

FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER

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

COVENANT WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

The mission of Covenant World Relief & Development is to join God in loving, serving, and working in relationship together with the poor, oppressed, traumatized, and marginalized. The following values guide how we seek to carry out our mission and are particularly important in evaluating grant applications.

We seek to demonstrate the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. We believe the church is at its best when it holistically serves the most vulnerable—spiritually, physically, economically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

We partner with established local organizations, relying on their expertise, experience, and networks. We prioritize Covenant connected relationships.

We affirm an asset-based relief and development model that prioritizes local resources—human, relational, material, and financial. The community and its leaders are equipped and empowered to carry out programs that are locally initiated and led. We work with, rather than for, the community.

We love and serve the poor, the oppressed, the traumatized, and the marginalized. We do not prioritize or discriminate based on ethnicity, gender, religion, or age.

We support comprehensive and sustainable development that leads to holistic transformation. We value the quality of impact more than the number of people impacted (depth over breadth).

We believe that all people are made in God's image and are worthy of being treated with dignity and respect.

We work to address the root causes of injustice through reconciliation, peacemaking, solidarity, and advocacy.

During the month of November, we will be emphasizing the work of Covenant World Relief and development. We will receive a special offering for this work on Sunday, November 19th. Soup cans will be available for you to assemble your offering. We encourage you to give generously to support this vital ministry.



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:

Oct. 1—Roger & Judy Linden
Oct. 8—Mike & Kathy Hannay
Oct. 15—Brian & Julie Hill
Oct. 22—Roger & Gail Johnson
Oct. 29—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen

Church carekars for the week of . . .

Oct. 1-7—Russ & Stephanie Carlson
Oct. 8-14—Brian & Julie Hill
Oct. 15-21—Jeffrey & Heather Jones
Oct. 22-28—Mike & Kathy Hannay
Oct. 29-Nov. 4—Roger & Judy Linden



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT 8/1/23-8/31/23

Checking account balance as
Aug. 1st: **\$46,709.78**

General Fund income for current period: **\$7,422.00**

Other income: **\$151.00**

Total expenses for current period: **\$4,511.87**

Checking account balance as of Aug. 31st:
\$49,819.91

COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP

The annual Covenant Park Fundraiser will be held 5:00-8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 14th, at Salem Covenant Church in Duluth. There will be a silent auction followed by dinner and a program highlighting what God did at camp last summer and what the plans are for the coming summer. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to covenantpark.org.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

We will hold our 3rd quarter business meeting during the Sunday school hour on October 29th. All members and friends of the church are encouraged to attend.

SERVICE AT WATERVIEW PINES



Our church will be conducting the service at the Waterview Pines health care facility in Virginia at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 29th. We would encourage you to attend to help with the singing and encourage the residents there.

COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

Save the Date: The Northwest Conference Spring Renewal 2024 will be held April 5-6 at Hope Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The theme is "Joyful in Hope". Registration materials will be available in January. We hope to have a carful attending.



Project Day: We are looking for more workers on Project Day. We meet at 9:30 on the 3rd Tuesday during the school year. We have jobs for those who don't sew on machine—pressing, pinning, assembling Operation Christmas shoeboxes etc.—so please join us if you are free.

Women's Retreat: The theme of this year's Covenant Women's fall retreat was "Stay at His Table." The

speaker, Mary Lou Macinnis, shared 4 things about his table. We are all invited.

- 1) The invitation- I am invited to stay to hear and listen .
- 2) Stay at his feet- I am invited to go to the Father's feet with my pain and discomfort.
- 3) Stay at the altar- I am invited to be inconvenienced in order to be of service to those in need.
- 4) Stay in his power- We are invited to follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our life. We can't do it on our own

This year's retreat was attended by Shirley Koski including her daughter Lynette, daughter-in-law Trisha, and Trisha's friend, Lindsey. Also, attending was Linda Pogorelec and first time attendee Julianne Schorr from the Cook Covenant Church. We also befriended a new attendee, Lori, from Moose Lake Covenant. She joined our group playing Mexican train.

It was a beautiful weekend to turn our hearts toward the Word, meet new friends , and be inspired.
—Linda Pogorelec

MESABI RANGE YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Campus Life will meet every Tuesday at True Hope Fellowship. Student center hours will be from 3:00-5:00 p.m. to have fun, do homework, and build Christ-centered relationships. From 5:00-6:00 there will be a "phone free" dinner, after which Campus life programming will run from 6:00-7:00. For the first semester the focus will be based on a youth version of a program called "Celebrate Recovery." The goal is to build trust and vulnerability while incorporating God's truth and hope for their lives. The remaining half hour will be free time and coordinating safe rides home.



Adult volunteers could be used to provide general supervision during any point of the evening, to share their testimony during one night of programming, or to provide rides to or from True Hope if needed. If you are willing to volunteer , please call Brand-Monson at 218-750-4996 or Jake Grass at 651-249-6583.

COVENANT KIDS CONGO

Every boy and girl deserves a childhood free from violence and exploitation—to be nurtured to realize their God-given potential. A recent survey in Gemena revealed that 39% of children experience sexual violence and 29% are involved in child labor. Our partnership is fighting this in a number of ways, including equipping communities to identify and support vulnerable children and address the root causes of violence. We are happy to report that the 126 young former sex-workers rehabilitated through vocational training in 2021 continue to learn trades such as sewing and hairdressing in 10 training centers. In addition, community members formed 23 child protection and advocacy groups (20 in Gemena and three in Karawa).

As an initiative of Covenant World Relief and Development, Covenant Kids Congo engages in the fight against sex trafficking and human trafficking, which is just one of many ways the Covenant is engaging in this conversation. The FREE anti-sex trafficking initiative of the Evangelical Covenant Church empowers churches to engage in the fight against sex trafficking both domestically and globally.

MEET EVENS & KARINA PAUL COVENANT MISSIONARIES TO HAITI



We have been with **Serve Globally** since 2020. Ten years ago we established a primary school and high school in La Victoire in the northern part of Haiti. We serve more than 350 children and youth who come through our doors daily. We also pastor churches we have planted in rural areas where no churches existed before. When I grew up in that area, I used to walk two hours on Sundays just to attend a worship service. Now people can wake up in their own community and worship the Lord.

We are working with Haitians on sustainability. In one project funded by **Covenant World Relief and Development**, we train 80 families to be successful in animal farming. We have seven different male breeders, which helps us get bigger goats that can give us more meat and more milk to help us fight malnutrition.

We also have a sustainable agricultural program. We teach the young people and children in school horticultural practices, so they can learn how to do crop production—growing cabbage, spinach, hot peppers, sweet peppers. They play and see things grow. When they understand the production, that gives them confidence in themselves to know we have the capacity to grow! They know that God created them with value. And God can use their skills and capacity to do great things.

In our micro-loans program, we train 50 women and provide loans of around \$200 at low interest. We train them to do business and take care of their families. They use the funds to buy candy, or soap, or spaghetti and sell them. These women become our Walmart. We go and buy everything we need from them. They have skills, they just need resources. We try to provide those resources so they can care for their families.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Darlene Reindahl	8th
Mary Nelson	17th
Julie Phaneuf-Hill	25th

AMONG US

We extend our Christian sympathy to **Evelyn Babbini** on the death of her aunt and cousin during the horrific fires that swept the island of Maui, in Hawaii.

Audrey Branstrom is spending several weeks visiting family members in Chicago and Michigan.

Wayne & Bernie Christiansen are driving to Reno, Nevada, to visit Elizabeth and Soren and Laila. En route They hope to stop in national parks and other points of interest. The twins have fall break during the first week of October