

FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER



First Covenant Church
Virginia, Minnesota
www.firstcovenantvirginia.org

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TEN GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP

1. Worship begins the moment I close the door of my home and start on my way to church. On the way, I pray for the church, for my pastor, for the Sunday school teachers, for the ushers, for the musicians, and for all who come to the worship service.
2. Before entering the church, I pause for a moment to give thanks for the privilege of worshiping God this day..
3. The moment I enter the sanctuary, my conversation with others ceases. I enter in silence, quieting my mind and heart.
4. When I am seated, I bow my head in silent prayer, praying for all who have come to worship,—myself included—for my church and the wider fellowship of believers throughout the world. I pause, waiting to hear the still small voice assuring me that God is near.
5. As the service begins, I respond fully in the singing, the prayers, the Scripture readings, in the real sense of worship.
6. As I lay the tithe and offering in the collection plate, I thank God for my many blessings

and seek His blessing upon the use of this money for the work of His kingdom around the world.

7. I listen carefully to the sermon, letting its spirit and meaning go to the roots of my soul so that I may receive spiritual strength and guidance for the coming week.

8. If an invitation is given, I utter a silent prayer that the Holy Spirit will influence someone, including myself, to make an appropriate commitment.

9. When the service is ended, I speak to those I know and extend a warm Christian welcome to those who are strangers.

10. As I leave the service, I begin my service, dedicating my life in the week to come to the high and holy way of the Lord.

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.**

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour so you are notate for church.

SERVING CHRIST IN HIS CHURCH

Ushers:

Mar. 3—Bob & Mary Nelson
Mar. 10—Shirley Koski
Mar. 17—Roger & Judy Linden
Mar. 24—Mike & Kathy Hannay
Mar. 31—Brian & Julie Hill
Apr. 7—Roger & Gail Johnston

Church caretakers for the week of . . .

Mar. 3—Roger & Judy Linden
Mar. 10—Lucas & Cassie Hill
Mar. 17—Roger & Gail Johnston
Mar. 24—Shirley Koski & Barb

Knapper

Mar. 31—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

1/1/24-1/31/24

Checking account balance as Jan. 1st: **\$61,211.06**

General Fund income for current period: **\$4,989.00**

Mission Account transfers: **\$1,200.00**

Other income: **\$90.00**

Total expenses for current period:
\$35,216.49

Checking account balance as of
Jan. 31st: **\$32,303.57**



FOOD SHELF MONTH

Each March our church conducts a drive for Quad City Food Shelf. which serves residents of Virginia, Eveleth, Mt. Iron, Gilbert, Cotton, and the surrounding 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, disposable diapers, and personal hygiene products are always needed.

On the five 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 City Food Shelf

DRAMA PERFORMANCE

The Bleak Mid-Winter Players invite you to attend a performance of “Ragged”—a journey back to Charles Dicken’s London and the children who compelled him and others to make a difference. Performances for the dinner theater and dessert matinee are March 15-17 at First Baptist Church in Cook or the following Saturday at North Star in Virginia. For ticket information check the poster in the narthex or go to <https://bleak-mid-winter-players.square.site/>.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Are you looking for clearance items? Walmart had some cute T-shirts for \$1.00 and \$2.00. Each box needs a “wow” item besides school supplies and personal care items. Some suggested items are soccer ball with

manual air pump, harmonica or woodwind recorder, stuffed animal. Other items we regularly send include: marbles, good quality yo-yo, jump rope or sunglasses.

COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

The Spring Renewal event for the Northwest Conference will be held April 5-6th in Hope Church in Grand Forks, ND. Kecia Stroot is the Keynote speaker. The theme for the event is “Joyful in Hope” based on Romans 12:12-18. Registrations are due no later than March 25th. We hope to have a good representation from our church attending.

We are very glad to once again schedule our Covenant Women Salad Supper. Mark your calendars now for Friday, April 12, and be thinking of women you could invite. Liz Burton, pastor’s wife from the Cook Covenant Church, will be our speaker. Sign-up sheets will be available before long. Be thinking of a favorite salad you would like to bring and a guest you would like to invite..

MARCH BIRTHDAY



Russ Carlson 8th

AMONG US

Shirley Koski took a road trip to Layton, Utah, during February with daughter, Lynette Owens. The reason for this road trip was she and her husband have now moved from the Twin Cities area back to Utah. Shirley rode with Lynette, who drove her loaded car from Minnesota to Utah. It was a 3-night trip instead of 2 nights on the road because of weather issues, including a whole day of fog and snowy, icy roads, with closures, in the Wyoming mountains. Upon arrival in Layton, they spent several days unpacking boxes, and having some fun too! Shirley flew home Feb .13 after being there for a week.

Paul & Rachel Johnston, JD, and Grace spent a week in Reynosa , Mexico, on mission trip with a group from Lakeview Christian Academy.P

Wayne and Bernie Christiansen will be spending the month of March in Oaxaca, Mexico.

BULLETIN, CALENDAR, AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Items for the April calendar need to be e-mailed to pogy567@q.com by Sunday, March 17th. Weekly bulletin items should be e-mailed to rogerplinden@gmail.com gailjohnston@gmail.com by Wednesday of the week in which they are to appear

Items for the April issue of the **Lamplighter** should be sent to gailjohnston@gmail.com by Sunday ,March 24th. Remember that we are always looking for news of interest for the “Among Us” column.