

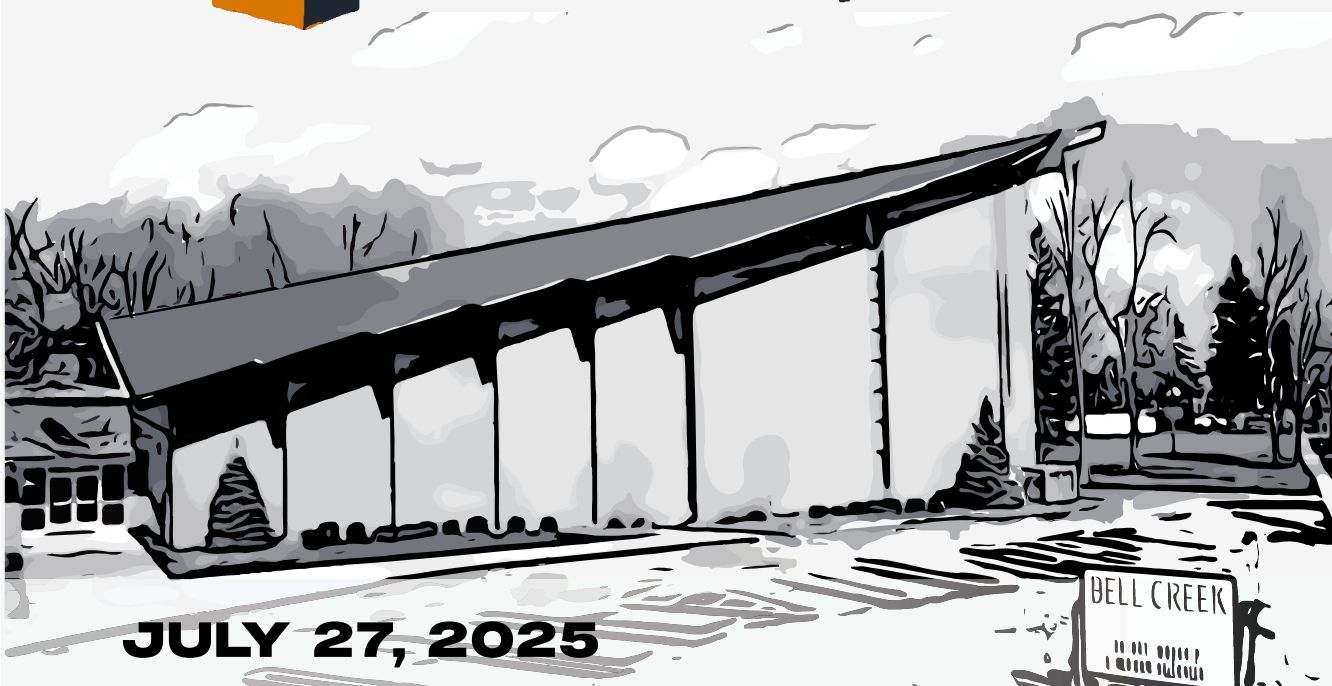
WELCOME TO



# BELL CREEK

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## Community Church



**JULY 27, 2025**

**SEE WHAT KIND OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS  
GIVEN TO US**

1 JOHN 3:1-10

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

# **SEE WHAT KIND OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS GIVEN TO US**

1 JOHN 3:1–10

**We Are Children of God**

**Jesus Appeared to Take Away Sins**

**Jesus Appeared to Destroy the Works of the Devil**

**Who We Are is Evident**

## **FOR NEXT WEEK**

For Next Week, read the book of 1 John again! You can do it! It will only take you 15 minutes or less!

## **DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING**

JULY 27: ISAIAH 44-48  
JULY 28: 2 KINGS 18:9-19:37; PSALM 46, 80 & 135  
JULY 29: ISAIAH 49-53  
JULY 30: ISAIAH 54-58  
JULY 31: ISAIAH 59-63  
AUGUST 1: ISAIAH 64-66  
AUGUST 2: 2 KINGS 20-21

# UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

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## **KIDS' CREEK MIDWEEK MEET UPS**

Our next Kids' Creek Midweek Meet Up will be on Wednesday, July 30 from 6:30-7:30 PM. Kids will get to enjoy bible stories, activities, worship and games together! No sign up is needed this year, unless you want to stay and volunteer, a background check is required for all volunteers working with our children. Any questions or to volunteer, please reach out to [elyse@bellcreek.org](mailto:elyse@bellcreek.org) or [rachel@bellcreek.org](mailto:rachel@bellcreek.org).

