



Teens

Youth Pastor Search

We are excited to begin our search for a new Youth Pastor!

We have formed and met as a search committee and our goal is to send out our job profile before Labor Day weekend. Please pray that God would help us find the right person to be part of our staff team. The search team members are:

- Seth Bjornrud
- Ella Bahr
- Chloe Hufnagle
- Joel Maxwell
- Jess Schrock
- Polly Hebig
- Val Peterson
- Jep Fator

Fall Teens Schedule

This fall Teens will not be built around Wednesday night gatherings in the building, but instead focused on outdoor events and small group gatherings. We are choosing to believe that everything has happened because God has something better in store for us. It has been a particularly hard year for students, and while we don't have a youth pastor, what we do have is an opportunity for teens and youth coaches to step up and lead the Teens ministry. Stay tuned for a Fall schedule of Teens activities as those are still being developed. For now, Pastor Seth will be the contact person for Teens related questions.

Opportunity to Connect



Would you like to receive a phone call & prayer? Would you enjoy calling & praying for others? We want to connect with you! Please contact the church office at 283.3365.

No good byes, only I'll be seeing ya!

As I look back, I can say it has been a privilege to be your lay/visitation pastor and I can only say, "I'll be seeing ya!" Of the many things I have learned along the way are two of the most basic principles that the Lord Himself taught us— love one another as I have loved you, and always be forgiving, as many times as it takes. The love and kindness you have all shown me by allowing me into your personal homes to visit with you, read God's word to you, pray with you and enjoy coffee, snacks, laughter and the friendships we created together will remain in my heart forever. Thank you for all the love and kindness you have allowed me to have just being around you. Good bye seems so cold and out there, "see ya", says we will see one another again. My heart will always be here with you, and you will always remain in my thoughts and prayers. I love you all and care for you deeply. It was my honor to serve you and to bring the Lord's word to share with you.

May the light of the Lord always favor you. God bless.

Pastor Ed (Phone: 612.327.8815; New Address: 7185 Mackenzie Ave. NE, Otsego, MN 55330)



Church Custodial Position Open

After about fifteen years of incredible service to the congregation, Kathy Galsusha has announced her plans to retire as church custodian. Hers has been an important ministry, faithfully and carefully executed, and we are extremely grateful to Kathy for her service, and the help she has often received from her husband, Doug.

If you know of a person - maybe you - who would like to be interviewed for this position, please contact either Pastor Seth (218-209-6293), or Alan Johnson, chair (286-3510). The position can begin immediately; Kathy is willing to train her replacement. Custodial work requires some lifting, a willingness to be both honest and confidential, and a heart for the ministries of the church. It can also be a shared position.



Church Has Granted College Scholarships

The tradition of granting up to five hundred dollars to students of our congregation who attend a Christian college has once again been approved. The funds will come from our general fund, and so far, two students have been identified, but if you know of others, please call the church office. Once we have a complete list we will inform you of the recipients.



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

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



Celebrate Recovery

- Tuesdays
- September 1, 15, 29
- 7pm in Room 200

Questions?

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

Living Expectantly in Strange Times

The entire experience of calling Seth Bjornrud as our Lead Pastor reveals God's great love and plan for his church. It was known that Pastor Dan Johnson's interim role would end, and that COVID-19 was upending the search process for many congregations. In our case, God's call for Pastor Seth to move from youth and worship meant we would have a wonderful pastor who already knew this congregation. Seth's installation is a celebration of God's provision!



The call process was anything but simple since our Canadian members could not cross the bridge, and the pandemic left others feeling unsafe attending a congregational meeting. How we incorporate technology in our official procedures will be one item we will explore when we establish a by-law revision team.

A search committee is now meeting to look at the areas of youth and worship. In the mean time, volunteers are using their gifts to cover the bases as much as possible, and the efforts of so many are greatly needed and appreciated.

A word about politics and the church: It is important that in this election season the political divisions that rack our nation must not have a foothold in the church. Every person is entitled to their political persuasion, but any church that wants to minister to all people needs to guard against political endorsements.

One of the benefits of America is that we have freedom of religion, and the government grants tax exemption to qualified religious groups and tax exemption for charitable giving. In exchange, a church is allowed to speak with bold clarity regarding moral or ethical issues, but cannot endorse certain candidates. The church is one of the remaining places where we can come together as brothers and sisters without political rancor.

