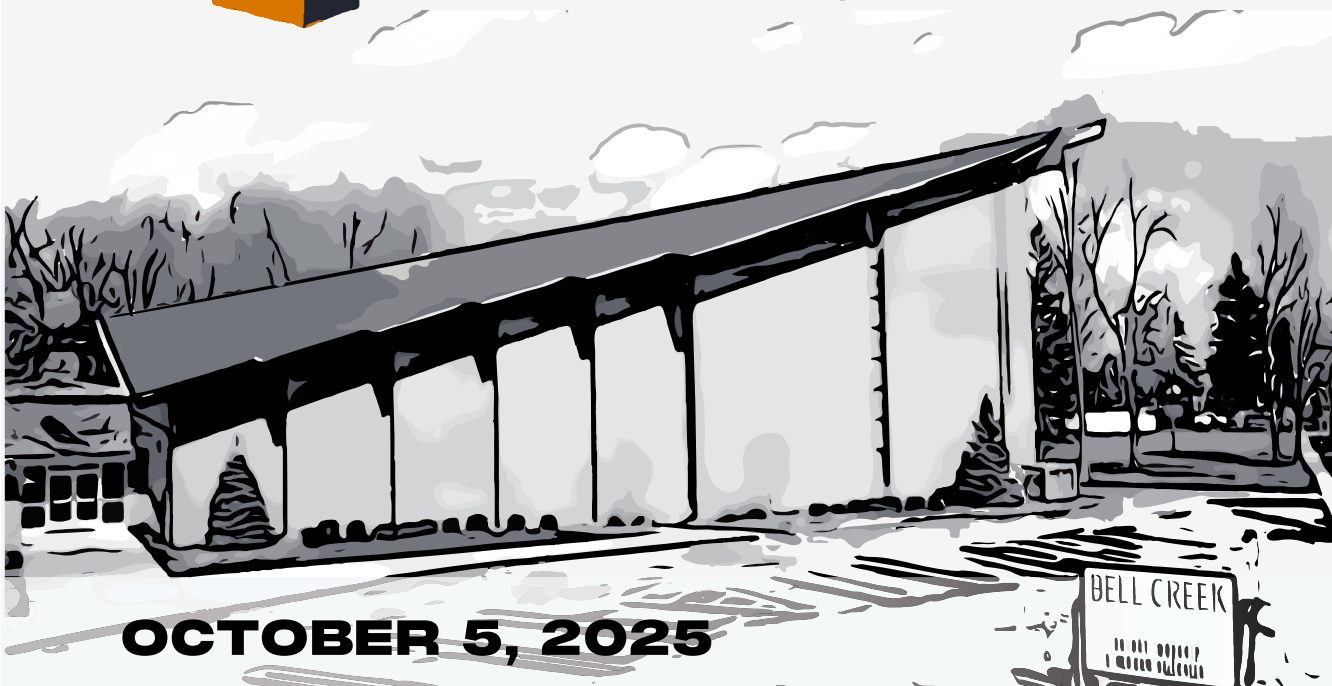


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



OCTOBER 5, 2025

HE WILL BE WITH US FOREVER

2 JOHN 1-4

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

HE WILL BE WITH US FOREVER

2 JOHN 1-4

The Truth That Abides in Us

Grace, Mercy, and Peace

Walking in the Truth

FOR NEXT WEEK

For Next Week read the letter of 2 John. It's only 13 verses!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

OCTOBER 5: MATTHEW 4; LUKE 4-5;
JOHN 1:15-51

OCTOBER 6: JOHN 2-4

OCTOBER 7: MATTHEW 8-9; MARK 2

OCTOBER 8: JOHN 5

OCTOBER 9: MATTHEW 12:1-21; MARK 3; LUKE 6

OCTOBER 10: MATTHEW 5-7

OCTOBER 11: MATTHEW 8:1-13; LUKE 7

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

WOMEN'S TESTIMONY NIGHT

All women are invited to hear the testimonies of two of our sisters in Christ--Amanda Rice and Elyse Quint--tonight, October 5, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served. If you need childcare to attend, please contact Annie Whalen at 248-225-8754.

