

FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER

*First Covenant Church
Virginia, Minnesota
741-7117*

www.firstcovenantvirginia

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The Declaration of Independence

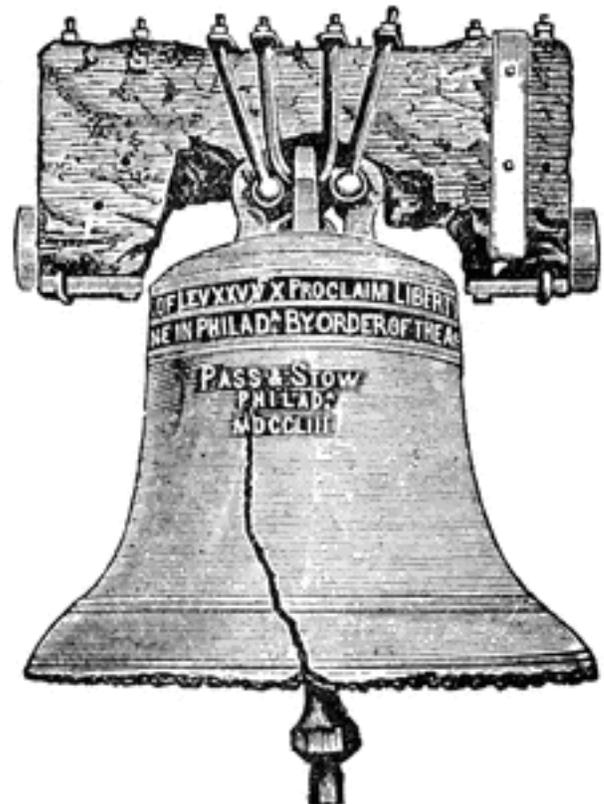
While danger was gathering round New York, and its inhabitants were in mute suspense and fearful anticipations, the General Congress at Philadelphia was discussing, with closed doors, what John Adams pronounced, "The greatest question ever debated in America, and as great as ever was or will be debated among men." The result was, a resolution passed unanimously on the 2nd of July - "that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

"The 2nd of July," adds the same patriot statesman, "will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forth forevermore."

The glorious event has, indeed, given rise to an annual jubilee - but not on the day designated by Adams. The Fourth of July is the day of national rejoicing, for on that day the "Declaration of Independence," that solemn and sublime document, was adopted.

Tradition gives a dramatic effect to its announcement. It was known to be under discussion, but the closed doors of Congress excluded the populace. They awaited, in throngs, an appointed signal. In the

steeple of the State House was a bell, imported twenty-three years previously from London by the Provincial Assembly of Pennsylvania. It bore the portentous text from Scripture: "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof." A joyous peal from that bell gave notice that the bill had been passed. It was the knell of British domination.



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:

Jul. 3—Roger & Gail Johnston
Jul. 10—Shirley Koski
& Darlene Reindahl
Jul. 17—Linda Skogman
Jul. 24—Roger & Judy Linden
July 31—Lloyd & Muriel Stanaway
Aug. 7—Mike Hannay
& Carolyn Erickson
Aug. 14—Brian & Julie Hill

Nursery Attendants:

Jul. 3—Linda Pogorelec
Jul. 10—Shirley Koski
Jul. 17—Jodie Phaneuf
Jul. 24—Church Picnic
Jul. 31—Gail Johnston
Aug. 7—Julie Hill
Aug. 14—Audrey Branstrom

Sound Technicians:

Jul. 3—Roger Johnston
Jul. 10—Mike Hannay
Jul. 17—Roger Johnston
Jul. 24—Mike Hannay
Jul. 31—Roger Johnston
Aug. 7—Mike Hannay
Aug. 14—Roger Johnston

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT 5/1/16-5/31/16

Checking account balance as May 1st: **\$1068.65**
General Fund income for current period: **\$6106.00**
Other income: **\$143.75**
Rental income: **\$100.00** (Second Chance)
Total expenses for current period: **\$5975.82**
Checking account balance as of May 31st:
\$1298.83

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Even though our church expenses will be less during the time we are without a regular pastor, there will still be ongoing expenses. In addition, we need to be building up a reserve for the time we will have an interim pastor and eventually a regular pastor. Therefore we respectfully request that you maintain your current level of giving to the church so that these financial needs can be met. Thank you so much.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FOR PASTOR ROGER AND MARJEAN

Because Pastor Roger has been active in a number of community organizations, we will host a community open house for him and Marjean from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 30th, at the former gun club building on Silver Lake. Members of the church family as well as members of the community are invited to attend.

