



On the Same Page

“Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and, “God has visited His people!”” (Luke 7:16 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.**

When God Pays a Visit

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Just about every time a natural disaster happens, someone will attribute it to being a judgment of God. That “someone” will probably seem to know exactly who God is seeking to punish, and exactly what they ought to be punished for. I’m not so sure.

Visits can be good, or bad, depending on the state of our preparation for the visitor, and the disposition of the visitor. If the visitor is angry because he has to come and clean up our mess, then we may dread the visit. But if we have been earnestly preparing for the visitor, and have lived and prepared with his interests in mind rather than living purely for our own interests - then we greet that visitation with joyous expectation.

So I believe that God “visits” His people and this world in various ways. Scripture speaks poetically of God being in the storm or in the whirlwind. Scripture also speaks of illnesses being allowed by God, or being from God, in order to get one’s attention. These “visitations” should also include, then, the surprising blessings that occur - periods of prosperity; instances of beauty; gracious providences that, too many times, we attribute to good luck, or good living, or human ingenuity.

In our study of Luke’s Gospel, we read of the key visitation of God, Jesus’ earthly ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection. In this week’s miracle account - [the raising of the widow’s son](#) - people conclude that “God has visited His people.” And He has, and He did, when Jesus, God’s Son, came to do what no one else could do, whether it be to still the storm, or to heal diseases, cast out demons, to firmly and finally forgive sin, - or even to raise the dead.

In the lengthy introduction to Luke’s Gospel, there are two references to this visitation. Zecharias, at the birth of his son, John the Baptist, says “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant —” (Luke 1:68–69 NAS95), referring not to John, but to Jesus. This visit means that we can be, not a *rejected* people, but a *redeemed* people. And later in that same speech, he says “To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,” (Luke 1:77–78 NAS95). Here we find that, when God visits, by faith in Him and in His Son, we can experience His visit not as *the heat* of judgment but as *the warmth* of Fatherly mercy.

Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520). This may be one of Luther's most important essays, addressed directly to Pope Leo, laying out the freedom that follows one's faith, which then makes a way for a freedom to serve. To miss the truth about faith's freedom turns service into a slavery designed to purchase God's favor - something to which we could never attain.

"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.

A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 393.

News and Notes

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

W. Hickory Haven service, this Tuesday, Sept 19, 10:15 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study begins this Tuesday, September 12, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, studying Matthew's Gospel

Awana has kicked off on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade. This year we have added "Trek," - Awana designed for Middle Schoolers.

Looking Ahead: Kensington Chili and Hayride, Sunday, October 15, 5 p.m.

The **Scripture Memory Project** has been presented as a challenge to the congregation to involve yourself and family members in the practice of memorizing Scripture, whether it be a group of verses, a passage, or a chapter. We are planning our worship gathering on Sunday, November 19 to be an opportunity for many to share their 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

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, September 10, we returned to our study of **Luke's Gospel**, and saw **the miracle of faith** in the healing of the centurion's servant (Luke 7:1-10). [Listen to the message here.](#)



This Sunday, September 17, we study one of the 3 resurrections Jesus performs, the widow's son, found only in Luke, 7:11-17.

Sunday School meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m. Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message (this week, powerful prophets); a class for youth; the children's class is reviewing books of the Bible, and key characters found in each (9/17, 1 Samuel).

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