

FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER

Volume XLII- Number 4

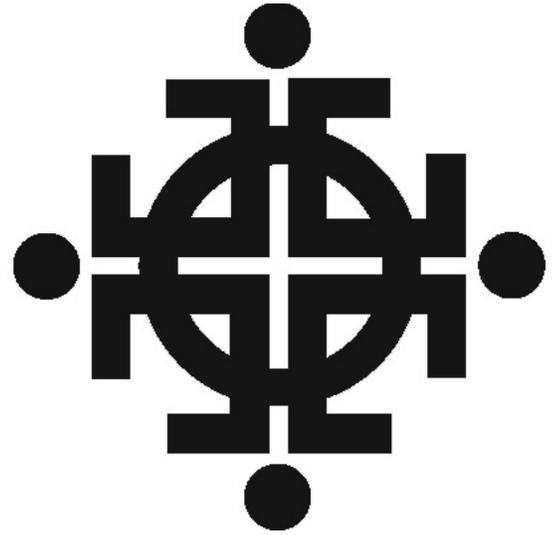
April 2018

First Covenant Church

Virginia, Minnesota

741-7117

www.firstcovenantvirginia.org



3 Strand Strong

**Pastor's Pen –
April 2018**



We come upon the season of the church year where we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. After Jesus was dead and buried, he left that grave on the third day and his grave is still empty today. He is alive and on a mission to create a whole new world of resurrection people. He calls us all to be a part of this great work in reconciling the world back to himself. We are strong in mission as a body of believers because along with the Northwest Conference and the Evangelical Covenant Church we are “**3StrandStrong**.” In recent months, we have together accomplished so much for the Kingdom of God because we are in partnership with the greater body of The Covenant. Here is a part of what we are doing together:

- Planted 30 new churches and 450 churches engaged in the vitality of revitalization.
- Provided over 1 million in disaster relief in Houston, Florida, California, and Puerto Rico.
- Supported clean water projects in 9 countries in Africa, South Amer-

ica, Asia, and the Caribbean.

- Built evangelism momentum through our churches as 357 used BLESS resources.
- Provided ongoing personal and professional growth for the more than 1800 women and men who serve as our active ministers and missionaries.
- Planned for 5000 high-schoolers to attend CHIC in Tennessee this summer.
- Partnered with Covenant World Relief projects in 35 countries including 9 countries in response to global refugee crisis.
- Sent and supported 120 missionary personnel serving 25 countries around the world.
- Started CovEnterprises, Bezalel housing program, and Open-Door Immigration Services.
- Provided financial leadership training and assistance in stewardship and generosity to pastors and churches.

We list these ministries not to boast, but to show what we can do, with God's help, when we partner in a common mission with other followers of Jesus Christ who are passionate about loving God and loving others into the Kingdom.



Easter Sunday

April 1

HOLY WEEK AND
EASTER SUNDAY
AT FIRST COVENANT

Thursday - 6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday Service

Friday - 6:00 PM

Good Friday Service
at Peace United
Methodist Church

EASTER SUNDAY - 9:00 AM

Easter Breakfast

10:00 AM

Easter Worship Service

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:

Apr. 1—Lloyd & Muriel Stanaway
Apr. 8—Mike & Kathy Hannay
Apr. 15—Brian & Julie Hill
Apr. 22—Ken & Linda Pogorelec
Apr. 29—Roger & Gail Johnston

Sound Technicians:

Apr. 1—Roger Johnston
Apr. 8—Mike Hannay
Apr. 15—Roger Johnston
Apr. 22—Mike Hannay
Apr. 29—Roger Johnston

Church caretakers for the week of . . .

