



Once again as the cold arctic winds sweep across I Falls, it is the perfect time for us to tackle some hot topics. By hot topics, I am referring to those hot issues that we often run up against in our conversations with others and can even struggle with ourselves. One of the biggest questions we often ask is Why? This coming January we will tackle three 'Why' questions:

- **January 12: Why don't I always feel God?** If Jesus is living inside of me, why don't I feel his presence more?
- **January 19: Why didn't God answer my prayer?** There are times that we see answers to prayer and at other times we don't. Why is that?
- **January 26: Why would God love me?** We are told that God loves us, but the truth is that sometimes we don't believe it. Why would God love me when I sin against him again and again?

Sound interesting? I am looking forward to looking at these hot topics on cold days.  
In His Grip,  
Pastor Dan



## Celebrate Recovery

**When:** Tuesdays  
**Time:** 7pm  
**Where:** Room 200

This is for *anyone* who has hurts or hang-ups that they are working through.

### Questions?

- Mary LePage at 286-5236
- Will Davies at 283-0925



- Wednesday evenings
- 5:00-5:45pm • Supper
- 6-7:30pm • Awana Clubs



## Church App

This month the church is unrolling our new church app. What is great about the app is that it allows you to manage your giving information and even set up automatic giving with just the click of a few buttons. It is totally safe and easy to use. In addition to that, the app also has our sermon audios on it, a Bible, a church news feed, and a prayer wall where you can add and find prayer requests.

### How We Got Here

This last year the Leadership Team got together and asked the question, "How do we disciple these new people that God is bringing into our church?" One of the most important parts of being a follower of Jesus is how we use our money. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is as well." Because of this Pastor Dan preached a series called "Money Matters" to teach us about the importance of giving to God. The Leadership Team decided we needed to increase the ways to give to the church.

### Ways to Give

You may have seen these changes in such ways as our "Give" button on [www.ifallscovenant.org](http://www.ifallscovenant.org), or on Sundays when offering is collected there is a slide on the screen that shows you can give on your phone by texting "give" to the number 763-762-9845. Of course, we still have the option of giving with cash or check through the offering plate collection in our worship services. Now everyone has an opportunity to give in the way that works best for them.

### Download the Evangelical Covenant Church App

You can download the church app on the "Church App" button on the website. You can also get there by typing this link onto your phone browser:

<https://tithely.app.link/evangelical-covenant-church>

If you have any questions feel free to grab a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions from the mailbox room or talk to church treasurer Carol Anderson.

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Pastor Seth



## Waffles & Widows

Join other ladies for a time of encouragement & fellowship.

January 11  
10am • Gym

Questions? Contact Tucky at  
218.742.6040



It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel.

This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before.

"Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering."

GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

Join others for a 13-week study on grief on Saturdays, beginning January 18, 10-11:30am, in Room 200. Questions? Contact Tucky Dill at 218.742.6040.

### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

It has been an exciting, busy year at the Covenant Church. We continue to seek God's plan and will for us. We continued to sense God leading us to be a bigger blessing to the community for the purpose of reaching the lost. The leadership team continues to make decisions by asking, "will this be a blessing to the community and facilitate someone meeting Christ". If so, we strive to move forward with the proposal. As we have discussed in congregation meetings and leadership team meetings, we should see fruit from the work we are doing.

Several years ago, we felt God calling us to do a better job ministering to young adults and young families. It has been amazing to see how God has blessed the young adult ministry and the AWANA ministry. If you haven't stopped by church on Wednesday at 5:00 to have dinner with a young family and kids, I recommend you do; the energy level is high and it's certainly a blessing to share a meal and conversation with kids and their parent(s).

You have probably noticed that we do some things differently at church today than we did ten or even five years ago. The Bible doesn't change, we don't add to it and we don't subtract from it. The Bible is the living word of God; as we grow and mature in our faith, we understand it and apply it to our lives in different ways. We also understand that how we share the Word with those around us has changed throughout time. We have made changes in the last couple of years to our Sunday mornings and how we share God's word. These are all in an effort to reach more people for Christ. As we strive to be full of grace and truth, we will continue to seek what God wants from us as a church and as individuals. I pray that we all feel God's presence in our life and that He continues to work in us to make us more like Jesus.

David Hebig, Chairperson



## YOUNGADULTS

**Who?** Young adults following or seeking to follow Jesus and desiring friendships and fellowship with others.

**What?** We are an interdenominational group of young adults who meet Thursdays at 7pm to fellowship and grow in our faith together.

**Questions?** Contact Kathy Galusha at 286.5727 or Carol Anderson at 324.2470.



- ❖ Tuesdays
- ❖ 9:15am
- ❖ Room 200
- ❖ All ladies are welcome.