## **BELL CREEK COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY**

The Bell Creek Community Block Party will be on Saturday, August 9 from 1:00-4:00 PM in Bell Creek's parking lot! Music, food, and other fun activities are being planned; it will be a lot of fun! For this event to be successful, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS willing to serve the day of the event. If you are available, please contact Annie Whalen (248-225-8754 or [catherine.a.whalen@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.a.whalen@gmail.com)).

## **BYE-BYE BIG BANG CLASS**

Join Bill Durkee on Sunday, August 10 for a seminar called "Bye-Bye Big Bang: The James Webb Telescope" during both services in the Prayer Room.

## **AWANA REGISTRATION**

Registration for Awana 2025-2026 is now open! Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 5 and will meet weekly from 6:30-7:45 PM. If your child would like to join, please visit [www.bellcreek.org](http://www.bellcreek.org) for more information.

## **AWANA VOLUNTEER MEETING**

Awana will be having a meeting for all volunteers as well as anyone who might be possibly interested in helping in Awana on Sunday, August 10th at 12:45 PM in the Student Room. If you are interested to learn what opportunities and needs there are in Awana for serving, you are welcome to join this meeting as well. We will spend the first 15 minutes talking to prospective volunteers, then we will train all the volunteers on the new procedures and new record keeping. We encourage everyone to attend. If you have questions, please contact Gretchen Schick ([awana@bellcreek.org](mailto:awana@bellcreek.org) or 734-751-0006).

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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## **PRAYER MEETINGS**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

## **PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

## **AWANA**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

## **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES  
AND EVENTS AT [BELLCREEK.ORG](http://BELLCREEK.ORG)

# OUR MISSION

## **MATTHEW 22:37–40**

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

## **MATTHEW 28:19–20**

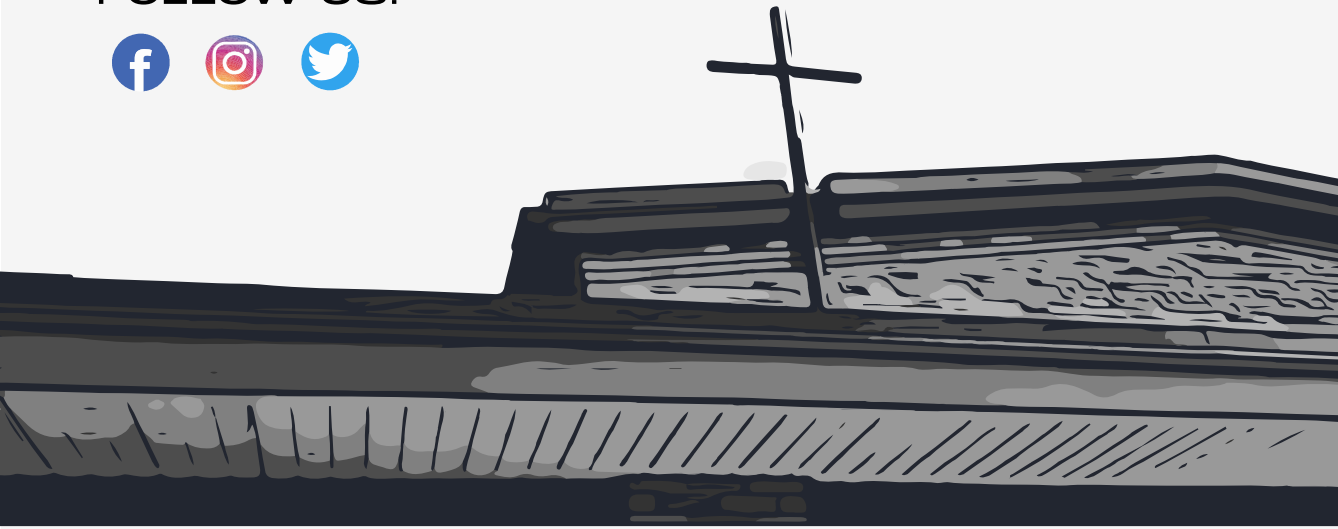
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

# STAY CONNECTED

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!**

[WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US](http://WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US)

FOLLOW US!