AS THEY GO PRAYER MEETING

Join us as we pray for our adult children on Saturday, October 11 at 9:00 AM in the Prayer Room. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelly Salter (ksalter1122@gmail.com).

MOMCO RUMMAGE SALE

MomCo's semi-annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Presale for Bell Creek attenders only (please do not invite others to the presale) will be on Friday, October 10 from 6:00-7:00 PM. For questions, contact mops@bellcreek.org. Donations drop off will be on the following days: **October 8** from 6:00-8:00 PM; **October 9** from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM & 4:00-8:00 PM; **October 10** from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM.

BETWEEN TWO TREES BOOK STUDY

Our Between Two Trees study will meet Sunday, October 12 at 9:15 AM in the Prayer Room to discuss *The Silver Chair* by C.S. Lewis. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

ETHICS SEMINAR

Have you ever wondered what the Bible has to say about tough issues like war, abortion, sexuality, politics, and more? Are you interested in learning how to apply Scripture to our daily lives and think biblically about tough issues? Ethics touches on every aspect of our lives, and it is essential that we as Christians learn how to apply Scripture to today's world. Join Pastor Dylan for our Ethics seminar during the 11:00 AM service on Sunday, October 12, to learn more!

FALL FEST

Our annual Fall Fest will be on Sunday, October 19 from 2:00-4:30 PM. We will have our chili cook off, games, face painters, bounce houses, and trunks with treats. If you are interesting in serving please visit www.bellcreek.org to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Adam (adam@bellcreek.org) or Gretchen Schick (gretchenschick@hotmail.com).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

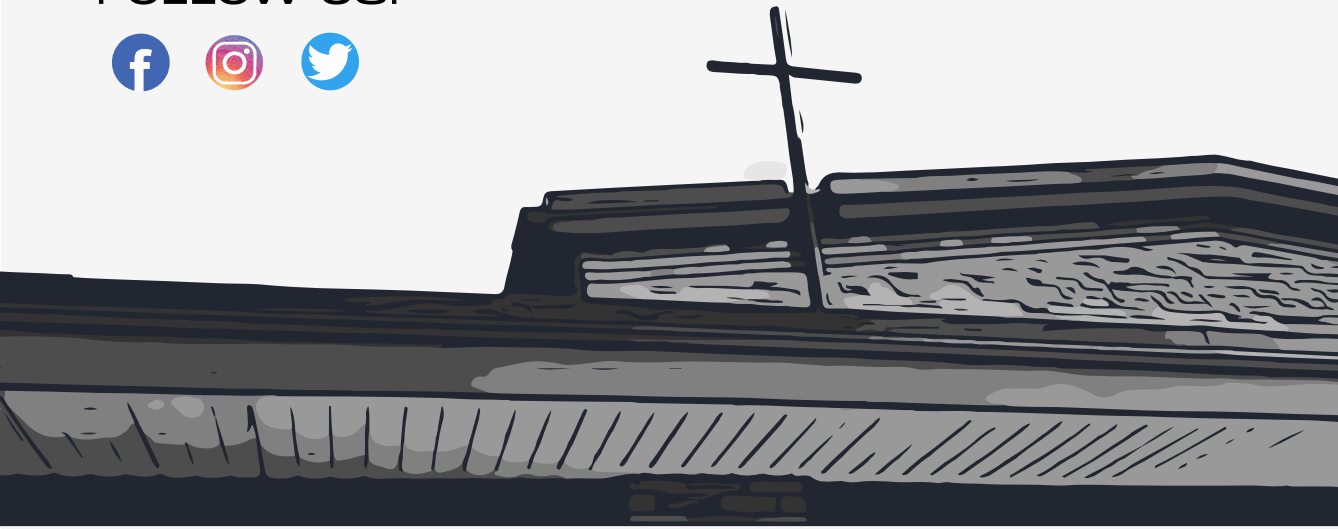
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon 10.02.2025