JULY & AUGUST PULPIT SUPPLY

During the months of July and August, Rev. Jeff Schirle, pastor of the Cook Covenant Church, will be filling our pulpit. For those two months our worship service will begin at 9:00 instead of 9:30 in order to accommodate his schedule. We appreciate Pastor Schirle's willingness to help us out in this way.

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. The last planning meeting for the benefit will be held at our church at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 7th. Because of large turnout expected, many helpers will be needed. If you are willing to help at the benefit, please let Gail know.

CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, July 24th, at the Italian-American building in Olcott Park. Our worship service will be at 11:00, followed by a potluck dinner.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Our congregational business meeting for the second quarter of this year will be held at 11:00 on Sunday, July 31st. We encourage all members and friends of the church to be present as we look towards our future ministry as a church.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

Our church will be conducting services at St. Raphael's in Eveleth at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 7th, followed by a 3:00 service at St. Michael's in Virginia. It would be good if some of our people would come out to the services to help with the singing and to visit with the residents.

COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP

The theme for camp this summer is "All In" for Jesus, because He went all in for us on the cross. Attending Covenant Part this summer are: Leah Fleetwood: Trailblazer 1 on [June 26-30](#), Blaine Fleetwood, Nathaniel Nason and Brandon Henry: Junior High [July 24-29](#). Nathaniel and Brandon will receive the Wheeler Scholarship this year. Esther Jones is on staff again this summer as program director. Please pray for the campers and all of the staff this summer.

COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

Those attending Triennial XV in Kansas City, Missouri will be leaving early on [Wednesday, July 27](#), to join others on a bus leaving from the cities. Rhonda Egging, short-term missionary in Sweden and Russia and the lay person traveling with her will also be on the bus. Pray for the women attending and all those that have a part in making the Triennial a meaningful experience.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 2016 Northern Lights Music Festival will be held July 2nd-23rd, featuring a variety of music events and concerts in a number of area venues. Most of the events have no admission charge. Artistic director of the festival is Veda Zuponicic, Aurora native now professor of music at Rowan University in Glastenboro, New Jersey. Festival highlight is the performance of Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly* at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 15th at Mesabi East High School auditorium; at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 17th, at Chisholm High School auditorium; and at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 18th, at the Washington School auditorium in Ely. Wayne Christiansen is a member of the opera chorus. Tickets for the Chisholm and Ely performances will be available free of charge at area libraries. A complete schedule of festival events and ticket information is available online at northernlightsmusic.org.

TEAM SWANSON MINISTRY UPDATE

We left our ministry in Antwerp, Belgium on June 11th, to start our journey home to America. We will be nomads for the summer months, landing in Minnesota but moving around as we visit supporters and speak at Covenant Bible camps in Minnesota. There is a family wedding to enjoy, the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Phoenix, Arizona where Steve will be officially reactivated and re-commissioned as a long-term missionary with a calling to Europe to work among refugees. We plan to move into our permanent place for the year in south Minneapolis by the first week of August.

We are entering into a new phase of ministry for us as Steve rejoins the Covenant World Mission team with the Mosaics Project in Europe.

—Barb and Steve Swanson

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Stephen Hill	2nd
Kathy Hannay	3rd
Magan Carlson	21st
Pearl Miller	28th

AMONG US

Special congratulations to **Pearl Miller** on her birthday on July 28th.

We extend Christian sympathy to **Donna Bachman** on the death of her son John, who died unexpectedly at age 60 on June 19th.

Lucas and Cassie Hill are the proud parents of a son, Christian Anthony, born on May 15th. **Brian and Julie Hill** are happy grandparents again!

Roger and Judy Linden and **Wayne and Bernie Christiansen** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries on June 18th.

Pastor Roger and Marjean will be retiring to Red Wing, Minnesota, on July 1st. Their mailing address there is 2783 Ridgeview Lane, Red Wing, MN 55066. Their e-mail address is rogmarj@gmail.com. Pastor Roger's cellphone number is 218-290-0109, and Marjean's is 218-290-0148

BULLETIN, CALENDAR, AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Items for the August calendar need to be e-mailed or in the church office by Sunday, July 17th. 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 Fall issue of the **Lamplighter** should be turned in by Sunday, August 7th. 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.