**BELL CREEK**  
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.  
LIVONIA, MI 48154

## Sunday Sermon 07.27.2025

Sermon Title: See What Kind of Love the Father has Given to Us

### We Are Children of God

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” (1 John 3:1, ESV)

What the People of God Used to Be (From Ephesians Chapter 2)

Dead in trespasses and sins (v.1), Following the course of this world (v.2), Following the prince of the power of the air (Satan) (v.2), Living in the passions of our flesh (v.3), Carrying out the desires of the body and mind (v.3), Children of wrath, like the rest of mankind (v.3), Separated from Christ (v.12), Strangers to the covenants of promise (v.12), Having no hope (v.12), Without God in the world (v.12)

What the People of God Became in Christ (From Ephesians 2)

Made alive together with Christ (v.5), Raised up with Him (v.6), Seated with Him in the heavenly places (v.6), Saved by grace through faith (v.8), God’s workmanship (v.10), Created in Christ Jesus for good works (v.10), Brought near by the blood of Christ (v.13), Made one (with other believers) (v.14), Reconciled to God in one body through the cross (v.16), Given access in one Spirit to the Father (v.18), Fellow citizens with the saints (v.19), Members of the household of God (v.19)

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,” (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

We, the people of God, are no longer enemies of God; We’re not strangers coming to His door - and we’re certainly not ill-treated slaves or menial servants in His house. No, we are children in the household of God. He is our Father who is an overflowing fountain of love toward us. We are welcomed by the Son who died and rose again to bring us home, and we are assured of our welcome and given the joy of it by the Holy Spirit who is with us and in us.

This household, the household of God, has a sure foundation and it is never going away because it is:

Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (v.20), Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone (v.20), Being joined together into a holy temple in the Lord (v.21), Being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit (v.22)

Example of Sarah Forbes Bonetta (1843 – August 15, 1880)

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” (1 John 3:2–3, ESV)

## Jesus Appeared to Take Away Sins

“Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.” (1 John 3:4–5, ESV)

“No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.” (1 John 3:6, ESV)

It is important to remember that in 1 John, the way John talks about practicing sin, and walking in darkness, suggests a distinction between:

1. Ongoing, willful, unrepentant sin (characteristics of one who is not a believer in Jesus).
2. A believer’s struggle with sin (marked by conviction, confession, repentance, and walking in the light).

“Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.” (1 John 3:7, ESV)

## Jesus Appeared to Destroy the Works of the Devil

“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8, ESV)

The Works of the Devil that Jesus Came to Destroy:

Sin and Lawlessness

“But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” (Hebrews 9:26, ESV)

Jesus came to destroy sin’s power and penalty, which is the devil’s chief work in leading humanity into rebellion against God.

Lies and Deception

"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." — John 8:44

"Then Pilate said to him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.'" — John 18:37

Jesus came to destroy deception by revealing and embodying the truth of God.

Accusation and Condemnation

"And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.'" — Revelation 12:10

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."— Romans 8:1

Through His atoning work, Jesus silences Satan's accusations and removes condemnation for those who are in Him.

#### The Fear of Death and Its Power

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."— Hebrews 2:14–15

By dying and rising again, Jesus broke the devil's hold through death and freed His people from slavery to fear.

#### Hatred and Murder

"Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."— 1 John 3:15

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."— 1 John 3:16

Satan is the origin of hate and murder; Christ came to bring love and self-sacrifice, in direct contrast.

#### Separation from God

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God..."— 1 Peter 3:18

Jesus came to undo the alienation caused by the devil and reconcile sinners to God.

Therefore, the works of the devil are: Sin, Lies, Accusations, Death, Hatred, and Separation from God

Jesus came not only to oppose these things but to destroy them by His life, death, resurrection, and Kingly reign.

But Jesus isn't content to just remove the Enemy's works. Jesus also heals and renews what has been destroyed.

1. He Heals the Human Heart (from Sin and Guilt)
2. He Heals us from Enslavement and Oppression of sin and the Enemy.
3. He Heals ours Minds (from Lies and Deception)
4. He will Heal our physical Bodies.
5. He is Reclaiming Creation from the Curse and Futility of sin.

