



Regathered

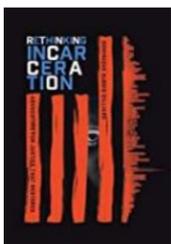
We have begun regathering as a church on Sunday mornings. That is - those who are ready to regather. Each of you have been deciding about when it is the right time for you to regather with us on Sundays. Once again, the church supports you in making the decision that is most wise in your situation. Some of us have begun getting together the last couple of weeks, and it has been great to see church family after such a long time. As you are deciding for yourself, here are a couple things you can expect when you come back.

- **Expect it to feel strange at first.** We would love for it to be back to normal right away, but to be honest some parts of regathering feel odd at first. Between people not all being back yet, the masks, not shaking hands, not yet singing as a congregation - it leaves something to be desired. Thankfully we know that all these measures aren't permanent and it is just nice to be in the building and to be together on a Sunday morning. It might be strange at first, but just know that feeling is okay.
- **Expect it to be safe.** The church has used the best information available and the guidelines the State of Minnesota has handed down to regather in as safe a way as possible. The people who have been gathering so far have been very respectful and have followed all of the safety guidelines in the services. You can expect that when you come you will have an experience that values your safety.
- **Expect God to work.** We have been celebrating how we have reached over 500 people every week with our services during the last four months. God had a purpose when we were only broadcasting our services, and now God has a purpose for us as a regathered people. In every season God is up to something. We should have expectant hearts every week whether we gather for worship in the building or on video or the radio.

As each of you decide when it's the right time to regather with us for worship, even though things will be different, you can expect that it will be safe, God will be at work, and you can expect that we will be overjoyed to see you.

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

P.S.— Because we will be recording our Sunday services, online services will be available Sundays at 7pm, TV services will be one week behind, and radio services will be 10:30am on 91.9FM.



Summer Book Study— Rethinking Incarceration

The United States has more people locked up in jails, prisons, and detention centers than any other country in the history of the world. And the church has unwittingly contributed to the problem.

Dominique Gilliard explores the history and foundation of mass incarceration, examining Christianity's role in its evolution and expansion. He then shows how Christians can pursue justice that restores and reconciles, offering creative solutions and highlighting innovative interventions. The church has the power to help transform our criminal justice system.

This Zoom class, led by Stacy Hall, will run from July 8— August 19; either at 9am or 6:30pm. Please register by contacting Stacy at stacy.hall@ifallscovenant.org or 324.2709. You are responsible for purchasing your own book on Amazon.com or covbooks.com.



Celebrate Recovery

- Tuesdays, July 7 & 21
- 7pm in 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



VBS at Home

- For kids who have completed K-5 grade.
- You must pre-register at ifallscovenant.org/vbs-at-home



- July 1 — Wally Clement
Beth Nelson
- July 2 — Lori Lyman
Kay Connors
- July 3 — Taleia Boyer
- July 4 — Karen Layman
- July 5 — Carol Hauge
Jim & Lori Lyman
- July 6 — Mike Silvers
- July 8 — Mariah Cassibo
- July 11 — Lyn Peterson
Darren & Robin Baumchen
- July 13 — Jeff Adams
Pablo Christianson
Mike & Melody Silvers
- July 14 — Milt Layman
- July 15 — Dan & Rachel Lucy
- July 16 — Jim & Julie Bissonnette
- July 17 — Aaron Hufnagle
Adam & Jennifer Gustafson
- July 18 — Kari Benedix
- July 20 — Elly Nelson
Bob Morrison
Bob & Cathy Morrison
- July 21 — Ellie Pound
- July 24 — Connie Todd
Patty Maruk
Macy Zika
Ed & Connie Magnuson
- July 25 — Dylan Holt
Phyllis Wallen
- July 26 — Tom Worth
- July 27 — Ron & Marlan Herivel
- July 28 — Bob Dunbar
- July 29 — Tikvah Boyer
- July 31 — Adam Gustafson



- **Preschool**— 2-4 yrs
- **Primary**— 5-6 yrs
- **Elementary**— 7-10 yrs
- **Middle School**— 11-13 yrs

These lessons are found at
www.ifallcovenant.org/kids-konnect

Staff and Other Transitions



These changing times are very revealing. Part of what we are discovering is what we can do without, as well as what we cannot take for granted. Within the church, we see in a profound way how much we crave and need fellowship, and how much this pandemic undermines that.

In places where the church is so persecuted that lives are endangered, Christians still gather in secret to experience koinonia, the Greek term for Spirit-filled fellowship. Even with the recent regathering of our congregation, we face the significant limitation of social distancing, and look forward to the day when we can return to normalcy.

