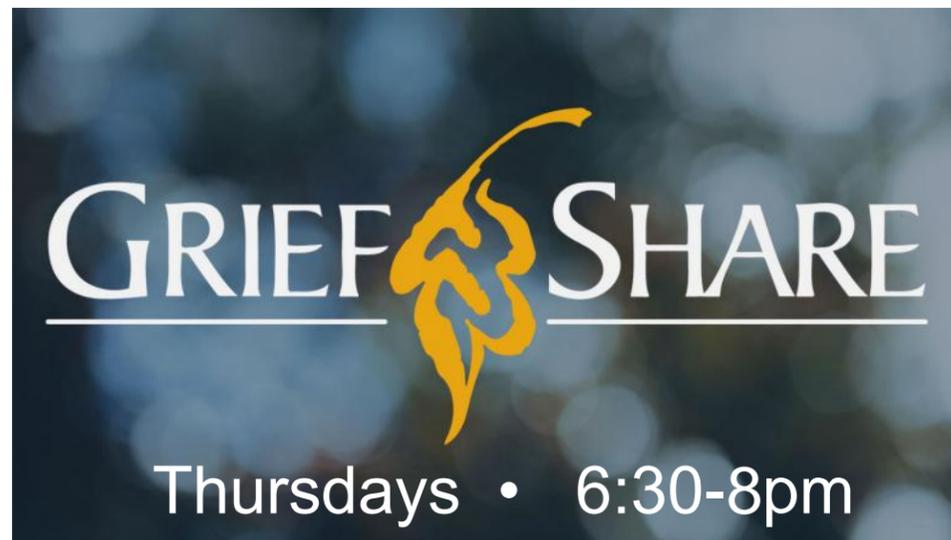




Serving
5:15-
5:45pm

Because we know your Wednesday afternoon and evening can be hectic, we are providing a hot meal to make it easier for you to get you and your children to Awana. This meal is provided free of charge to all Awana students and their families as well as to all Awana leaders. This also gives you one more reason to invite other families to join you! Come and be blessed.



GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. The group meets every Thursday evening at the church in Room 200. For more information, contact Steve and Priscilla Schrock at 218-285-3400. Let us help carry your grief. You are loved.

Praying for our Pastor

This is an important time in our church. We have now welcomed Dan Johnson as our interim pastor, and we've identified a search committee who will begin meeting soon to identify our future lead pastor. What a tall task to ask from just a few individuals! As I've thought about who our next pastor will be, I keep coming back to this thought -- I just want it to be God's choice.

It reminds me of the time when Samuel the prophet was sent to find the next king of Israel. If you remember, God sent him to Jesse's house, and while many of Jesse's sons looked the part, none of them were God's choice. Instead God chose the youngest son, David. God said to Samuel, "People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam 16.7).

On Sunday in September, I asked the church to pray and fast the following day for our new pastor. I was so encouraged by the number of people who told me they were praying. I want to continue this momentum that we have. I invite you to join me in praying and fasting on the first Monday of each month until God brings us our next pastor. On those days, let's focus our prayers on our future pastor and to whatever extent is appropriate for you, fast from eating food to demonstrate our dependence on Him. On those days Roger and Betty Williams will lead the Monday Night Prayer Group in praying for our next pastor (6:30pm in the classroom next to the coffee bar).

Can you imagine what God might do if we united in this? Can you imagine how our pastor will feel when they hear about how much this church prayed for them? I get chills when I think about it. So what do you say? In the same way God found King David, would you join me in praying for God to search hearts until He finds our next pastor?

Mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.
Pastor Seth



**Warm Welcome
extended to our
Interim Pastor
Dan Johnson**

**Join us in the coming
weeks as he shares his
sermon series
Encounters With
Jesus**



Reading Schedule

October

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

New Testament

▶ JOHN

- 1. 1:1-18
- 2. 1:19-28
- 3. 1:29-34
- 4. 1:35-42
- 5. 1:43-51
- 6. 2:1-11
- 7. 2:12-25
- 8. 3:1-15
- 9. 3:16-21
- 10. 3:22-36
- 11. 4:1-14
- 12. 4:15-26

▶ JAMES

- 1:1-11
- 1:12-18
- 1:19-27
- 2:1-13
- 2:14-26
- 3:1-12
- 3:13-18
- 4:1-10
- 4:11-17
- 5:1-6
- 5:7-12
- 5:13-20

▶ 1 PETER

- 13. 4:27-42
- 14. 4:43-54
- 15. 5:1-15
- 16. 5:16-30
- 17. 5:31-47
- 18. 6:1-15
- 19. 6:16-24
- 20. 6:25-40
- 21. 6:41-59
- 22. 6:60-71
- 23. 7:1-13
- 24. 7:14-24
- 25. 7:25-36

Old Testament

▶ ECCLES.

- 1
- 2:1-16
- 2:17-26
- 3:1-15
- 3:16-22
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7:1-14
- 7:15-29
- 8
- 9

▶ JEREMIAH

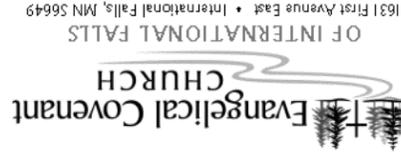
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7-9
- 10-11
- 12-13
- 14-15
- 16-18
- 19-22
- 23-25
- 26-29
- 30-31

▶ SONG OF SONGS

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4:1-7
- 4:8-16
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8:1-7
- 8:8-14

▶ LAM.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4-5



1631 First Avenue East • International Falls, MN 56649

October 2018

The



Messenger

1631 1st Ave. E. • Int'l. Falls, MN • 56649 • 218.283.3365

PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS

As I write my first newsletter article as your interim pastor, I realize that I am the new kid on the block. It is my first time ever visiting the city of International Falls. Over the years, I've heard a lot about International Falls, especially when it came to topics such as cold weather, hockey and fishing. I am well aware of your nickname, "Frostbite Falls." I remember some of your past great hockey teams and I know that I Falls is one of the prime locations for entering Canada and enjoying "boundary water" fishing. I have also heard about I Falls Covenant Church from your former pastor, Darren Olson, while serving with him on the Northwest Conference Committee on Ministerial Standing. Both Darren and Northwest Conference Superintendent, Mark Stromberg, have had many good things to say about you as a church family.

However, it is one thing to hear about you and another thing to meet you face to face. Personal encounters are almost always better and that has certainly been the case with this church. From the first contact with your church leadership team on the phone to meeting staff and leaders in person when I arrived this past Thursday, I have felt a genuine and warm welcome. I am looking forward in the coming weeks and months to meeting the rest of you and spending time with you. I look forward to our personal encounters.

Did you know we can have similar encounters with Jesus? We can know a lot of things about Jesus; we can hear about him, read about him, and talk about him. But it's something different to have a personal encounter with Jesus. The Gospel of John is filled with personal encounters between Jesus and many different people. These encounters impacted their lives.

In the upcoming months, we are going to be working our way through the Gospel of John. I don't want any of us to settle for knowing about Jesus. I want us all to have that personal, life transforming encounter with Jesus. I invite you to join me on this journey. "...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ... I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering, becoming like him in his death ..." Philippians 3:8,10

In His Grip,
Pastor Dan

P.S. To better prepare your hearts for encountering Jesus in the Gospel of John, you can be reading a chapter ahead each week. We'll publish the schedule in future bulletins. Sept. 30, we'll be looking at John 2.