



# On the Same Page

“The cords of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. “In my distress I called upon the LORD, Yes, I cried to my God;” (2 Samuel 22:6–7 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.**

## Earth and Heaven be One

Sunday, May 28, 2017

Things don't always go right. At some point, things will most assuredly go wrong. Count on it. It is in these moments that we are most likely to cry out to God. And often, it feels that He is far away.

If you are a person who prays, then you have had the experience of wondering at times if you are merely talking to yourself. The presence of God is not obvious, and you feel as though your prayers are ascending only so far as the ceiling above you. This is not unusual. It is a test of faith. In this moment of need, you question if there is really a God who hears and cares and answers prayer. And then, we affirm that yes, based on the rock-solid promises of God found in His Word, and perhaps from personal experience as well, we believe that God, wherever He is, hears our prayer.

David's "Deliverance Psalm" is found in [2 Samuel 22](#) and again in [Psalm 18](#). I love the early, simple sections about prayer. First, in verse 4, David says, "I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies." It's a statement of fact; not necessarily cause and effect, but a practice (prayer) and performance (God's deliverance, at different times and using different means). It is a statement of confidence.

But then David goes on in vv. 5,6 to describe vividly the trouble he is facing - waves and torrents; cords and snares, threatening death. He comes back to prayer in verse 7, saying, "In my distress, I called upon the Lord. To my God I called." The last half of verse 7 is golden: "From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came to His ears." Yes, your cry makes it all the way from the deepest, darkest corner and flies the distance through the gates of heaven into His holy temple and enters His ear. Prayer conquers the distance.

[The Lord's Prayer](#) admits to the problem of distance: "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." In heaven, everything works. Glory, justice, joy ... Not so here on earth. And yet, we want God to institute His will here on earth, so far from heaven, and we try to practice His will ourselves, often unsuccessfully.

The old hymn "[This Is My Father's World](#)" reminds us that "though the wrong be oft so strong, God is the ruler yet," and "Jesus who died will be satisfied, and **earth and heaven be one.**" One day the gulf between heaven and earth will be collapsed. One day, we will talk to Jesus face to face. Today, we pray, by faith. And we will continue to do so, though many may think we are only talking to ourselves.

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Martin Luther, in the Argument to Lectures on Galatians (1535) - a book of the Bible that he lectured upon no less than six times - once again contrasting active and passive righteousness, the latter received by faith, accomplishing our justification:

**“Thus as long we we live here, both remain. The flesh is accused, exercised, saddened, and crushed by the active righteousness of the Law. But the spirit rules, rejoices, and is saved by passive righteousness, because it knows that it has a Lord sitting in heaven at the right hand of the Father, who has abolished the Law, sin, and death, and has trodden all evils underfoot, has led them captive and triumphed over them in Himself (Col. 2:15).”**

Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 22.

Written late in his ministry, 1535, and found in LW 26:3-11

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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

We are promoting our **summer week of camp at Lake Ann**. We are trying to settle on a camp week that works for most people, and time is of the essence. Please inform Deb Furline or Pastor Steve what weeks work for your young people. Please consider sponsoring a camper.

**A bi-weekly series on Marriage Communication meets every other Tuesday.** It is for marriage couples of any age or experience. **Start time is 6:15 at the church, and the study concludes at 7:30 p.m. Next meeting, this Tuesday, May 30**

**American House service, Sunday, June 4, 3 p.m.**

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



**This Sunday, May 28, in our study of Luke’s Gospel (Luke 6:12-19),** we are introduced to the 12 Apostles, and find that Jesus engages in a pattern of seeking solitude and prayer in order that he can invest himself in the important task of training a few as opposed to answering to the pressure of the constant crowds.

**Last Sunday, May 21,** we saw Jesus ministering, and being questioned and opposed by the Pharisees regarding Sabbath activities (Luke 6:1-11). In one case, we hear Jesus make an amazing analogy from David’s experience as God’s anointed; and in the other, we watch as Jesus boldly makes his life-saving point in the face of those who object. [Listen to the message here.](#)

**Potluck Breakfast this Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday School classes meet next Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m.** Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message; the youth are tackling a series on Biblical answers to tough questions; the children’s class is learning the Lord’s Prayer.