

FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER

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*First Covenant Church
Virginia, Minnesota
741-7117*

www.firstcovenantvirginia.org

What You Give to God, He Multiplies

Hattie May Wiatt, a six-year-old girl, lived near Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia, USA. The Sunday school was very crowded. Russell H. Conwell, the minister, told her that one day they would have buildings big enough to allow everyone to attend. She said, 'I hope you will. It is so crowded I am afraid to go there alone.' He replied, 'When we get the money we will construct one large enough to get all the children in.'

Two years later, in 1886, Hattie May died. After the funeral Hattie's mother gave the minister a little bag they had found under their daughter's pillow containing 57 cents in change that she had saved up. Alongside it was a note in her handwriting: 'To help build bigger so that more children can go to Sunday school.'

The minister changed all the money into pennies and offered each one for sale. He received \$250 – and 54 of the cents were given back. The \$250 was itself changed into pennies and sold by the newly formed 'Wiatt Mite Society'. In this way, her 57 cents kept on multiplying.

Twenty-six years later, in a talk entitled, 'The history of the 57 cents', the minister explained the results of her 57-cent donation: a church with a membership of over 5,600 people, a hospital where tens of thousands of people had been treated, 80,000 young people going through university, 2,000 people going out

to preach the gospel – all this happened 'because Hattie May Wiatt invested her 57 cents'

The theme of multiplication runs throughout the Bible. What cannot be achieved by addition, God does by multiplication. You reap what you sow, only many times more. What you give to the Lord, he multiplies.

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**



MISSION EVENTS



SERVING CHRIST IN HIS CHURCH

Ushers:

- Sept. 11—Roger & Gail Johnston
- Sept. 18—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen
- Sept. 25—Shirley Koski
- Oct. 2—Roger & Judy Linden

Caretakers for the week of . . .

- Sept. 12—Mike & Kathy Hannay
- Sept. 19—Roger & Judy Linden
- Sept. 26—Lucas & Cassie Hill
- Oct. 2—Volunteer Needed

Lawn-mowing for the week of . . .

- Sept. 5—Bob Nelson
- Sept. 12—Wayne Christiansen
- Sept. 19—Brian Hill
- Sept. 26—Roger Linden
- Oct. 3—Mike Hannay

Events have been scheduled for next month with Covenant missionaries our church supports. On Wednesday, October 5th, Steve and Barb Swanson, missionaries to Sweden, will be with us. At 5:30 p.m. we will have supper in our church

followed by a presentation by Steve and Barb. The Biwabik and Cook churches will be innovated to join us. We will need housing for the Swansons in a house without cats. If you can help in this way, please talk to Wayne.

On Thursday, October 20th, we will meet with the Cook and Biwabik churches in Biwabik. There will be a supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by a presentation by Peter Kim, missionary to Taiwan.

Plan to attend both events to find out what God is doing in these two countries.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

7/1/21-7/31/21



Balance on hand on July
1st: **\$23,507.06**

General Fund income:
\$6,129.00

Other income: **\$58.50**

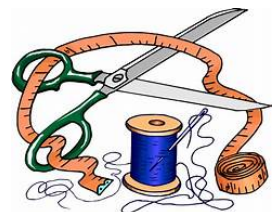
Steam Conversion donation: **\$275.00**

Expenses: **\$2,787.07**

Balance on hand: **\$27,443.99**

COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

Project Day will resume on Tuesday, September 20th, at 9:30. We are enjoying having a room to work in that doesn't have to be set up each time. Join us if you can.



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 Mikkelsen, who has worked in Christian radio for the



past five years. Brochures are available on the table in the narthex.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee had their second meeting on August 24th. Our committee consists of Wayne Christiansen, Kathy Hannay, Shirley Koski, Roger Linden and me, Julie Phaneuf-Hill. We are planning on meeting a minimum of 2 times per month or as needed. At this meeting, we reviewed our information that was entered into CovConnect during the last search for a pastor. With a few necessary updates we will be ready to submit our information to the Northwest Conference for approval, and then into the system to be available to Pastoral Candidates. We will begin each meeting with a devotional focusing on the search process. We are asking you to also participate by praying for our committee as well as the search process. We all agree that God is preparing someone just for us, and we need to prepare to accept that individual as our new Pastor, our new spiritual leader and teacher. Several of the questions in the profile that we are preparing involve the type of characteristics we desire in a pastor, the style of worship we prefer, and the music (traditional or contemporary) that we like. What changes are we seeking in our ministry, and how can that be achieved. Are we internally focused, or externally focused? Please approach one of the members of our committee if you have any input, questions or concerns. As much as possible we want to involve our entire church family in this process. Thank you for prayerfully supporting the search process, and for providing input so that we can call a pastor that will be acceptable (as much as possible) to us all. Please pray for powerful unity and oneness of spirit within the pastoral search committee.

Julie



Thank you for your support of Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision over the years. We are so excited to be celebrating 10 years of partnership. What a blessing it is to work alongside churches like yours throughout our denomination. We have been encouraged by your support, and we hope the partnership has been meaningful for your congregation. It certainly has impacted the lives of our sisters and brothers in Congo.

In the past two years, even during the disruption of the pandemic, sustainable community development work has continued in the northwest region of the Democratic Republic of Congo through our partnership with the Covenant Church of Congo and World Vision. We are witnessing progress, but much remains to be done.

Access to clean water has led to life transformation. When clean water access is accompanied by sanitation and hygiene training, child mortality rates can be reduced by 50%. Our prayer is that every child sponsored through our partnership, their families, and their neighbors will benefit from significantly improved health and ease of daily living. As a Covenant church, you are a part of this story!

The Covenant Kids Congo team extends our deepest gratitude for the opportunity to partner with you in what God is doing through his church in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



ISAZA FAMILY

PRAYER AND PRAISE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Shirley Koski

14th



We arrived in the USA on July 14th and are on the road visiting churches, friends, and supporters all along the West Coast. We have already driven 1200 miles and have been hosted by 4 gracious families. We have had the opportunity to worship with and share in 4 of our supporting churches. It has been fun to see familiar faces and catch up with people we haven't seen in years. And we have had the opportunity to meet new friends and share together. It has definitely been meaningful to be able to be in person in these places. Their partnership is valuable to the ministry in Colombia.

Please pray for the **many areas in Colombia that are being affected by heavy rains and flooding**. El Bagre is one of those areas and many of the leaders of the Be Peace Make Peace have had their homes flooded and are getting around the streets in canoes.

Pray for **Colombia and for a commitment to peace and reconciliation** as the new president began his term on August 7th.

Pray for the students in **New Testament and Biblical Interpretation** certificate programs as they begin new courses this month.

Pray for Julio as he begins reading for **his research induction program** that begins online in September and will continue in Oxford during the month of October. Julio asks for prayer that he'll be able to understand the British accent!

AMONG US

Jennifer, Elizabeth, Soren, and Laila spent almost a week with Wayne and Bernie last month.



Wayne & Bernie drove to Red Wing to attend a 70th birthday celebration for Pastor Roger. From there they drove to Winona to have coffee with Pastor Dennis and Mary, who sent greetings to members of our church family.

Connie Rasmussen has moved to Washburn, Wisconsin, where she is working for the U. S. Forest Service.



BULLETIN, CALENDAR, AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Items for the October calendar need to be e-mailed to **pogy56@q.com** by Sunday, September 18th. Weekly bulletin items should be e-mailed to **wbchris@q.com** by 9:00 a.m. Wednesday of the week.

Items for the October issue of the **Lamplighter** should be turned in by Sunday, September 18th. 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