Sermon Text: 2 John 14

Sermon Title: He Will Be With Us Forever

SCRIPTURE READING

““And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12–13, ESV)

Introduction to 2 John

The letter of 2 John is addressed to a woman who is hosting a house church near the city of Ephesus. The churches in this area are being guided by the Apostle John. John is greatly encouraged by this woman’s devotion to God, and that her “children” (which could be biological children or people she has led to Christ) are also “walking in the truth.” The Book of 1 John addressed all the churches in this region and the challenges they faced, but this letter focuses on a specific person and a particular house church. We will see that John provides advice on whom to show Christian hospitality to and whom we should not invite into our homes.

The Truth that Abides in Us

“The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:” (2 John 1–2, ESV)

In the Book of 1 John, John uses the word “abide” 23 times! Remember, “abide” means, “To remain, continue, dwell, or stay in a fixed state or relationship.” Here are some examples of how he uses “abide” in 1 John:

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

1 John 2:10 — “Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.”

1 John 2:14 — “...the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”

1 John 2:17 — “...the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

1 John 2:24 — “Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you...” (twice in this verse)

1 John 2:27 — “...his anointing abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you...”

1 John 2:28 — “...abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence...”

So, truth, which is the truth about Jesus, abides in these people, but John is speaking about more than just true propositions that abide in a believer in Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself abides in us, the Word of God abides in us, the Holy Spirit abides in us.

Grace, Mercy, and Peace

“Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love.” (2 John 3, ESV)

Let’s not just skip over this greeting! These are powerful words. Look at other occurrences of “Grace, Mercy, Peace” in the NT

Paul’s Pastoral Letters:

1 Timothy 1:2 — “To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2 Timothy 1:2 — “To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Titus 1:4 — “To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.”

Paul includes mercy when writing to a young and sometimes struggling Timothy, highlighting God’s compassion for His servants.

The Pattern in the Greetings

Grace (χάρις / charis): God’s undeserved favor given to sinners.

Mercy (ἔλεος / eleos): God’s compassion toward our misery.

Peace (εἰρήνη / eirēnē): the wholeness that results when grace and mercy are applied.

When you are hurting, you may feel alone, forgotten, unworthy, or broken. But John assures us that grace, mercy, and peace will be with us. Not “might be with us,” not “they’ll be with you if you’re strong enough,” but will be with us. God meets our failures with grace, with mercy to comfort us in our weakness, and with peace to steady our souls. Jesus has secured these gifts for His people, and suffering cannot take them away; in fact, it is often in the midst of suffering that we experience their sweetness most deeply.

The Flow of the Gospel in This Trio

Grace is God’s attitude toward the guilty.

Mercy is God’s attitude toward the hurting.

Peace is the wholeness and well-being that flows from reconciliation with God through Christ, producing rest in the soul and harmony with others through His grace and mercy.

This is Good News for those who are hurting!

Jesus has secured these gifts for His people, and suffering cannot take them away; in fact, it is often in the midst of suffering that we experience their sweetness most deeply.

Question: Whatever you are going through today, will you keep bearing your own burden, or will you bring it to Jesus, who has secured grace, mercy, and peace for you forever?"

Walking in the Truth

"I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father." (2 John 4, ESV)

What is "walking in the truth?" Walking in the truth means living all of life in God's revealed reality. It means trusting in Christ as the only Savior who fully addresses sin. It means embracing His design for creation, relationships, community, work, everything.

God's Truth vs. Other Religions

Judaism and Islam: Both see sin as an offense against a holy God, yet they offer no final, once-for-all atonement. Repentance, prayer, and works are prescribed, but the burden of guilt remains.

