

FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHT

First Covenant Church
Virginia, Minnesota
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www.firstcovenantvirginia.org

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YOU DESIRE TRUTH IN THE INWARD BEING;
THEREFORE, TEACH ME WISDOM IN MY
SECRET HEART AND PURGE ME WITH
HYSSOP, AND I SHALL BE CLEAN;
WASH ME, AND I SHALL BE WHITER
THAN SNOW. CREATE IN ME A CLEAN
HEART, O GOD, AND PUT A NEW AND
RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. —PSALM
51:6–7, 10

THIS WEEK WE START OUR JOURNEY INTO THE
WILDERNESS DURING THIS SEASON OF LENT.
THROUGHOUT THIS TIME, WE WILL BE REMIND-
ED THAT WE ARE IN A SEASON OF PENITENCE
WALKING TOWARDS RENEWAL AND NEW RELA-
TIONSHIP WITH GOD. IN THE READINGS TODAY
WE ARE REMINDED OF THE MANY WAYS WE
FALL SHORT OF THE MARK OF BEING RIGHT-
EOUS BEFORE GOD, SINNING BY OUR ACTIONS
AND INACTIONS.

THEREFORE, OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS EASTER
SHOULD BE ONE OF DEEP REFLECTION, PER-
SONAL ASSESSMENT OF OUR SHORTCOMINGS,
WITH A HUMBLE AND HONEST DESIRE TO BE
MADE WHOLE, TO BE OF CLEAN HEART WITH A
NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT.

ONE SHORT AND SWEET PRAYER I SAY
THROUGHOUT THE DAY THAT HELPS ME TO
STAND HUMBLY BEFORE GOD IS THE JESUS
PRAYER. WITH IT I AM ALWAYS BEFORE JESUS
ASKING TO BE MADE CLEAN BY HIS SAVING
MERCY.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, HAVE MER-
CY ON ME, A SINNER.

SANDY BLAINE

FIRST COVENANT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of First Covenant Church is
to worship God,
equip people to live in faith,
share God's love,
and serve the community around us.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday.-
March 12th. Be sure to set your clocks **one
hour ahead** so you are here on time for our
Worship Celebration.

FOOD SHELF MONTH

Each March our church conducts a drive for Quad
Cities Food Shelf. which serves residents of Virginia,
Eveleth, Mt. Iron, Gilbert, Cotton, and the surround-
ing area.

Food items currently needed at the food shelf are
canned meats, soups, one-dish meals, canned fruit
and vegetables, cereal, pasta, and crackers. Paper
products such as toilet tissue, paper towels, dispos-
able diapers, and personal hygiene products are al-
ways needed.

This month each dollar and every pound of food donated to the food shelf will be partially matched. Cash donations are spent buying food from the food bank.

On the four Sundays of March, there will be a box in the front entry of the church for you to leave donations. Checks should be made out to the Quad Cities Food Shelf.

SERVING CHRIST IN HIS CHURCH

Ushers:

Mar. 5—Bob & Mary Nelson
Mar. 12—Shirley Koskik
Mar. 19—Roger & Judy Linden
Mar. 26—Mike U & Kathy Hannay
Apr. 2—Brian & Julie Hill

Caretakers for the week of . . .

Mar. 5—Shirley Koski & Barb Knapper
Mar. 12—Russ & Stephanie Carlson
Mar. 19—Brian & Julie Hill
Mar. 26—Jeffrey & Heather Jones
Apr. 2—Mike & Kathy Hannay

COVENANT KIDS CONGO

As a result of the work of Covenant Kids Congo, the number of students in school has increased significantly. Of special importance is then increase in the number of girls enrolled in school. As children gain access to quality education, achieve literacy, and complete school, they have better opportunities to thrive.

Flowers for Easter

If you would like to bring in an Easter lily or other flower for Easter Sunday, please have it to church by the Saturday before Easter.

UPDATE FROM STEVE & BARB SWANSON

Reflections on home assignment 2022

So many thoughts run through our heads as we reflect on this time of being in the US. We are so blessed by our families, friends, ministry partners ~ both churches and individuals. You all kept us moving forward and sustaining us in the hard moments when we were traveling so much, but also in those moments of pure joy as we had time together and could share stories of God's incredible goodness. Being home in the US after 5 years away is always an interesting experience, as we try to catch up on so much of life that has happened during that time away. Add to that the pandemic and all that has happened in our country, and we felt like we were lost in a lot of conversations. Yet we felt God's presence, and provision, in so many ways.

MARCH BIRTHDAY

8th Russ Carlson

BULLETIN, CALENDAR, AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Items for the April calendar need to be e-mailed to [**pogy56@q.com**](mailto:pogy56@q.com) by Sunday, March 19th Weekly bulletin items should be e-mailed to [**gailjohnston@gmail.com**](mailto:gailjohnston@gmail.com) by Wednesday

Items for the April issue of the **Lamplighter** should be submitted by Sunday, March 19th Items may be submitted by e-mail to [**gailjohnston@gmail.com**](mailto:gailjohnston@gmail.com) Remember that we are always looking for news of interest for the "Among Us" column.