



# Northland Reformed

*Monthly*

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## **God's Care for His People**

I do not normally get many visitors at the church, at least during the week. However, in the month of May, I had visitors at the church every day. These visitors made themselves right at home, even “moving in” and staying overnight. At this point you are probably wondering who these visitors were that would be so bold, not only to visit the church, but to make it their home!

The visitors I am referring to were not human, but birds. A mother bird had built her nest in one of the small, decorative trees outside the front door of the church, and soon the nest contained four bright blue eggs. Each morning, when I would arrive at the church, I would be greeted by a protective mother, who was concerned that I would somehow harm her chicks. And each evening, when I left, the mother would eye me until she was sure I was really going to go. After the eggs hatched, I would often see her approaching the nest with a beak full of worms for her young hatchlings. Then, one day, the nest was empty. The baby birds, now grown strong enough, had departed to do what they were created to do, fly.

As I witnessed this process unfold, I could not help but be reminded of how the Bible uses the imagery of birds to describe God's care for His people. This heavenly care includes God's providing hand to us, God's guiding hand upon us, and God's protective hand over us. Truly, this is a care that ought to cause all of us who are in Christ Jesus to live with great comfort.

First, the Bible teaches us that God provides all that is necessary for His people. “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Matthew 6:26). If God feeds the birds of the air, how much more will He feed us, who are created in His image? Not only does God provide for us physically, but more importantly, He provides all the spiritual nourishment we need by His word, for as



Peter instructs us, we must “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2).

Second, the Bible teaches us that God guides His people. In Deuteronomy 32:11-12, Moses speaks of God leading His people “as an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, so the Lord alone led him, and there was no foreign god with him.” God guides us by His word and Spirit in all that we do. He is the God who “goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31:8).



Third, the Bible teaches us that God protects His people, for “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge” (Psalm 91:4). Jesus, who came to be the refuge for sinners, proclaimed this truth to a rebellious people when he said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” (Matthew 23:37).



But why does God do this for us, a sinful people? Jesus answers that question, in Matthew 10:29-31, with these words, “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” The answer, then, is that God cares for us, as sinful as we are, because we belong to Him, and God places great value on those who are His. And His care for us is so that we might grow and live according to our new nature, to glorify Him by becoming more like Christ. Just as a mother bird desires to see her chicks grow and do what they are created to do, take flight, so God desires to see us mature in the faith and do what we were created to do, worship Him.

Like the mother bird who visited the church watched over her chicks, so also God cares for His children. He provides all that we need for life on earth and for life in eternity, He guides us by His Fatherly hand, and He protects us, for He is our “refuge and strength” (Psalm 46:1). However, unlike a mother bird, who, once her chicks have left the nest, no longer directly cares for them, God continues to do all of these things for His people.

Rev. Christopher Campbell

## Congregational News



### Synod 2019

Synod was held at our church May 20-23. It was truly blessing to fellowship with so many from congregations all across the United States. Thank you to all who volunteered to help during this time, we could not have done it without you!

### Congratulations to Our Graduates

Jake Fisher (oldest son of Matt and Tracy Fisher) and Luke Termorshuizen (youngest son of Ernie and Melanie Termorzhuizen) both graduated from Smithville High School this month. Jake will be attending Northwest Missouri State and joining the football team as a Bearcat. Luke has been accepted into the United States Naval Academy to train to serve as an officer in the US Navy. Please pray for these two young men, that they will both do well and shine the light of Christ wherever they go.



### Introducing Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Courtney Termorshuizen



On May 31, Sam and Courtney were joined together in marriage in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at the Farms at Woodend Springs in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Congratulations to them and to their families. May our God richly bless them and their marriage in the future.

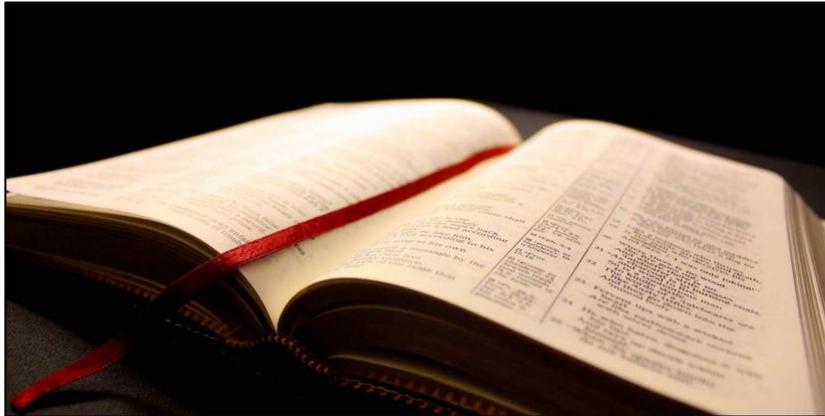
## Looking Ahead to June

### REGULAR MEETINGS

- Sunday Worship | June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 9:30AM & 5:00PM
- Men's Morning Fellowship @ Cracker Barrell Tiffany Springs | June 1, 15, 29 | 7:00AM
- Prayer Meeting | June 19 | 7PM

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Father's Day | June 16 | God has provided us fathers so that the next generation of believers might be trained up in the faith. Therefore, let us remember and honor the godly men who go before us, for they are those who are called to bring us "up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4b).



### Scripture Memorization

“Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.” – Psalm 119:11

June 2	Psalm 139:11-12
June 9	Psalm 139:13-14
June 16	Psalm 139:15-16
June 23	Psalm 139:17-18
June 30	Psalm 139:23-24