

# FIRST COVENANT LAMPLIGHTER



*First Covenant Church*  
*Virginia, Minnesota*  
*www.firstcovenant virginia*  
*218-741-7117*

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## HOPE

As we begin our journey together, I (myself) look ahead as far as I can see but I can only see clearly for short distances. It is similar to the cataract surgery I had on both my eyes in April. I can see more clearly (things are very distinct in contrast to what they were before) but the surgery did not correct my vision to 20/20 or even 20/40 (as I had hoped). So I still need glasses to get my vision where it needs to be for legal driving (Yup; you're right! You can ask Kathy about how my driving has been for 6 weeks without glasses, LOL.) For example, I need prism corrections in both eyes. I've had prism problems since I was a kid but only recently have been able to get the correction put into my glasses. (My doctor says that about 30% of people need prism correction but don't even know it because they've learned to compensate for it.) Before the prism corrections, I was constantly seeing double images (similar to the problems Pastor Dennis had after his surgery). All of these (and more) limit my ability to see as well as others.

As we begin to look into our future as an essential part of the greater Body of Christ on the Iron Range, we are going to have (sight) limitations. We will make mistakes. However, we will be able to see well enough to proceed. This is one of the reasons why the Scriptures imply we should take our Christian walk a day at a time ("Give us this day our daily bread" - from the Lord's Prayer). We can only see so far ahead. So ... let's also have hope!  
"But hope that is seen is not hope at all.  
Who hopes for what he already has?  
But if we hope for what we do not yet have,

We wait for it patiently." (Romans 8:24-25, NIV).  
I have hope. I'll need work on the patience part.

First, I have hope because of "what we already have": Specifically, we have hundreds of years of wisdom and "life" experience combined among us. I think if we added it all up, we would have over a thousand years of experience in living as Christians (20 people with 50 years each in the Lord = 1,000 years!). What an amazing resource! Each of us has accumulated wisdom; YOU have spiritual (and "life") wisdom that we need. YOU have spiritual gifts that Jesus gave you (YES! YOU DO!). THAT gives me HOPE. I don't know how to get that wisdom out to our community. I don't even know how to get that wisdom spread around among ourselves. But I know that I am in need of your wisdom and experience as we move forward. Take an opportunity and let's talk. Ask me, "How is it with you and Jesus?"

Second, I have hope because we actually do have the ability to "see" (spiritually). Maybe we can't see very far down the road, but we can see! We can travel one step at a time. But I believe to "see" well, we need to see together. ("For the Body is not one member, but many", I Cor. 12:14, NASB). Again, I invite you to stop in (or I can meet you at your home or a neutral place) so we can be built up (edified) by the wisdom we each have gained from our life journeys.

"So if you are called by His Name ...  
... and you know the Word ..."

... and pride yourselves in God and your relationship with Him ...  
 ... and know and understand His will ...”  
 ... and approve of what's right ...  
 ... and have a sense of what is vital, critical and important . .  
 ... and if you are confident you are a guide to the blind ...  
 Well, then, teach others as well as yourself.”  
 (Romans 2:17-21a, var.)

Thank you, in advance, for what we will learn together on “The Way,” the journey together.  
 - Mike

Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (NASB),  
 or “Where there is no revelation the people cast off restraint.” (NIV)

## 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:

Jun. 2—Roger & Gail Johnston  
 Jun. 9—Wayne & Bernie Christiansen  
 Jun. 16—Bob & Mary Nelson  
 Jun. 23—Roger Linden  
 June 30—Brian & Julie Hill  
 July 7—Roger & Gail Johnston

### Church Caretakers for the week of . . .

Jun. 2—Ken & Linda Pogorelec  
 Jun. 9—Shirley Koski & Barb Knapper  
 Jun. 16—Russ & Stephanie Carlson  
 & Linda Skogman  
 Jun. 23—Brian & Julie Hill  
 June 30—Jeffrey & Heather Jones  
 July 7—Mike & Kathy Hannay

### INTERIM PASTOR

We are happy to report that Mike Hannay has agreed to serve as our church’s interim pastor while we continue to search for a permanent pastor. In addition to preaching on Sundays, he will maintain office hours in the pastor’s study Monday through Thursday mornings. During those hours he may be reached on the church phone number (218-741-7117). At other times he may be reached on his cell phone (218-290-5085). We appreciate Mike’s willingness to serve us during this interim period.

### COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

We concentrated on items for Operation Christmas Child and accomplished a great deal at our May Project Day. We assembled 14 friendship bracelet kits, 23 pony bead necklace/bracelet kits, 4 pillowcases, 9 backpacks, many doll blankets and many doll skirts, and have 14 sweatpants ready to sew in the fall. Many of the items we are working on will be sent as fillers rather than adding to our shoeboxes. Fillers will be added at the processing center to boxes that are not very full.



On Wednesday, June 19th, you are invited to Christiansens’ to continue working on projects for Operation Christmas Child. We will

be dressing the 20 plus dolls, making some more friendship bracelet kits, adding ribbon to ditty bags, adding the cording to the backpacks, and making ribbon dancing rings. Bring a bag lunch if you can start at noon. Beverages will be provided. We will work until about 5:00. RSVP to Bernie so we can plan for enough projects to keep everyone busy.

## NURSING HOME SERVICE

Our church is scheduled to do the service at the Waterview Pines health care facility in Virginia at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 30th. The service lasts approximately a half hour. You are encouraged to join us to extend a friendly hand to the residents, help them find the hymns in the songbook, and take part in the singing.



## COVENANT KIDS CONGO

Florence, age 8. says. “We studied in straw huts, so we were exposed to bad weather and sent home in the rain. We sat on the floor so my uniform was always dirty. Without having desks to lean on, my handwriting was bad. Generous sponsors like you helped us change that. With your support, we built a new school building with six classrooms, a toilet block, and an office. We now sit well, write well, and follow classes well. My writing has improved, and I can see everything my teacher writes on the blackboard. I can apply myself better in class and have the dream of becoming a teacher to train the children of our community”

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ... AT A GLANCE



- Partner families must qualify for an affordable mortgage and make a down payment.
- Since 1995, a total of 120 families have partnered with North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity.
- Volunteers contribute over 2500 hours per home.
- Each partner family invests over 300 hours of sweat equity, including construction, home ownership classes, and office assistance.
- Mortgage payments are set at 25% of the buyer's calculated income.
- Habitat owners in St. Louis County pay 70,200 annually in property taxes.
- Habitat homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are reinvested and build one Habitat home per year.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

<b>Bernie Christiansen</b>	8th
<b>Mike Hannay</b>	20th
<b>Brian Hill</b>	29th

## AMONG US



The County Board recently honored Bill King for his outstanding contributions to St. Louis County. King, who is 93, was a long-time Orr educator and basketball coach. (He's been inducted into the MN Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and was also named the State American Indian Educator of the Year.)

Commissioner Paul McDonald invited Coach King to the meeting and said Bill is so humble it wasn't easy persuading him to come.

Commissioner McDonald, as many of you know is the son of the legendary Bob McDonald, and said his father and Coach King were intense competitors but also close friends. He recalls his dad saying he always worried when his team played Orr, and that King always got the most out of his players as he possibly could.

Thank you, Coach, for your many years of service helping youth in our county to be better athletes and human beings!

And a fun fact and example of how life comes full circle: Coach King and his Orr basketball team won the Region 7 title in 1976, beating the Chisholm Bluestreaks, which included Commissioner McDonald. One of the cheerleaders for Orr was Bill's niece Cathy Chavers, now Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman, who was also at the meeting.

## BULLETIN. CALENDAR, AND NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Items for the July calendar need to be e-mailed to [pogy567@q.com](mailto:pogy567@q.com) by Sunday, June 23rd. Weekly bulletin items should be e-mailed to [kathymike112@gmail.com](mailto:kathymike112@gmail.com) or [gailjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:gailjohnston@gmail.com) by Wednesday of the week in which they are to appear

Items for the July issue of the **Lamplighter** should be turned in by Sunday, May 26th. Items may be submitted by e-mail to [wbchris@q.com](mailto:wbchris@q.com). Remember that we are always looking for news of interest for the "Among Us" column.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A lonesome woman parishioner demanded a home visit from her pastor. So, as promised, the pastor showed up and sat by the woman's bed listening to her litany of woe. Finally he asked to read some passages from her Bible.

In a much-too-sweet voice she called to her little daughter playing in the next room. "Darling, please bring Mother that dear old book that she reads every night." Promptly the little girl brought in a copy of a popular TV-movie magazine.