



# On the Same Page

“But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”” (James 2:18 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.**

## Faith and Faithfulness

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Everybody believes in something. Actually, in a lot of things. We may not know what those things are, but it shows. Your beliefs leak out in behavior. In religion, we would say that your faith is shown by the shape of your faithfulness.

We can't see faith. While faith is confidence is something that cannot be seen, faith also is invisible to others. You can tell me about your faith, but I can't tell if it is really your life doctrine, or merely a pretended dream. But what I can see is your faithfulness. And often, our faithfulnesses come across as faith(less)nesses, denying what we say we believe.

For instance, when I say that I believe in God who is Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and that He is intimately involved in the affairs of my life, even to the point of allowing/designing trials that are intended to strengthen my faith - and then, I'm hit with something unpleasant, and I moan and complain and get mad - well, my faith(less)ness has denied whatever I might have professed about my faith. I really believe something else, such as, if there is a god at all, he certainly owes me a pleasant and easy life; that he exists to serve me.

So faithfulness, properly expressed, can be a beautiful thing. But think also about this: faithfulness is not static. Think of a young child, learning to form words and explore. Yes, she wears a diaper which needs to be changed often, but she is being faithful to her nature, given her age and gifts. And we are delighted. But if that child reaches the age of 10 and still wears a diaper, we are dismayed. She no longer is faithful to what should be. So it is with Christians. We come to faith, and there is an infant-faithfulness that arises, including things like worship and fellowship. But along with the expectation of spiritual maturity comes the need for a more mature faithfulness, including the practices of service and sacrifice. Your faithfulness must grow.

Your faithfulness and mine will look different, even given similar beliefs. Your life situation, ordered by God, is different from mine; also your gifts and responsibilities. For some, it is gaining victory over public sins and picking up the fight against those not so obvious. It may be new service that pushes you to love deeply and give freely. It may be a trial that stretches the limits of endurance. But in all these situations, and more, your faith, if it is real, will show itself in faithfulness. And a lack of faithfulness is a denial of faith. Because, “faith without works is dead.”

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Martin Luther, “The Bondage of the Will” (1525). Luther writes of two Kingdoms: one in which Satan reigns; and one in which Christ reigns. He views our salvation as being completely in the hands of the one to whose kingdom we belong. There is great comfort in that.

**“But now, since God has taken my salvation out of my hands into his, making it depend on his choice and not mine, and has promised to save me, not by my own work or exertion but by his grace and mercy, I am assured and certain both that he is faithful and will not lie to me, and also that he is too great and powerful for any demons or any adversities to be able to break him or to snatch me from him.”**

Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 193.

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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  
**September is Here!**

- **Men of Action breakfast and meeting**, this Saturday, Sept 9, 7:30 a.m.
- **Sunday School kickoff is this Sunday, September 10, 9:30 a.m.**, as we seek to teach more children, gather and influence our youth, and grow the fellowship and knowledge of our adults. **Plan to join us.**
- **Ladies Bible Study begins this Tuesday, September 12, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, studying Matthew’s Gospel**
- **Awana begins Wednesday, September 13.** This year we are adding “Trek,” - Awana designed for Middle Schoolers. Please see John Dickey about how you can help.

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

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

**Last Sunday**, in preparation for Lord’s Table, our September “dare prayer” was introduced, challenging us to ask God daily for wisdom (cf [James 1:5-8](#)). Listen to [the message here](#).

**This Sunday, September 10**, we return to our study of **Luke’s Gospel**, and see **the miracle of faith** in the healing of the centurion’s servant (Luke 7:1-10)

**Sunday School meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m.** Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message (this week, faith that makes a difference); a class for youth; the children’s class is reviewing books of the Bible, and key characters found in each (9/10, Ruth).

**We are looking forward to an ordinance service Sunday October 1, in which we will observe both Lord’s Table and Believer’s Baptism.**