation to God's provision, as yet unrevealed to Adam, since God had not yet killed in order to provide adequate covering? Adam was afraid and ashamed partly because of the flimsy, foolish covering that he had made for his own condition.

Here are some soul-searching questions: What have I heard from God that I have ignored? How have I hidden myself from His direction and inspection? What am I really afraid of? Of what am I ashamed? In what ways am I involving myself in a man-made cover-up? These are soul issues. And when we try to self-diagnose, we find that we have to go by feel, because we are mostly blind. But thankfully, Jesus is the surgeon of the soul, and he loves, and he presses in on us to push through our silly reasonings and excuses, “that he might bring us to God,” back where we belong.

We have a collection of eight sermons, preached on subsequent days in March, 1522, by Martin Luther, on issues related to Christian conduct and ministry. In this 3rd sermon, Luther warns against making things that God has not commanded compulsory

This is what we must preach and teach, and let the Word alone do the work, as I said before. The Word must first capture the hearts of men and enlighten them; we will not be the ones who will do it. Therefore the apostles magnified their ministry, *ministerium* (Rom 11:33), and not its effect, *executio*."

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings, 2nd edition, edited by Timothy F. Lull. Fortress, 2005, p. 290.

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 will hold its next meeting at the start of 2018.

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

This Sunday, November 26, we will begin distribution of "angels" for families contacted through Community Sharing. Those gifts will be due back December 10

We would like to invite interested people from our church family to join **Milford Baptist's Facebook prayer page** (search 'Milford Prayer') - a user-by-permission forum to post/read church family prayer requests.

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

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, many people presented memorized verses/passages that they learned during our **Scripture Memory Project**. We had families and individuals participate, young and old, single verses and whole chapters. It was a great time - and so thank you to all who invested time and much mental/spiritual energy in this endeavor. Keep it up. You may be called upon again soon.



This Sunday, November 26, we will consider the amazing miracle where Jesus seeks out the man in the tombs in order to deliver him from the "Legion" of demons (Luke 8:26-39). This is the 2nd of 4 miracles that help to prepare the disciples for mission. The first message, **Jesus' stilling of the storm (Luke 8:22-25)**. [Listen to the message here](#)

Upcoming Sundays: The remaining miracles in this series will be taught on **Dec 3 and 10**. On Sunday, **Dec 17**, children will present a Christmas play and songs in our worship gathering. On Sunday, **Dec 24**, we will meet for morning worship at 11, and Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. No Sunday School on Dec 24 or 31.

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, the story of Christmas.

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