



FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER

Volume XLVI - Number 8
August 2022



First Covenant Church
Virginia, Minnesota
741-7117
www.firstcovenantvirginia.org



The Perfect Pastor

The perfect pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes.

He condemns sin roundly but never hurts anyone's feelings.

He works from 8 AM until midnight and is also the church janitor.

The perfect pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates \$30 a week to the church.

He is 29 years old and has 40 years experience.

Above all, he is handsome.

The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time

with the senior citizens.

He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church.

He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The perfect pastor always has time for church council and all of its committees. He never misses the meeting of any church organization and is always busy evangelizing the unchurched.

The perfect pastor is always in the next church over!

If your pastor does not measure up, simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their pastor, too.

Then bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of the list.

If everyone cooperates, in one week you will receive 1,643 pastors.

One of them should be perfect.

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.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT 6/1/22-6/30/22

Checking account balance as of June 1st:

\$21,972.20

Income for the month:
\$9730.18

Total expenses for the month:
\$8115.14

Checking account balance as of
June 30th

\$23,407.06



SERVING CHRIST IN HIS CHURCH



COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

Women's Fall Retreat at
Covenant Park will be held
September 16-18th. This
year's theme is "Enjoy the
View—Finding Joy in God
Through Every season". The
speaker is Jill Mikkelson,
who has worked in Christian radio for the past five
years. Registration online is available at [covenant
park.org/events](http://covenantpark.org/events). Paper forms will soon be available.



Ushers:

Aug. 7—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen
Aug. 14—Shirley Koski
Aug. 21—Roger & Judy Linden
Aug. 28—Mike & Kathy Hannay
Sept. 4—Brian & Julie Hill

Caretakers for the week of . . .

Aug. 8—Ken & Linda Pogorelec
Aug. 15—Shirley Koski & Barb Kanpper
Aug. 22—Russ & Stephanie Carlson
Aug. 29—Brian & Julie Hill
Sept. 5—Jeffrey & Heather Jones

Lawn-mowing for the week of . . .

Aug. 1—Brian Hill
Aug. 8—Roger Linden
Aug. 15—Mike Hannay
Aug. 22—Lucas Hill
Sept. 5—Bob Nelson



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This is the best time to purchase school supplies. We have enough crayons. We specially need solar calculators, blackboard chalk, water color paints, and "wow" gifts.

UPDATE FROM CRAIG WICKSTROM

“Greet your parents! Greet you family! Greet the church!” Whenever I prepare to leave Congo, people come up to me and entrust me with their greetings. Through me they feel connected to you and to the Church Universal!

This summer has been full of travel and thoughts of the future. We drove to Kansas City for the Covenant Annual Meeting, to North Carolina to camp, and then to the West Coast, where we spent some time with my folks, who will soon be 93.

One of my areas of ministry has been to accompany leaders of the Covenant Church in Congo as they guide the church and adapt to a changing world. Another area has been to develop a ministry of listening and presence. Many people in the CEUM have never seen an American Covenanter, and my presence has encouraged them in ways I don't fully understand. My goal is to visit all 46 regions of the CEUM - and then to visit them again. I want to get to know both clergy and laity, encouraging them simply by my presence.

I praise God for the determination of CEUM leaders to share God's Kingdom in the world. I praise Him for safe travel, opportunity to connect with our church and blood families, and guidance in our decision-making.

Please pray for strength and efficiency for me as I prepare to return to Congo August 18. I thank God for each of you who care about Congo and about my ministry.



ISAZA FAMILY

PRAYER AND PRAISE UPDATE

What became clear in this season of national elections is that Colombians are asking for a change, and so we pray for the President-elect and the Vice President-elect (the first Afrocolombian elected to this office). We ask you to join us in praying for them as they assume leadership in August that their leadership will be marked by peace, reconciliation, and justice.

Change is coming! Not just for the country, but for us as we spend the next four months traveling. Pray for our family as we are on home assignment.

We praise God for the students in the Biblical Certificate programs who continue to study online. Pray for the 150 students who continue to go deeper in their study of the Scriptures.

We praise God for a staff retreat we had in Santa María with our missionary team and a special family from Chicago.

We praise God for the work of Be Peace, Make Peace leaders and participants in the town of El Bagre.

Please pray for Julio as he prepares to begin the research induction program at Oxford Centre for Mission Studies online in September and in person in October. This is the first step in the Ph.D. process for Julio. He is already reading and investigating in preparation.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



9th **Jean Pajunen**
19th **Judy Linden**
30th **Linda Pogorelec**

AMONG US

Bob and Mary Nelson spent time in Colorado, including a chance to be with their son and daughter-in-law.



Shirley Koski enjoyed having family with her at the lake.

BULLETIN, CALENDAR, AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES



Items for the September calendar need to be e-mailed to **pogy56@q.com** by Sunday, August 21st. Weekly bulletin items should be e-mailed to **wbchris@q.com** Wednesday of the week.

Items for the September issue of the **Lamp-lighter** should be e-mailed to **wbchris@q.com** by Sunday, August 21st. Remember that we are always looking for news of interest for the “Among Us” column.