

Dear Pastor Dan and Faith,

Please receive the gift of the print of Rainy Lake with the full understanding that while it expresses deepest appreciation for your ministry in International Falls, it still leaves us with that hollow feeling insofar as we were unable to do a proper farewell.

Since only a small number of the congregation are comfortable meeting in the sanctuary, most of us are still "watching" the service on-line, and doing our best to worship God in our own setting. As we tuned in to the July 5th service there was a sadness we felt by your absence. Your messages through the year and three quarters have been excellent in delivery, clear and bold with gospel message, and completely practical in application. You are loved, and missed.

In addition to the messages you preached, you touched our lives in many other wonderful and personal ways. Rather than speaking of you as an interim, we will always cherish you as integral to the on-going ministry of this congregation. Thank you for giving so much!

We will follow your movement with interest, and trust a rich blessing as the two of you move closer to family and the comforts of a warmer climate. Hopefully, you will find a place in your home to hang this print of a Rainy Lake island, and in viewing it, will remember us often and the good times we shared together. May God bless you with extra richness for what you have contributed to our lives at the Evangelical Covenant Church of International Falls!

For the Leadership Team & the entire congregation,
Alan Johnson, Chair



installation service
of
pastor seth bjornrud
Sunday, August 9
9am with Mark Stromberg
3pm at Smokey Bear Park

Thank You

Dear Members and Friends of I Falls Covenant Church,
An unexpected surprise arrived at our house this week – a serene picture of Rainy Lake.

Thank you for the beautiful gift to remember the special people and the special place that became a treasured part of our lives. We look forward to seeing how our Heavenly Father will continue to picture our lives intersecting in the future.

With our deepest appreciation,
Dan and Faith



Pastor Seth Bjornrud Accepts Call

It is with distinct pleasure that we announce after a two year search process, that worship and youth pastor, Pastor Seth Bjornrud, has accepted the call to become Senior Minister of the International Falls Evangelical Covenant Church.

The vote of the congregation was ninety six percent in favor of this call, and as soon as Pastor Seth received news of the vote, he accepted. He will assume his new responsibilities beginning August 1st.

Seth Bjornrud was born February 26, 1989, in Embarrass, MN, where his parents still live today. His father, Marlin, is pastor of a church that he and his wife, Jeannine, have served for four decades, and of his four brothers and one sister, Seth's oldest brother, Lon, has been a pastor for twenty years, and another brother, Mark, is a worship leader. Seth graduated from Babbitt Embarrass High School before attending Oak Hills Christian College where he received a four year degree in Pastoral Ministry and Biblical Studies. In the Spring of 2021, Seth will begin working toward a Master of Divinity degree.

Seth's passion for serving Christ had its beginning when his mother prayed with him to receive Jesus while he laid on his top bunk as a seven year old, and he later came to understand that the Lord was calling him to a life of ministry.

God has given Seth numerous gifts for ministry, and his favorite part of ministry is "having a front row seat to watch people grow in their walk with Jesus."

Seth knows how to have fun too, and he especially enjoys fly fishing, hammock camping, snowshoeing, ultimate frisbee, ping pong, music writing, and Thai food. He lives a full and active life, and at the same time, is continually diligent to fulfill the call and work the Lord has given to him.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Aug 3 — Ted Bernard
Will Davies
Tara Nelson
- Aug 5 — Norman & Loretta Christianson
- Aug 6 — Rod Enns
Dick & Renee Frederick
- Aug 8 — Jerad & Ashley Kostiuik
- Aug 9 — Thor Einarson
Brian & Judy Keeney
Tim & Beth Nelson
Dan & Kathleen Ruelle
- Aug 10 — Dan Griffith
Dorothy Hoppe
- Aug 11 — Thomas Holm
Lindsey Lucy
Larry & Rosemary Reese
- Aug 12 — Larry Reese
- Aug 13 — Tom & Jen Vollom
- Aug 15 — Renee Frederick
Dave & Kathy Howdahl
- Aug 16 — Luke & Laura Zika
- Aug 17 — Elaine Grill
Terry King
- Aug 18 — Tim Nelson
Stan Kuttles
David & Tammi Cain
- Aug 19 — Tim Klein
Lila Kuttles
Derek & Regan Bilben
- Aug 20 — Alan Johnson
Doug & Bonnie Frahm
- Aug 21 — Shirley Anderson
Ashley Kostiuik
Jim & Debbie Peterson
- Aug 22 — Tammi Cain
Jean Larson
- Aug 23 — Chad & Tammy Shoberg
- Aug 24 — Rodney Lofgren
Eric & Denise Kulig
- Aug 25 — Sue Natysin
- Aug 26 — Kim Boyer
Colton Hollis
Phil Ruelle Sr.
- Aug 27 — Luke Hufnagle
Steve & Terry King
- Aug 28 — Reynold Lofgren
Seth Peterson
- Aug 29 — Allen Peterson
Doug & Kathy Galusha
- Aug 30 — Henry Morgan
- Aug 31 — Lois Holm
Kadence Schmidtbauer