## January Reading Schedule

New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ MATTHEW	▶ ACTS	▶ PSALMS	▶ GENESIS
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-8
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:22-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-11
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-17
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:23-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-20
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:12-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-23
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:17-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 24
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-26
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:13-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 27-28
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:21-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:39-60	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 29-30
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:33-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 31
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:26-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 32-33
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:16-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 34-35
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:25-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:20-43	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 36
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 37-38
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:15-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:24-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:1-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 39-40
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:25-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 41
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:14-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:19-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 42-43
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:23-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 44-45
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-47
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:14-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:26-52	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 48
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:27-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:12-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 49
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 50



## Recipe Corner

### Smoked Sausage & Tortellini Skillet

- 1 (14 ounce) package Hillshire Farm(R) Smoked Sausage, diagonally cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium onion, 1/2-inch diced
- 1 green bell pepper, sliced
- 1 (12 ounce) package fresh cheese tortellini, cooked according to package directions
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 (24 ounce) jar marinara sauce
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Heat a large 12-inch oven-safe skillet over medium-high heat and add smoked sausage, cook until brown. Add garlic, onion and bell pepper. Lower heat to medium and stir until vegetables are so, about 5 minutes. Stir in cooked tortellini, oregano, marinara sauce and one cup of cheese. Top with remaining cheese. Bake in the oven for about 10 minutes until cheese is melted and bubbly.

Serves 6

January 2020

The



Family

Messenger

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### From the Desk of Pastor Dan ...

*“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD,  
“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow.”*  
Isaiah 1:18

I was sitting at my kitchen table with a cup of coffee the other morning, watching the snow fall. Everything was blanketed in white. It was beautiful. I wish snow always looked like that, but it doesn't. The snow plow and sand trucks come by, making driving easier, but the snow gets dirty and slushy. It loses the beauty of the freshly fallen snow. As I watched the snowfall, I thought of God's words in Isaiah, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." When we come to Jesus, with repentant hearts, asking for his forgiveness and cleansing, he cleanses us white and clean. Nothing can take the place of being made white as snow through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

However, just like our highways get dirty from cars and snowplows, sooner or later, our hearts get dingy once again from our own sin. How can we maintain a "white as snow" heart? The Bible tells us that *"if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). As we walk with Jesus throughout the day, whenever the Holy Spirit shows us that we have sinned, we stop and confess our sin. The Bible tells us that immediately we are purified (made white as snow) of all unrighteousness (the slush in our soul).

This January, as the snow falls, I encourage you to contemplate the condition of your own heart. Have you become a little slushy, or have you been made white as snow?

In His Grip,

Pastor Dan



# January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Connie Magnuson	3 Debbie Griffith Maria Vollom Jim & Nancy Johnson	4 Edna Anderson
5	6 Nick Anderson Derrick Olson	7 Lori Dobbs Rebecca Drift John Morrison Jacalyn Nichting	8	9 Andy Hedlund Dakota Ruelle Dan Ruelle	10 Derek Dowty Phyllis Holm Theodore Kostiuik	11 Brooks Bilben Reece Averill Barb Hanson Rebecca Holm Sharon Zika
12 Erika Hufnagle Philip Ruelle Jr.	13 Adriana Christianson Elaine Story	14 Jacob Hufnagle	15 Lizzie Veert	16	17	18 Pete Anderson Laurie Hedlund
19 Asher Belanger Cathy Blankman	20	21	22	23 Alex Belanger Jan Sneller	24 Danielle Erickson Nadia Hultstrand Anthony Veert	25
26	27 Marlan Herivel Alexa Kellin Judy Larrabee	28 Sharon Bilben Tracy Lunser	29 Nils Anderson Jacob Clarity Judy Lofgren Chrissy Morrison Gene Pierce	30 Mike LaBlanc	31 Delayne Hollis	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7pm Young Adults	3	4
5 8:30am Prayer  9am Worship  9am Sunday School  10:30am Worship	6 6:30pm Prayer Meeting	7 9:15am Ladies Bible Study  6:45pm Prayer  7pm Celebrate Recovery	8 6am Men's Study 7:30am Men's Study 5-7:30pm Awana 7pm Teens Fiesta Kick-off	9 7pm Young Adults	10 7am-8pm Teens to Giants Ridge	11 10am Waffles & Widows
12 8:30am Prayer  9am Worship  9am Sunday School  10:30am Worship	13 6:30pm Prayer Meeting	14 9:15am Ladies Bible Study  6:45pm Prayer  7pm Celebrate Recovery	15 6am Men's Study 7:30am Men's Study 5-7:30pm Awana 7pm Teens	16 7pm Young Adults	17	18 10am Grief Share
19 8:30am Prayer  9am Worship  9am Sunday School  10:30am Worship	20 6:30pm Prayer Meeting	21 9:15am Ladies Bible Study  6:45pm Prayer  7pm Celebrate Recovery	22 6am Men's Study 7:30am Men's Study 5-7:30pm Awana 7pm Teens	23 7pm Young Adults	24	25 10am Grief Share
26 8:30am Prayer  9am Worship  9am Sunday School  10:30am Worship	27 6:30pm Prayer Meeting	28 8:30am Men's Breakfast 9:15am Ladies Bible Study 5pm Comm. Cafe 6:45pm Prayer 7pm Celebrate Recovery	29 6am Men's Study 7:30am Men's Study 5-7:30pm Awana 7pm Teens	30 7pm Young Adults	31	