Apr. 1—Roger & Judy Linden
Apr. 8—Mike & Kathy Hannay
Apr. 15—Roger & Gail Johnston
Apr. 22—Jeffrey & Heather Jones
Apr. 29—Shirley Koski & Barb Knapper

Baked treats for the Fire Department:

April 1-7 — Jean Pajunen
April 15-21 — Skogman's
April 29-May 5 — Darlene Reindahl

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

2/1/18-2/28/18



Checking account balance as of Feb. 1st:

\$115,323.74

General Fund income for current period:

\$6,791.89

Average General Fund offerings needed
to meet this year's budget: \$6,777.67

Mission Account Transfers: \$1,545.00

Other income: \$134.00

Total expenses for current period:
\$7,262.87

Checking account balance as of Feb. 28th:
\$16,597.76

Upcoming Church Events

MISSION EVENT

At 4:30 pm on **Saturday April 14th**, our church will host a mission event with a Covenant missionary in Southeast Asia. The Cook and Biwabik churches have been invited to join us. We will begin with a potluck supper, please bring a dish to share. The presentation is sure to be of interest. Plan to attend.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

The church business meeting for the first quarter of this year will be held at 11:00 a.m. on **Sunday, April 29th**. All members and friends of the church are encouraged to attend this meeting.

NURSING HOME SERVICE

Our church will be in charge of the service at 2:00 p.m. on **Sunday, April 29th** at the St. Michael's Health Care Center. It would be good to have members of our church family present show friendship to the residents and to help them find the hymns during the service.

COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP

This summer's theme is "Walk New Ground," based on the verse "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." There are camps available for those entering 1st grade through recent grads. Our church is again offering to pay 1/2 of the charge. See Bernie to register.

MUSIC IN APRIL

The Mesabi East choirs, under the direction of Greg Barnes, will present their spring concert at 3:00 PM on **Sunday, April 15th**, at the Mesabi East High School auditorium.



The Touch of Class, a community jazz choir under the direction of Greg Barnes of which Pastor Dennis is a member, will present their spring concert on **Sunday April 22nd**, at 4:00p.m. at the United In Christ Lutheran Church in Eveleth, MN. All are welcome. A freewill offering will be taken.

Range of Voices, under the direction of Rolf Anderson, will present its spring concert, "Madrigals, Motets, and Movies" at 700 PM on **Friday, April 27th**, at the Chisholm Baptist Church and at 2:00 PM on **Sunday, April 29th**, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia. Admission is \$5.00 at the door.

Refreshments will be served following the concerts.

UPDATE FROM KATE BARNES

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” John 5:14

When I was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis 19 years ago, my favorite peds nurse told my parents, “In your kids’ lifetime, there will be a drug that makes this disease manageable.” After all these years, it could have been easy to feel hopeless. Today my doctors approved me for this medication and we are one step closer to curing this disease that so many are affected by. While this is not a total cure, this is a huge step in treating the underlying cause of CF and improving lung function. If this isn’t an amazing testament to God’s faithfulness, then I don’t know what is. God is so good.

COVENANT TRUST COMPANY

Financial scams and identity theft are prevalent during tax season. Here are some tips to protect your identity and finances.

Never give out personal information to strangers.

As a general rule, it’s best not to give out personal information to someone unless you are familiar with them, you initiated the contact, and you understand why that person needs your information. Many scammers will raise their voice or use threats to pressure you and make you feel uncomfortable. But do your best to stay calm, do not share anything with them, and end the conversation.

Are your passwords secure?

Long, complicated passwords can be difficult to remember, but they’re also secure and can help keep your data safe. So at the very least, avoid using simple passwords such as “password” or “1234”. Use a combination of upper and lower-case characters, numbers, and symbols. Change your passwords regularly, and if you must write your passwords down, make sure you keep them in a safe place.

Review your credit reports.

Make checking your credit report an annual tradition. Doing so not only gives you an opportunity to correct and confirm your credit history, but it also helps you spot suspicious activity and identity theft. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, consumers can get a free credit report once a year.

The three national credit reporting agencies are

TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. The easiest way to get a credit report from each is to visit annualcreditreport.com.

Shred unneeded documents.

Any documents that may have sensitive data should be shredded instead of simply thrown away. Bank statements, old tax returns, credit card offers, anything with account numbers, etc.: make sure these are destroyed and disposed of carefully to help protect yourself from identity theft and fraud.

Watch out for unusual transactions.

Keep an eye on your bank, credit card, and investment statements. If you notice any fraudulent activity, report them to your financial institution immediately.

Are you being fleeced?

