

FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER

*First Covenant Church
Virginia, Minnesota
741-7117*

www.firstcovenantvirginia

**Volume XL - Number 6
June 2016**

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

All things bright and beautiful,
all creature great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them ev'ry one.

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
who made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
the Lord God made them all.

—Cecil Frances Alexander,
(#60, *The Covenant Hymnal: A Worship Book*)

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH PURPOSE STATEMENT

**The mission of First Covenant Church is
to worship God,
equip people to live in faith,
share God's love,
and serve the community around us.**

SERVING CHRIST IN HIS CHURCH

Ushers:

Jun. 5—Lloyd & Muriel Stanaway
Jun. 12—Mike Hannay
& Carolyn Erickson
Jun. 19—Brian & Julie Hill
Jun. 26—Ken & Linda Pogorelec

Nursery Attendants:

Jun. 5—Julie Hill
Jun. 12—Audrey Branstrom
Jun. 19—Darlene Reindahl
Jun. 26—Linda Pogorelec

Sound Technicians:

Jun. 5—Roger Johnston
Jun. 12—Mike Hannay
Jun. 19—Roger Johnston
Jun. 26—Mike Hannay

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

4/1/16-4/30/16

Checking account balance as Apr.. 1st: **\$210.06**

General Fund income for current period: **\$ 5561.55**

Average General Fund income needed to meet annual budget: **\$4851.54**

Other income: **\$116.50**

Rental income: **\$100.00** (Second Chance)

Total expenses for current period: **\$4922.96**

Checking account balance as of Apr.. 30th:
\$1068.65

CONGREGATION MEEETING WITH NORTHWEST CONFERENCE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

Jon Kramka, Northwest Conference Director of Congregational Vitality, will come to Virginia to meet with our congregation on Saturday, June 4th. In the morning session, beginning at 10:00, he will review with us the principles of Veritas and Epic. After lunch, from 12:30 to 2:30, he will discuss the results of the Veritas Pulse Survey, which 28 of our church family completed, and then get input from us as to where we are as a church and where we want to be in the future. It is very important that every member and friend of the congregation make every effort to be present for this session so that during this time of transition we can begin planning for our future ministry as a church.

FAREWELL EVENTS FOR PASTOR ROGER AND MARJEAN

Pastor Roger will conclude his 23 1/2 years of ministry with us at the end of June. We as a congregation wish to express our appreciation to him and Marjean and wish them well as they transition to retirement. Pastor Roger's last Sunday will be June 26th. We will honor them with a farewell lunch reception following the worship service on that day. We know that you will want to be present to convey to them your own appreciation and best wishes.

Because Pastor Roger has been involved in a number of community organizations, we will host a community farewell for him and Marjean from 3:00 to 6:00 on Thursday, June 30th at the gun club building on Silver Lake.

JULY & AUGUST PUIPIT SUPPLY

Following Pastor Roger's last Sunday with us, Rev. Jeffery Schirle, pastor of the Cook Covenant Church, will fill our pulpit during the months of July and August. During those two months our worship service will begin at 9:00 instead of 9:30 in order to accommodate Pastor Schirle's schedule.

TIM JOHNSTON / SARAH SKOGMAN BENEFIT

Because of his diabetes, Tim Johnston will be needing a kidney transplant. His cousin Sarah Skogman has graciously offered to be his donor. To help them with the medical expenses a benefit has been scheduled for July 14th at the Mt. Iron Community Center. A planning meeting for the benefit will be held at our church at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 2nd. Because of large turnout expected, many helpers will be needed. If you are willing to help with the planning, please come to the June 2nd meeting.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR THE TAKING

Only you can keep them out of the dumpster! The books on the shelves in pastor's study will not be moving with him, and only you can keep them out of the dumpster. Please stop in and find something for your summer, fall, and winter reading. Study and reference books are also yours to take. Your help is greatly appreciated.

NEWS FROM ADVENTUROUS CHRISTIANS

It is with great excitement that Covenant Pines Ministries announces the calling of Brad and Brooke Shannon to Adventurous Christians, following the relocation of the Nelsons to Alaska. The Nelsons have served as directors at Adventurous Christians for the last several years.

