

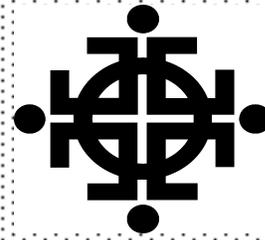
First Covenant Lamplighter

Volume XXXIX - Number 3

March 2015

Worshipping

Serving



Sharing

Equipping

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH
Virginia, Minnesota
741-7117

www.firstcovenantvirginia.org

“Kind and Merciful God”

Kind and merciful God, we have sinned in your sight,
we have all wandered far from your way;
we have followed desire, we have failed to aspire
to the virtue we ought to display.

Kind and merciful God, we’ve neglected your Word
and the truth that would guide us aright;
we have lived in the shade of the dark we have made,
when you willed us to walk in the light.,

Kind and merciful God, we have broken your laws
and in conduct have veered from the norm;
we have dreamed of the good,
but the good that we could
we have frequently failed to perform.

Kind and merciful God, in Christ’s death on the cross
you provided a cleansing from sin;
speak the words that forgive
that henceforth we may live
by the might of your Spirit within.

Kind and merciful God, bid us lift up our heads
and command us to rise from our knees;
may our hearts now be changed
and no longer,estranged
through the pow’r of your pardon and peace.

--Bryan Jeffrey Leech
#358, The Covenant Hymnal: A Worshipbook

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.**

FOOD SHELF

March is Food Shelf month at First Covenant. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations. If you write a check, please make it out to the Quad City Food Shelf. There will be a box in the front entry of the church to receive your donations. Each dollar and every pound of food donated to the food shelf during the month of March will be partially matched.

The Quad City Food Shelf serves the residents of Biwabik, Cotton, Eveleth, Gilbert, Mt. Iron, Virginia, and all the surrounding area. It serves an average of 400 families each month. A five-day supply of food is given to each eligible family. In January 2015 alone 450 families were provided with a total of over 32,000 pounds of food.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 6th, 1:00 p.m.

First Covenant Church

Please make an effort to attend.

SERVING CHRIST IN HIS CHURCH

Ushers:

Mar. 1--Shirley Koski & Darlene Reindahl
Mar. 8--Marjean Johnson & Linda Skogman
Mar. 15--Lloyd & Muriel Stanaway
Mar. 22--Roger & Judy Linden
Mar. 29--Mike Hannay & Carolyn Erickson

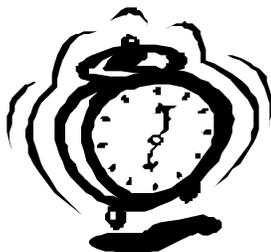
Nursery Attendants:

Mar. 1--Shirley Koski
Mar. 8--Jodie Phaneuf
Mar. 15--Gail Johnston
Mar. 22--Julie Hill
Mar. 29--Audrey Branstrom

Sound Technicians

Mar. 2--Mike Hannay
Mar. 9--Roger Johnston
Mar. 16--Mike Hannay
Mar. 23--Roger Johnston
Mar. 30--Mike Hannay

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time goes into effect on Sunday, March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night so you won't be late for Sunday Worship!

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

1/1/15 - 1/31/15

Checking account balance as of Jan..1st: **\$373.35**

General Fund income for current period: **\$4633.91**

Average monthly income needed to meet annual budget: **\$6417.58**

Other income: **\$133.30**

Transfers due to shortage: **\$2000**

Total expenditures for current period: **\$7058.26**

Checking account balance as of Jan. 31st: **\$94.00**

COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

The 2015 Renewal Conference will be held in St. Cloud on Friday, March 27 and 28th. Brochures are available in the narthex or you can register on line. The cost for the event is \$40. Please give your registration and check to Shirley by Sunday, March 15.

COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP

The next early bird discount is due May 1. The church will continue to pay 1/2 of the March 1 early bird discount for children and grandchildren of church families. New this year are Adventure Camps for grades 5-12 using the campsite across the lake. There is also a BWCA trip planned for grades 7-12.

Family Camp celebrating 75 years as a camp will be held July 3-5. Camp is looking for remembrances of experiences there.

PARKING COURTESY

When parking for church services and other events, please be careful to avoid blocking the driveways to the garage of the house behind the church, as they do use them. Thank you for helping the church to be a good neighbor.

WINTER MUSICAL EVENTS

The Virginia High School choirs, under the direction of Matt Krage, will present their annual pops concert at 7:00 on Monday night, March 2nd, in Goodman Auditorium. There is no admission charge for the concert.

Virginia High School will present the Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls* under the direction of Matt Krage and Jennifer Bruemer. Performances will be in Goodman Auditorium at 7:00 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, March 26-28, and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 29. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for seniors and students under 17. You may reserve them by e-mailing mkrage@vmcs or by calling 749-5437, extension 1249.

MESABI RANGE YOUTH FOR CHRIST

MRYFC is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Executive Director. In addition, we have hired his wife to help expand YFC's Campus Life Ministry. They are **Christian and Katie Dane**. They were both raised on the Iron Range and have family roots here. Katie is the daughter of Nathan Thompson, Executive Director of Habitat For Humanity.