Covenant Trust Company offers a presentation and educational materials that can help you identify and protect yourself from financial scams and traps. For more information, contact any one of the Financial Service Representatives serving the Northwest Conference

Steve Allison Financial Services Rep
218-297-7701
srallison@covenanttrust.com

Erik Carlson Financial Services Rep
763-253-6311
ewcarlson@covenanttrust.com

Karlene Crabtree Client Services Rep
612-252-8599
kmcrabtree@covenanttrust.com

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Pastor Dennis Anders1st
Jeri Lynn Carron.....2nd
Marry Ann Robinson.....4th
Barb Knapper14th
Dorothy Schuknecht.....18th



AMONG US

We extend our Christian sympathy to Pastor Roger Johnson and family on the death of his father, Rev, Earl Johnson, who died at the age of 90 on February 26th. A memorial service was held at Covenant Village of Golden Valley on March 3rd. Mail will reach the family at 2783 Ridgeview Lane, Red Wing, MN 55066.

Among Us continued on next page

Among Us continued from previous page

Congratulations to Peter and Anna Jean Johnson on the birth of their daughter, Fiona Jean, on March 1st. Proud grandparents are Pastor Roger and Marjean Johnson.

Shirley Koski spent some time visiting daughter Lynette and family in Utah.

WOMENS RENEWAL EVENT

The 2018 Women's Ministry Renewal Event was held on March 16-17 at the Bloomington Covenant Church. We had 8 ladies & friends from our church attend. We also had the special treat of seeing Marjean, as she attended as well. The theme this year of BLESS, the intentional evangelism initiative was presented by our main speaker, Pastor Marcy Baumann, Eagan Campus Pastor for Crossroads Church and Chaplain for the Eagan Police Department. We were refreshed, renewed and transformed by her words and the wonderful choices of break out sessions that were available to us. This event is always very inspiring for all that are able to attend.

Thanks for the Help

COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

Thanks to all who came out for the "Dress a Girl Around the World" afternoon and evening. With five sewing machines whirring, we bypassed our goal of 12 dresses and have 16 dresses ready to go to Haiti in June. Having volunteers to pin, thread elastic and press enabled those sewing to work on a number of dresses at one time.

BULLETIN, CALENDAR, AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Items for the May calendar need to be e-mailed or in the church office by Sunday, April 15th.

Weekly bulletin items must be e-mailed or brought to the church office by 9:00 a.m. Wednesday.

E-mailed items need to have either "**calendar**" or "**bulletin**" in the subject line.

Items for the May issue of the Lamplighter should be turned in by **Sunday, April 22nd**. Items may be submitted by e-mail to wbcChris@q.com. Remember that we are always looking for news of interest for the "Among Us" column.

Opportunity

BILL'S HOUSE

The church board has decided that we will encourage members of our church family to bring baked treats to Bill's House for the residents there once a month. There is a sign-up sheet on the table downstairs.

Mission Covenant Church invites you to:

The first opportunity is A Sportsman's Dinner, Thursday evening April 12th, 6pm. Our speaker is Dr. Grant Woods from Missouri. This event will include a great meal, Dr. Woods speaking on "Patterning Mature Bucks", and he will share his testimony and a clear gospel message. The cost is \$20 per ticket or a table of 8 tickets for \$150. Everyone attending this dinner get their names placed in a drawing for a \$1000 Mission Cross Bow, a .50 cal Muzzle Loader and a Yeti Cooler.

The 2nd opportunity is on Saturday April 14th, 8:30am-11:30am. Dr. Woods will be providing a workshop for hunters called: "**Managing Small Parcels and Food Plots**". We will have a breakfast and his workshop and tickets for this event are \$10 to cover our costs and some door prizes.

If anyone is interested in tickets they can call our church office at 715-364-2738 or e-mail the church at info@missioncovenantchurch.org. We can mail tickets to them (preferred) or if they would like they can pick them up at the door.

A Bernstein Special

The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, together with Orchestra and Choir from University of Wisconsin at Superior, is honored and excited to invite you to "Remember(ing) Lenny at 100." "Lenny," of course, is Leonard Bernstein. About 100 eager, accomplished musicians will present works from "Candide" and "West Side Story," along with his "Chichester Psalms." Performances are in Virginia High School's Goodman Auditorium on Saturday evening, April 21, at 7pm; and in UWS' Thorpe-Langley Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, April 22, at 2:30pm. Please see our website, www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org, for further information, and "like" our Facebook page for timely updates.

Treat yourself: join our musical extravaganza honoring one of the giants of 20th-century music!