

# FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER

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*First Covenant Church*

*Virginia, Minnesota*

*741-7117*

*[www.firstcovenantvirginia.org](http://www.firstcovenantvirginia.org)*

## **Cranberry Sauce and Pumpkin Pie**

Turkeys and cornucopias and pilgrim hats. Seasoned stuffing hot from the oven. Creamed onions, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Uncles and aunts and cousins to play with. Grandmothers and grandfathers with family gathered round. Children waiting for the Great Pumpkin rise over Charlie Brown's pumpkin patch and dads watching college football. A day to relax and maybe rake leaves in the afternoon.

But Thanksgiving? How much will our family Thanksgiving celebrations have to do with giving thanks?

A glance at the first Thanksgiving brings it all back. On December 21, 1620 the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth rock. Through the dead of winter the colony struggled with poor and meager food, strenuous labor, a biting wind that chilled to the bone, and the ravages of disease. Nearly half the 102 Mayflower passengers did not live to see spring refresh Cape Cod Bay.

But God sent some Native Americans -- Samoset, Squanto, and Massasoit -- to help the English settlers plant and hunt and fish. The bountiful harvest that autumn led Governor Bradford to invite the Indians to celebrate God's goodness. Ninety tall braves accepted the invitation

to join the Pilgrims in a feast of Thanksgiving to God for His blessings.

The Pilgrims lived close enough to the soil to know how dependent they were on God's Providence. They had learned to thank God in the midst of the bitterness of winter past. And they were quick to thank Him during abundant blessing, too. We teach our children to say "please" and "thank you" as the rudiments of courtesy, yet it is so easy to be rude and unthinking toward God. How often we forget to gratefully acknowledge His goodness towards us.

This Thanksgiving let your prayers and expressions of love rise toward your Heavenly Father.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?

I will take the cup of salvation,  
and call upon the name of the Lord." (Psalm 116:12-13)

—Ralph F. Wilson

# 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:

Nov. 5—Bob & Mary Nelson  
Nov. 12—Shirley Koski  
Nov. 19—Roger & Judy Linden  
Nov. 26—Mike & Kathy Hannay  
Dec. 3—Brian & Julie Hill

### Church caretakers for the week of . . .

Oct. 29-Nov. 4—Roger & Judy Linden  
Nov. 5-11—Lucas & Cassie Hill  
Nov. 12-18—Roger & Gail Johnston  
Nov. 19-25—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen  
Nov. 26-Dec. 2—Shirley Koski  
& Barb Knapper

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT 9/1-9/30/2023



Checking account balance as  
Sept. 1st: **\$49,819.91**

General Fund income for current  
period: **\$5,533.00**

Other income: **\$386.00**

Total expenses for current period: **\$s3,443.76**

Checking account balance as of Sept. 30th:  
**\$52,374.15**

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Be aware that Daylight Saving Time  
ends on Sunday, November 5th. Set  
your clock back one hour so you  
don't get to church an hour early!

## COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

### Cans for Congo

Thanks to all who saved aluminum cans during  
the summer. We have \$8.00 to send in for the  
women and children of Congo. While that  
doesn't sound like much to us, many in the De-  
mocratic Republic of Congo are living on less  
than \$2.00 a day.

### Project Day

Join us the 3rd Tuesday at  
9:30 and help us finish up a  
number of projects and start  
some new ones. We have  
been given a lot of new fabric  
and are enjoying figuring out  
how to best use it.



## COVENANT PARK FALL FUNDRAISER

Wayne and Bernie attended  
the annual camp fundraiser on  
October 14th at Salem  
Covenant Church in Duluth.  
At that event \$28,600.00 was  
given or pledged for the work  
of the camp and its future  
projects. If you would like to

have a role in supporting this vital ministry, email  
[office@covenanark.org](mailto:office@covenanark.org).



## COVENANT WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

During the month of November, we will be hearing about the work of Covenant World Relief and Development and its efforts to assist needy areas of the world. On Sunday, November 19th, we will receive a special offering to support this ministry. Soup cans are available on the table for your offering. Our church has generously supported CWRD in past years. Let's do so again this year.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Several of us have discovered Facebook pages related to Operation Christmas Child. Some pages have creative ways to sew, knit, crochet etc. items that can go in the shoeboxes. Others tell of the fantastic bargains that have been found. Often

the final clearance at Walmart has shorts, tops, hats etc. going for \$1.00 each. Many are preparing and buying year round. We encourage you to check those clearance shelves and racks. There is also a need to send fillers as some boxes come in to the distribution sites in need of more items. We will leave a box out for things you make or buy. We have fabric and yarn if you need supplies.

## COVENANT KIDS CONGO

A word from Bienvenue, the child our church sponsors:

"Thank you! Here's an update on the difference you've made for me and my immunity in 2023.

"I am 15 years old. Currently I am in grade three of senior high school.

"World Vision is constantly monitoring my well-being. Currently my health is good.

"This year I learned how important it is to wash my hands so that I don't get sick. My family and I learned how to make healthy choices for our lives.

"I received extra help to improve my reading and writing skills.

"My community savings group teaches how we can save together for our futures.

"We understand the rights of children and how to report suspected case of child abuse.

"Thank you for also helping my community, Maluku."

## PASTORAL SEARCH

I just wanted to give you an update on our search for a new pastor. The liaison we have been working with at the Northwest Conference has had a change in his job description. Going forward we will be working with Superintendent Kara Stromberg. When I attend the training session for Church Chairpersons on 10/28, I plan to introduce myself to her and get a feeling for how the process will work going forward. We are aware that many Covenant churches are searching for pastors, as well as churches in many other denominations. The process often takes a few years. We are blessed to have individuals that are willing to provide pulpit supply thanks to the hard work of Roger Linden. If you have any feedback please reach out to me. In the mean time, while we prayerfully consider the future, we also pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in what our ministry should look like during this time.

## MESABI RANGE YOUTH FOR CHRIST

The Church Council received a request from the YFC leadership to assist in providing meals for the young people attending YFC/Campus Life on Tuesday evenings. The youth meet at True Hope Fellowship on Tuesday evenings, to hang out, do homework, play games, etc. Then they are served a meal and have their “official” planned activity after dinner. The goals are to meet the kids’ need for a home-cooked meal, but also to build relationships with them. We decided we could help with that and had our first experience was this past Tuesday 10/24. Going forward, we will be responsible for the 5th Tuesday of the month as well as filling in when there is a need. If you are interested in helping, please let Barb Knapper or Julie Hill know. Our next scheduled responsibility will be on January 30th.

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<b>Sarah Skogman</b>	11
<b>Linda Skogman</b>	18
<b>Wayne Christiansen</b>	21
<b>Leo Phaneuf</b>	28
<b>Audrey Branstrom</b>	29

## AMONG US

We extend our Christian sympathy to **Kathy Hannay** on the unexpected death of her brother, Dale Linnunen at these if 56 on October 4th.

WE also extend our sympathy to Audrey Branstrom on the death of a niece from cancer

On their way home from their visit to Reno **Wayne & Bernie Christiansen** spent a night at the home of DuWayne and Peggy Johnston in Gillette, Wyoming. They enjoyed visiting with them.

### BULLETIN, CALENDAR, AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Items for the December calendar need to be e-mailed to **pogy56@q.com** by Sunday, November 19th. Weekly bulletin items should be e-mailed to **wbchris@q.com** by the Wednesday of week in which they are to appear.

Items for the December issue of the **Lamplighter** should be turned in by Sunday, November 19th. 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.