6. He will bring about a New Creation.

7. He will Banish all Evil and Restore Peace

## Who We Are is Evident

“No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.” (1 John 3:9, ESV)

This isn’t moral perfectionism, but a transformation of our nature. The destruction of the devil’s works occurs in the believer as:

The power of sin is broken (Rom. 6:6–14)

A new nature is implanted (Ezek. 36:26; 2 Cor. 5:17)

The Spirit indwells us and testifies to us of our new identity (Rom. 8:15–16)

“By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” (1 John 3:10, ESV)

Children of God: Those who are born of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and bear His character, which is displayed through love, righteousness, and obedience.

The Children of God:

Walk in the Light: 1 John 1:7 - “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Admit they are sinners: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8, ESV)

Confess their sins to God: 1 John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Keep God’s Word: 1 John 2:3–5 - “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.”

Abide in Christ: 1 John 2:6 - “Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

Love their brothers and sisters in Christ: 1 John 2:9–11 - “Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness...”

Do not love the world: 1 John 2:15–17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him... And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”



Live in the Gospel of Jesus: 1 John 2:24 - "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father."

Practice righteousness: 1 John 2:29 - "If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him."

Hope in the return of Christ: 1 John 3:3 - "And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

Abide in Christ: 1 John 3:6 - "No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him."

Do not make a practice of sinning: 1 John 3:9 - "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God."

Children of the devil: marked by rebellion against God's truth and reflect the devil's character through their actions, beliefs, and affections.

The Children of the Devil:

Walk in darkness and lie about fellowship with God: 1 John 1:6 - "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."

Deny their sinfulness and deceive themselves: 1 John 1:8 - "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Disobey God's commandments: 1 John 2:4 - "Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

Hate their brothers and sisters in Christ: 1 John 2:9, 11; 3:10, 15; 4:20 - They harbor hatred and lack love, revealing they are still in darkness.

Love the world and its desires: 1 John 2:15-17 - "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Separate from true believers and the church: 1 John 2:19 - "They went out from us, but they were not of us..."

Make a practice of sinning and lawlessness: 1 John 3:4, 8 - Ongoing sin characterizes their life; "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil."

Do not abide in Christ: 1 John 3:6 - "No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him."

Reject the truth about Jesus Christ: 1 John 4:3; 5:10, 12 - They deny that Jesus has come in the flesh, reject God's testimony, and therefore do not have eternal life.

They are influenced and controlled by the evil one: 1 John 3:12; 5:19 - They follow the pattern of Cain and lie under the sway of the devil.

## WHO ARE YOU?

Do you know God as your Father? – If not, come to Jesus, who loves you and died to save you and bring you home to the Father.

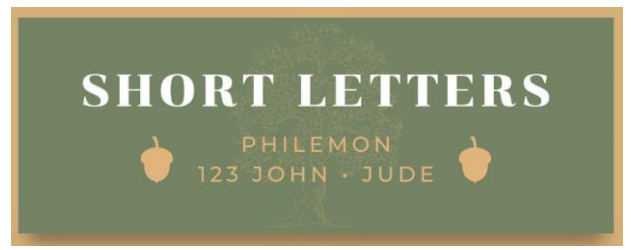
Are you a wandering child? – Come to Jesus. He loves you. Tell Him you have wandered away from Him and you are sorry. Ask Him to lead you home and He will.

Are you a fearful child? – Come to Jesus. He loves you. Tell Him of your fears. Pour out your heart to Him. Only His enemies need to be mortally afraid of Him. He will take away your fears.

Rejoice that you are a child of God! If you trust in Jesus, who loves you, then you are not a child of the Enemy, or a stranger, or a nameless slave, but a forgiven, beloved child of God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

## BENEDICTION

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” (Jude 24–25, ESV)



## See What Kind of Love the Father has Given to Us

1. What did you think of the sermon "See What Kind of Love the Father has Given to Us"?

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2. What does it mean to you to be called a child of God? Do you feel confidence and security from this identity? Why or why not?

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3. How does the promise of your future transformation in Christ shape your choices today?

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4. Consider your current spiritual walk: Where are you abiding in Christ, and where are you resisting? What sin, habit, or mindset do you sense God is inviting you to confront honestly?

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5. How do you practice righteousness and love in your life? In what ways can you better reflect your identity as a child of God this week?

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