Christian graduated from the US Naval Academy in May, 2014 with a major in physics. He was selected the top Naval Flight Officer of his 2014 class. He is also an Eagle Scout, Eveleth Troop 111. Katie graduated from Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa, with a major in Secondary Education. Since graduating, however, they have both realized that their collective passion is to become involved in youth ministry. So, with God's leading, they heard about the Executive Director position available at our local YFC Chapter and applied.

As I write this, Christian and Katie are currently stationed in Pensacola, Florida. Christian has applied for a separation from the Navy and is hoping to start working here at the YFC Office on March 2nd. Katie will join the YFC staff as soon as their fund raising requirement has been met. We are planning to formally introduce them at the **Annual YFC Spring Banquet on Thursday, May 7, 2015, at 6pm at the Mt. Iron Community Center**. In the meantime, they will be earnestly seeking **monthly donors** so that Katie can join the staff as soon as possible.

I would encourage everyone to set aside May 7th on

your calendar so you can meet the Danes as well as hear about the ministry of YFC on the Range. Further announcements about the banquet will be forthcoming.

Roger Linden, Board Chair
MRYFC

COVENANT KIDS CONGO

A group of Covenant pastors returned from the Congo a few short weeks ago. They were so encouraged to see the significant progress made in so many areas! In everything from clean water access, improved schools for kids, agricultural training to medical clinics built, the pastors saw hope grow in our Congolese friends through your faithfulness and partnership.

PAUL CARLSON PARTNERSHIP

Paul Carlson Partnership is committed to walking alongside our partners in Congo. The response to the Congo Clinic Initiative has been overwhelming! Over 60 churches, groups, and families have committed themselves to partner with a clinic for the next five years. 60! And the Congo Clinic Initiative is a project of reciprocity. This means that more than 60 partners will spend five years not only raising the standard of medical care in Congo, but also receiving information and opportunities to transform their own lives by connecting with this vibrant country. Over 60 partners have said that they are ready to give, and our deepest prayer is that they are also ready to receive.

COVENANT TRUST COMPANY

Modest Beginnings

When we were discussing ideas for the Covenant Trust Company logo, it didn't take too long for us to decide on a tree. We like a tree's implication of growth-- particularly growth from something small. Some of California's famous redwood trees have measured over 360 feet tall but start out from a seed that's no bigger than the head of a pin.

Likewise, a small investment can become big over time. As such, we encourage people to start investing as soon as possible, even if they don't have much to begin with. A 25-year-old who puts \$50 a month into a Roth IRA

and averages a 5% return could have over \$76,000 by the time he or she is 65. Small contributions will add up and can grow exponentially when invested. It may be hard to see in the present, but it's worth remembering those tall redwoods and their tiny origins. Redwoods last a long time, too. Their average life span is 500-700 years, and some have lived for thousands of years.

Similarly, the impact and legacy of even a small charitable gift can be far-reaching and long-lasting. A donation to First Covenant Church may help it make repairs to a building that serves families for generations or support missionaries who provide aid to countless lives thousands of miles away.

So, why a tree? It's a good reminder that what we consider small God can bless, grow, and make long-lasting. Investing \$50 a month now can have a huge impact on your retirement; a charitable gift can bless thousands for generations. So if you want to invest for yourself, for your family, or for your favorite Covenant ministry, don't let a modest beginning discourage you; it can grow and become much, much more.

For more information on investments for you or a family member, or to learn about charitable gift annuities, endowments, and our other charitable giving options, contact Steve Allison, your local Financial Service Representative at 877-768-1766 or e-mail him at srallison@covenanttrust.com.

THANK YOU NOTES FROM OUR MISSIONARIES



The Lord is providing for our needs through your church's generosity and heart. Thank you so much for sharing with us as we continue to raise more support for the next 4 years on the mission field.

--Peter and Anna Kim

Thank you very much for your support for the ministries God has called us to.. We are grateful for your support. As of January this year I have started a new role as a special assignment missionary based out of Willmar, Minnesota, but traveling and helping with fish farm projects around the world. In January I was in Thailand, Laos and Malaysia. In March I will be making my first trip to Congo from the 7-28th. Back to Haiti for my fourth trip in April..Cheryl continues to serve those with special needs here at the reading therapy center in Willmar.

--Randy Bevis

We are grateful for your additional support. Jo Ellen is missed by our mission team and especially by our family, as she is our dear friend and also like an additional grandma to our boys! Dios los bendiga!

--Karl and Sue Peterson

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Russ Carlson	8
Eva Roark	24
Lucille Stoltz	29
Zach Barnes	31

AMONG US

We extend Christian sympathy to **Sid Reindahl** and family on the death of his father, Sidney, Sr., who died on Jamiary 29th at the age of 93. His memorial service was held on February in Fosston, Minnesota.

Our special wishes go out to **Lucille Stoltz** on her birthday on March 29th.

Shirley Koski flew to Utah to spend time with her daughter, Lynnette, and family and then traveled to Seattle to visit her grandson Brenden.

BULLETIN, NEWSLETTER, AND CALENDAR DEADLINES



Please take note of these deadlines: Calendar items for the next month need to be e-mailed or in the church office by the third Sunday of the previous month. Weekly bulletin items must be e-mailed or brought to the church office by 9:00 a. m. Wednesdays. E-mailed items need to have either "calendar" or "bulletin" in the subject line.

Items for the April issue of the **Lamplighter** should be turned in by **Sunday, March 22nd**. 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.