

FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER



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The Declaration of Independence

By Washington Irving

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—Shirley Koski
Jul.10—Brian & Julie Hill
Jul. 17—Mike & Kathy Hannay
Jul. 24—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen
Jul 31—Roger & Gail Johnston
Aug. 7—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen

Church Caretakers for the week of . . .

Jul. 4—Roger & Judy Linden
Jul. 11—Lucas & Cassie Hill
Jul. 18—Roger & Gail Johnston
Jul. 25—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen
& Audrey Branstrom
Aug. 8 —Ken & Linda Pogorelec

Lawn-mowing for the week of . . .

Jul. 4—Lucas Hill
Jul. 11—Russ Carlson Family
Jul. 18—Bob Nelson
Jul. 25—Wayne Christiansen
Aug. 2—Brian Hill

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT



5/1/22-5/31/22

Checking account balance as
May 1st: **\$26,634.41**

General Fund income for
current period: **\$4,383.00**

Other income: **\$276.75**

Total expenses for current period: **\$9,345.21**

Checking account balance as of May 31st:
\$21,972.20

A WORD ABOUT CHURCH FINANCES

A word to the wise: While it is obvious that
our church expenses are
diminished while we are
without a pastor, there
are still ongoing ex-
penses which we as a
church must meet.



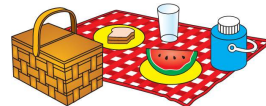
Therefore we would appreciate faithful stew-
ardship on everyone's part so that all expens-
es can be met. Thank you!

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING



The church business meet-
ing for the second quarter
of the year will be held
following the worship
service on Sunday, July
24th. Members and
friends of the church are
encouraged to attend.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



Our annual church picnic will
be held on Sunday, July 31st,
at the Kline-Cuppoletti Park
Facility on 9th Avenue on the
west side of Silver Lake. We
will begin with a worship cele-
bration at 11:00 a.m. (note the difference in time
from regular Sundays), followed by a potluck dinner
and fellowship. Do plan to attend and encourage
you family members and friends to be there also.

SERVICE AT WATERVIEW PINES

Our church will provide the worship service at Waterview Pines health care facility at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 31st. It would be good if members of our church family could be present to help with the singing and to provide a friendly word to the residents there.



Topping the roster of events is the NLMF's production of Mozart's opera **The Magic Flute**, which will be presented at 7:00 on Friday, July 15th, at Veda Zuponic Auditorium in Aurora and at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, the 17th, at the Chisholm High School auditorium. Wayne Christiansen is a member of the opera chorus.



A schedule of festivals events can be found online at northernlightsmusic.org. Tickets may be purchased at Schmitt Music in Virginia or online.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY



Just a reminder that our church is helping to stock the Little Food Pantry in front of the AEOA building a block south of the church. There is a box for your donations at the top of the stairs in our front entry, along with a list of suggested donations. Monetary donations are also accepted. Checks should be made out to the church.

CANS FOR CONGO

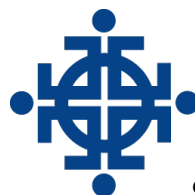


We encourage you to continue saving aluminum cans for the women and children of Congo. You may leave them in the furnace room at church or drop them off at Christiansens'. We recently turned in what we had and received \$2.40.

NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Northern Lights Music Festival announces its 19th season of bringing classical music to the Iron Range from July 1 to July 23, 2022. Throughout the month there will be a series of concerts at various Range locations.

COVENANT ANNUAL MEETING



Gather 2022 was the first Annual Meeting in the history of the Evangelical Covenant Church to be held in a hybrid format. A total of 712 delegates were registered and certified, 432 delegates participated in-person in Kansas City, Missouri, while 280 delegates, including Julie Phaneuf-Hill, participated online.

- The Covenant received seven new churches into membership.
- 15 church plants have signed Covenant agreements.
- Nineteen churches were voluntarily removed from the membership roster: nine closed, nine withdrew, and one merged.
- Tammy Swanson-Draheim was elected the 11th president of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the first woman to serve in this role.
- Grace Shim was elected executive minister of Serve Globally, the first woman, the first Asian American woman, and the first active global personnel to be elected in this role.
- Dennis R. Edwards was affirmed in his call to serve as dean of North Park Theological Seminary and vice president for church relations, the first African American to serve in this role.
- Kara Stromberg was installed as the superintendent of the Northwest Conference.
- Delegates voted to ordain 39 individuals to Word and Sacrament and 12 to Word and Service, com-

mission one, and finalize the transfer of ordination for three ministers.

- Delegates approved a motion calling for the newly elected president to “return to the 2023 Annual Meeting with a report on the work being done to address our divide on human sexuality and provide a clear update on the direction and progress that is being made for our path forward as a denomination.”
- The Covenant Annual Meeting approved a Fiscal Year 2023 budget of \$18,289,248, as presented by Steve Klimkowski, executive director of finance.
- National Covenant Properties reported that 4,400 mission-minded investors funded 266 loans to Covenant churches, camps, retirement facilities, and affiliated organizations totaling \$275 million in commitments.
- The 137th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church will take place June 29–July 1, 2023, in Orange County, California.

BEN WICKSTROM ORDAINED TO WORD AND SACRAMENT



Ben Wickstrom, who was a Covenant short-term missionary in Oaxaca, Mexico, when one of the mission teams from our church was there, was ordained to Word and Sacrament at the

Covenant Annual Meeting. Ben and his wife, Emily, are on the pastoral staff at Common Ground Covenant Church in Sacramento, California, and also serve on the staff of the Pacific Southwest Conference. Ben’s father, Craig, is liaison to the Congo Covenant Church and is one of the missionaries supported by our church.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Stephen Hill
Kathy Hannay
Magan Carlson

3rd
3rd
21st



AMONG US