Eastern religions (Hinduism, Buddhism): Redefine sin as karma, ignorance, or desire, but the cure always rests on human effort, rituals, meditation, self-discipline, or reincarnation. The weight of salvation is placed on the sinner's own shoulders.

Christ alone proclaims sin as both rebellion and corruption, infinitely serious because it is against the infinite, holy God. No human effort can erase it.

Christ alone provides the perfect remedy for sin because He is a Savior who is fully man, to stand in our place, and fully God, to bear the infinite weight of God's justice and offer infinite grace. His cross and resurrection accomplish what no other religion can: certain forgiveness and eternal life.

God's Truth for All of Life

God's Truth in Creation: God spoke the universe into being with purpose, filling every life with meaning, dignity, and wonder.

God's Truth in Human Sexuality & Marriage: A lifelong covenant between man and woman, designed to reflect Christ's faithful love for His bride.

God's Truth about Children: Precious gifts from the Lord, entrusted to our care to be nurtured in joy, truth, and hope.

God's Truth about Work & Money: Holy callings from God — work as worship, and money as a tool to serve, not a master to enslave.

God's Truth about Community: God made us to belong, to walk together in fellowship under His rule, not in isolation or suspicion.

God's Truth about Love of God & Neighbor: The two great commands that anchor life — whole-hearted devotion to God and self-giving love for others.

God's Truth about Our Stewardship of Creation: We are gardeners of God's world, entrusted to cultivate and protect it for His glory and our good.

C.S. Lewis Quote

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else. I do not mean that one can prove Christianity by the same kind of argument which we use in the natural sciences: I mean that the whole of reality, the world and myself, can be understood only if there is a God, and only if that God has revealed Himself in Christ. To those who object that such a faith is not rational, I reply that it is at least as rational as the belief in the external world or in other minds, things we all must assume in order to live."

What are the Consequences of Deviating from God's Truth?

Denying God as Creator drains life of purpose and leaves us chasing emptiness.

Twisting God's design for sexuality and marriage tears apart hearts, families, and society itself.

Neglecting children plants seeds of despair that grow into generational ruin.

Despising honest work and ignoring God's wisdom about money lead to shame, poverty, and loss of dignity.

Idolizing work and wealth turns us into slaves of greed, driven by fear and anxiety.

Forsaking community fractures trust, isolates hearts, and leaves us lonely and suspicious.

Turning from love of God and neighbor breeds hatred, violence, and soul-destroying idolatry.

Abusing God's creation scars the earth, squanders its gifts, and sickens those who depend on it.³

Walking in the Truth Today

Rejecting Jesus as the only Savior is to reject the love of God, and to reject forgiveness, and a relationship with God. It is to reject eternal life, because the Scriptures say, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

To walk in the truth means:

Living in God's revealed reality rather than human illusions, ordering every part of life by His design, and recognizing the depth of our sin while embracing the only sufficient Savior. Other religions may glimpse fragments of the problem, but only Christianity tells the whole story: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Jesus is the only Savior, fully God and fully man, who alone secures forgiveness and renewal.

APPLICATION

Walking in the truth is not optional; it's essential. It means you don't just admire Christianity as a worldview or nod to Jesus as a good moral teacher - you entrust your whole life to Him as Savior

and Lord. To walk in the truth is to let God's reality shape how you see the world, how you endure suffering, how you love your family, how you handle work and money, and how you face eternity. Anything less is to walk in illusion, but in Christ, there is life, certainty, and hope that no counterfeit can offer.

We are all "walking" according to something. We all follow a tune. It might be a tune we inherit from our parents or our culture. We even learn how to improvise and create our own music.

But here's the question: Will we follow the pied pipers of this world that only lead to emptiness, or will we walk in the beautiful, powerful song sung by Jesus Christ, the true Son of God, who alone gives love, forgiveness, and immortality?

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)