In the mean time, we are looking at transitions among staff, but unrelated to the pandemic. We recently received news that **Pastor Ed Natysin**, our quarter-time visitation minister will be leaving because of a new position his wife, Sue, accepted in Milaca. Ed's ministry has been greatly appreciated, and thankfully, he will remain here for a while after Sue's departure in order to oversee the sale of their home. The Leadership Team has asked Ed to stay in his visitation role as long as possible, but when he finally leaves, he will be greatly missed.

The second transition signals the conclusion of **Pastor Dan Johnson's** three-quarter time role as Interim Pastor. Pastor Dan has been here for a year and three quarters, and willingly extended his time for an extra month and a half, but he has now preached his final sermon at this church and will be moving to Phoenix in the near future. He has been both a gift and stabilizing presence during this interim time, and lives have been significantly impacted for the gospel through his ministry among us. Pastor Dan and Faith's home address is included as we encourage you to write personal notes of thanks for their ministry. It could be especially meaningful to include specific ways they have touched your life.

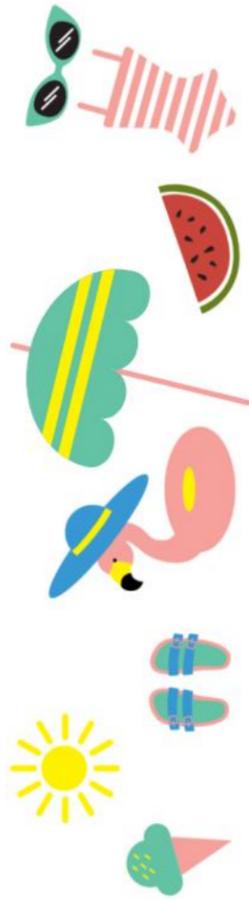
Pastor Dan and Faith Johnson
2113 6th Ave SE
Willmar, MN 56201

Thirdly, I am pleased to inform you that the Search Committee has unanimously affirmed and sent a name to the leadership team, and while we are still dealing with confidentiality, you will hear much more about this person very soon. The process of calling a **Senior Pastor** is outlined in our church by-laws, and will involve questions and discussion at a special membership meeting, leading to a vote. Please continue in prayer as we move forward with this incredibly important transition.

Behind our COVID-19 masks, in our video conferencing, and despite appropriate social distancing, we see that God is not limited in his love and care for the church. It will be exciting and wonderful to see what the future holds for the I Falls Covenant Church.

In Him,

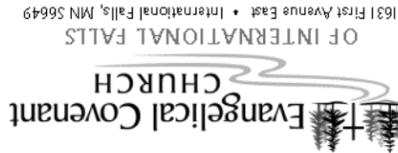
Alan Johnson, Chairman



New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ LUKE	▶ COLOSSIANS	▶ PSALMS	▶ 1 CHRON.
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:11-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 123-124	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:18-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:15-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 125	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:36-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 126	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:8-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 127	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:16-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:16-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 128	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-11
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:26-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 129	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:40-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:15-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 130-131	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-16
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 132	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:18-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 133-134	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-22
	▶ 1 THESSALONIANS		
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:28-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 135	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-25
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:37-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 136	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-28
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:51-62	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:10-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 137	<input type="checkbox"/> 29
			▶ 2 CHRON.
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 138	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:17-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:7-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 139	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:25-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 140	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:38-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:11-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 141	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-9
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 142	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:14-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:12-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 143	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-16
	▶ 2 THESSALONIANS		
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:29-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 144	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:37-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:8-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 145	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-21
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 146	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-24
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:13-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 147	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-27
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:22-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 148	<input type="checkbox"/> 28-29
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:35-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:6-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 149	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-33
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:49-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:14-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 150	<input type="checkbox"/> 34-36

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The



Family

Messenger

July 2020

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From the Desk of Pastor Dan ...

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:3-6

For the past year and three quarters, I have had the privilege of sharing life, love, fellowship and ministry with you dear people at I Falls Covenant Church. You have been so gracious and loving toward me and my wife. We felt welcomed right from the beginning. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you in committee meetings, worship services, ministry events, at the coffee shop and around the table in many of your homes. My life has been made richer through our times together.

My interim pastor position has come to an end and it is time to say goodbye to you. I will be finished at the end of June. While saying goodbye in person would be preferable, COVID-19 has made that impossible. So please know that I appreciate you and that I am confident that God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus!

With deep affection,

Pastor Dan