Leading the Church with Expectancy

"Adventurously expectant" and "creative best" are two recurring themes during this unusual time. The first theme is anticipating what God is doing, and the second theme is our response. The Apostle Paul writes, "This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike 'What's next, Papa?'" (Romans 8:13 MSG).

The call of Pastor Seth to be our Senior Minister is an example of God's work among us. Pastor Seth asked us to "fast and pray every Monday" without a clue at that time that God had him in mind for this position. Because God has everything under control, we live with adventurous expectancy.

Now, our Leadership Team is asking "What's next, Papa?" as we organize a search committee to fill the space Seth's call leaves in the areas of worship and youth. Our request is that you continue fasting and praying every Monday until these important positions are filled.

You will soon hear details of a day of celebrating Pastor Seth's installation, and as he moves into his new role, he will be spearheading creative ways our congregation can do its best to strengthen and expand our ministries. Despite the pandemic, we are serious about fulfilling our Lord's commission to "go and make disciples."

None of us knows what the days ahead will bring, but the Leadership Team is doing its creative best to lead the church with adventurous expectancy. God clearly has his loving eye upon this congregation!

Alan Johnson, Chair



Celebrate Recovery

- Tuesdays, August 4 & 18
- 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



- **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



VBS at the Rocky Railway!

It's not too late! Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! Kids will go on a faith-filled adventure where they will discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups & downs.

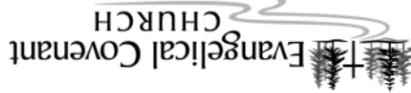
Please contact Stacy Hall at 324.2709 by August 10 and she will provide you with all the supplies needed.



New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ LUKE	▶ 1 TIMOTHY	▶ PROVERBS	▶ EZRA
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:10-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:22-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:15-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:11-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:25-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:11-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:16-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	▶ NEH.
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:11-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:19-31	▶ 2 TIMOTHY	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:17-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
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15. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:14-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:15-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:18-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:10-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:13-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
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19. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:1-10	▶ TITUS	<input type="checkbox"/> 14:19-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:11-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-17	▶ ESTHER
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:28-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:10-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:18-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:39-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
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24. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:9-19	▶ PHILEMON	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
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Messenger

August 2020

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A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

What do you think of that title for my newsletter article? I'm still trying to work out a good title, and I'm open to suggestions! As I write this I'm amazed that it was actually five years ago this month that God brought me to this congregation to serve as a worship pastor. Now in His sovereignty, and through the Holy Spirit at work in those of you who are members of the Evangelical Covenant Church of International Falls, God has called me to be your lead pastor. Little did I know that all of the time that we spent praying for our next pastor together that I was the one we were praying for. God is amazing like that!

As we were basking in that during our last staff meeting, one of the staff members correctly identified the feeling that we were all having -- "Now what?" Does that describe where you are at as you read this, too? Maybe you have questions like 'What is going to change?' 'What will our church do to move forward?' 'How are we going to take care of the vulnerable people in our congregation?' 'What will Teens and Awana look like in the fall?' These are questions I'm asking too.

The thing is, I don't have the answers to those questions right now. It can feel pretty unsettling to admit that, but this pandemic has put all of us in a place where we feel unsettled. For me, God is calling this promise to mind that settles my heart when He says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1.6)." I recently built a kitchen table and for a while it just looked like rough pieces of wood laying around. I was determined to finish it though because I had a purpose in mind: I wanted to eat off of it! In the same way God doesn't just start things and then say, "Ok, there you go. Now you're on your own. Good luck!" No, that's not how it is. God finishes what He starts because He has a purpose in mind: to make us complete in Christ. We can take a lot of rest and comfort in that.

So what about you? Are you nervously asking the question, "Now what?" because you feel unsettled and don't know if things are going to turn out well? Or are you asking, "Now what?" because you believe God is up to something and you can't wait to find out what that is? This is the attitude I want to have. Even though we don't know what God is doing, we can be sure that He's going to finish it. So let us all have an attitude of being 'Adventurously Expectant' for what God is going to do next.

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