Brad has served as lead pastor of New Life Covenant Church in Twig, Minnesota, for the past 13 years. An ordained Covenant pastor, he has previously served on staff at Bloomington Covenant Church and Covenant Pines Bible Camp. Brad is no stranger to camping, having served on summer staff at Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp, summer and full time staff at Covenant Pines Bible Camp, on the board of Covenant Park Bible Camp, as well as on the Adventurous Christians Commission. Brooke has worked alongside Brad as a significant volunteer at New Life Covenant, coordinating the VBS program and Women's Bible studies. She has been through Tentmakers training, led multiple mission trips, and served as a backpack guide in Colorado. Brooke has also worked the past 10 years as Town Clerk. The Shannons have three children: J, 11; Ryan, 10; and Katie, 5. Brad made news two years ago when he snowmobiled over 1800 miles from Twig to Churchill, Manitoba, as a fundraiser for a new church building.

"I have known Brad for many years and am excited to work alongside him and Brooke at AC," says CPM Executive Director, Dave Cairns. "Brad has a heart for ministry and a love of God's creation. I'm

excited for what the future holds at Adventurous Christians under his leadership."

The Shannon's will begin in early July. Please join with the Covenant Pines Ministries community in welcoming Brad and Brooke Shannon to Adventurous Christians.

COVENANT TRUST COMPANY

It's hard to believe that it's already June; how quickly 2016 is passing by. The remnants of winter have given way to the warmer, sunnier days of spring, and the long, hot, school-free days of summer aren't far behind. And before we know it, class will be back in session and tree leaves will don their autumnal reds and oranges.

The future seems so far away, yet time moves swiftly. And in between the present and the future, so much changes so rapidly. It's June now: what's changed in your life since January? What's changed since January 2015? Since 2014? As your life changes, so do your needs, and it's important to review your financial plans to make sure they are still adequate. Similarly, our financial decisions today will have an impact on our finances tomorrow. So while we enjoy the springs and summers of life, it's important that we prepare for the autumns and winters.

So ask yourself: does your budget still make sense? Do you need to update your will? What about the beneficiaries of your financial accounts? Are you still supporting your favorite ministries as much as you'd like? Are you saving enough for retirement? Are you withdrawing too little from your retirement accounts? Too much? Does your portfolio need to be rebalanced? Do you still have the time, energy, and focus to manage your finances on your own?

These are important questions to ask now because they will help you prepare for that fast-approaching future. Steve Allison, our local Financial Services Representative, can review these and other questions with you and help you prepare for whatever comes next. You can reach Steve by phone at 218-297-7701 or email him at srallison@covenanttrust.com. We're

happy to meet with you and discuss how we can serve you, no matter what season of life you're in.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Lester Hallfors	2nd
Marjean Johnson	7th
Pastor Roger Johnson	7th
Bernie Christiansen	8th
Lloyd Stanaway	13th
Mike Hannay	20th
Brian Hill	29th

AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Items for the July calendar need to be e-mailed or in the church office by Sunday, June 19th. Weekly bulletin items must be e-mailed or brought to the church office by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday. E-mailed items need to have either "calendar" or "bulletin" in the subject line.

Items for the July issue of the **Lamplighter** should be turned in by Sunday, June 19th. Items may be submitted by e-mail to wbchris@q.com. Remember that we are always looking for news of interest for the "Among Us" column.

AMONG US

Congratulations to **Kate Barnes** on her Confirmation on May 15th

Carolyn Erickson flew to California and drove back to Virginia with her daughter Bobbie, who is spending some time here with her. Carolyn also went on a group bus trip to Door County, Wisconsin.

Former member of our church **Caryl Tamte** died at the VCC on May 21st following a courageous battle with cancer. She had enjoyed an 84th birthday celebration two weeks earlier.

Wayne and Bernie Christiansen gave a presentation on our August mission trip to the adult Sunday school class at Rice Creek Covenant Church.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A lonesome woman parishioner demanded a home visit from her pastor. So, as promised, the pastor showed up and sat by the woman's bed listening to her litany of woe. Finally he asked to read some passages from her Bible.

In a much-too-sweet voice she called to her little daughter playing in the next room. "Darling, please bring Mother that dear old book that she reads every night." Promptly the little girl brought in a copy of a popular TV-movie magazine.

BULLETIN, CALENDAR,

