



<p><b>Ushers</b></p> <p><b>March</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> – Roger &amp; Gail Johnston        8<sup>th</sup> – Bernie Christiansen &amp; Linda Skogman        15<sup>th</sup> – Bob and Mary Nelson        22<sup>nd</sup> – Kathy Hannay</p>	<p><b>Birthdays</b></p> <p><b>February 2026</b></p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> – Stephanie Carlson</p> <p><b>March</b></p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> – Russ Carlson        20<sup>th</sup> - Tom Larson</p>
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Notes:



# First Covenant Church

*Welcome to our church! May you know the joy of salvation, which is ours through Jesus Christ, and that through the warmth of our fellowship you may grow in God's grace and love.*

## Worship Celebration

February 22, 2026

9:30 a.m.

## First Sunday of Lent

Prelude Music & Fellowship Time

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Call to Worship:**

Isaiah 58:9-10

Cry, and the Lord will answer.

**Call, and the Lord will say, "I am here."**

If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word; if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed.

**Call, and the Lord will say, "I am here."**

Your light will rise in the darkness and your shadows become like noon. The Lord will always guide you, giving you relief in desert places,

**Cry, and God will answer.**

**Call, and the Lord will say, "I am here."**

\*Opening Hymn #68

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

\*Opening Prayer

### **Missions at First Covenant Church**

Missions is at the heart of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). As such, First Covenant supports local, regional and worldwide mission efforts. There are opportunities for everyone to be actively and directly involved at a local level and involved through donating to regional and worldwide efforts. You can always give to any of these mission causes by donating to the church; please make a note on your check or donate using the envelopes in the hymnal racks by making a designation on the envelope.

*The mission of First Covenant Church is to WORSHIP God,  
 EQUIP people to live in faith,  
 SHARE God's love,  
 SERVE the community around us.*

First Covenant church: 218-741-7117, fcovvamn@juno.com  
 Pastor Mike's cell: 218-290-5447

Reading of God's Word:  
First Lesson: Psalm 119:33-40 page 467  
Second Lesson: Matthew 5:38-48 page 740

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory Music  
\*Doxology #48

Morning Prayers of the Church: 896

Hymn #388 (requested) "Standing in the Need of Prayer"

Message: "The Word" John 1:1-5, 9-14

\*Concluding Hymn #97 "Under His Wings"

\*Challenge...Blessing  
The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
And be gracious, gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
And give you, give you, give you peace.

Postlude + + +  
\*Congregation is invited to stand

Worship Leader: Rev. Jeffrey Jones  
Scripture Reader: Julie Hill  
Usher: Bryan and Julie Hill  
Accompanist: Digital Hymnal

**Today**  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
11:00 a.m. Adult Class: Covenant Week of Prayer, Day Six

**This Week**  
Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 am, Planning meeting for Ecumenical  
Good Friday Service at Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:45 pm – Assist at Salvation Army  
Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – Iron Range Renewal Ministerial  
Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. - Habitat for Humanity Annual  
Dinner and Fundraiser, Mt. Iron Community Center

**Next Sunday, March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 a.m. Worship Celebration and Communion  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
11:00 a.m. Adult Class: Covenant Week of Prayer, Day Seven

**Ahead on the calendar**  
Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, noon – Ladies' Lunch  
4:30 pm – Assisting at YFC  
Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – Worship Celebration  
10:30 am – Fellowship Time  
11:00 am – Adult Bible Discovery Class  
Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm – Church Council

**OPPORTUNITIES for PRAYER, PRAISE & PARTICIPATION**  
**"Our Community" Prayer Focus**

We continue to pray for all area (current and retired) public service personnel: Those serving in the military and law enforcement, serving as First Responders, health care workers, teachers, chaplains, social workers, especially those you know personally.

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**Special Missionary Prayer Focus for this week**  
Randy Bevis, consults in the area of food sustainability (fish farming for food and income). Randy, and his wife Cheryl, served as missionaries to Thailand for 20 years and are now living in their home state of Minnesota. Now, with his new non-profit, "In-Seine", he is taking his expertise to some of the poorest countries in the world such as Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Laos, Malaysia, and Thailand. Fish farming has become the fastest growing food production system in the world with roughly 50 percent of fish eaten coming out of fish farms. Tilapia, sometimes referred to as "aquatic chicken," can now be found in approximately 100 countries.

- Haiti,
- The tanks grow 32,000 Tilapia for feeding programs
  - Will employ about 50 Haitians
  - Finishing a processing plant that will process 4,000 pounds of tilapia per day to be sold locally.
- Congo has Different challenges
- Goods brought there must be transported on barges up the Congo River and then transported across land on roads that are often nearly impossible to drive on.
  - There are more than 25,000 fish ponds in the CEUM province
  - CEUM is working with some 700 fish farmer associations
  - Development of a small-scale hatchery in Gemena.