Finally, four of us "attended" a seminar sponsored by our denomination on how we minister during this pandemic. Our guide, Pastor Carey Nieuwhof, called us to reflect on what he calls the "30 Day Pivot." He put the response of the church into three categories - churches that fail, churches that survive, and churches that thrive. Churches that fail cling to previous methods and wait for things to return to normal. Churches that survive attempt to recreate what they had already been doing, but with necessary adaptations. Churches that thrive no longer focus on barriers, but on the opportunities, and attempt new methods while keeping their ministry focus simple, flexible, and agile.

We want to be a church that thrives, and for this reason a "think tank" is being formed to brainstorm new methods to give new life. The mission of bringing the gospel to our neighbors and friends is too important for us to do anything less.

Alan Johnson, Chair



In this coming week many of you will receive a text (218-274-8660) and/or email from a service called, 'Text in Church'. We are really working hard on being able to communicate effectively and efficiently with all of you.

Those of you who don't have an email address or smart phone, we are developing a phone call tree where certain individuals will be contacting you with any schedule changes.

If you don't receive anything from Text in Church or a personal phone call, please contact the church office at 283-3365.

Monday Night Prayer Meeting

Join others each Monday night at 7pm in the Coffee Bar area for a time of prayer.



We want to let our Awana families know that there will be no in-person Awana programming through the end of 2020. But we are looking forward to trying new and creative ideas that will help us all grow in Christ. More details to come!

If you have questions, please contact Stacy Hall at 324.2709 or Melissa Holt at 417.0370.



Fall Kick-off Outdoor Service

When: Sept 13
Time: 9am
Bring: lawn chair



We are going to enjoy a time of singing, learning, & worship in our parking lot!

Please park in the gravel parking lot, if you are able, and bring your lawn chairs across and set up in the main parking lot. Masks are encouraged.

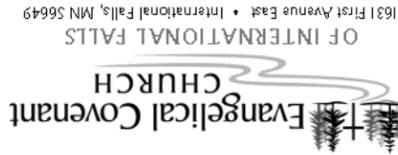


September

New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ LUKE		▶ PROVERBS ▶ ISAIAH	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:27-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:41-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:10-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:1-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:15-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-8
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:20-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-10
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:29-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:16-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-13
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 21:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-16
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:14-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 21:17-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-20
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:24-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-23
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:31-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:17-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 24-26
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:39-46	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:13-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 23:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 27-28
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:47-53	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 23:19-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 29-30
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:54-62	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:11-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 24:1-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-33
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:63-71	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 24:23-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 34-36
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:7-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 25:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 37-39
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:13-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 25:15-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-41
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:26-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:11-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 26:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 42-43
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:32-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 26:17-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 44-45
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:38-43	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:19-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 27:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-48
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:44-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 27:15-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 49-50
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:50-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:17-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 28:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-53
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:32-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 28:15-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 54-55
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:13-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 29:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 56-58
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:28-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:14-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 29:15-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 59-61
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:36-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 62-64
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:45-53	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:9-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	<input type="checkbox"/> 65-66

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A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

I was driving to church the other day on the same route as usual, when all of a sudden the road was blocked with signs that read “detour.” I had to go another direction on different roads to get there. The next time I made that drive the road work moved so I had to take a new route.

I think that describes the season we are in. Just when we get used to the “new normal” there’s a “NEW new normal.” It can be tiring and frustrating. We have to adjust though, because if we don’t take the detour when we’re driving we’ll end up stuck in a hole in the ground. Though you may be tired and frustrated (and believe me, I am too) let me remind you of two sobering realities: 1) COVID-19 doesn’t care, and 2) we still have to get to where we are going.

According to Jesus, the bottom line of the church is discipleship. He said so in Matthew 28.19-20,

“Go and make disciples of every nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

The route that we have been so dependent on to get there is the large Sunday morning gathering. It’s a great way to find connection, be spiritually fed, and share the good news with pre-Christians. The problem is that large gatherings and global pandemics don’t blend well.

As we navigate these difficult roads we have to remember a few things. First, the mission is more important than the method. Second, we need to focus on what we can control rather than what we can’t control. Third, flexibility is an ability and agility is a superpower. We need these in order to make the turns necessary to have an effective disciple-making ministry, and I want us to be known as a disciple-making movement in International Falls.

In this newsletter you will see some of the turns we are making in the Teens and Kids ministries, communication, and more. We are trying a parking lot service on September 13 where I am beginning a new series called “Relational Covenant” about a promise we make as a church to be connected to one another.

One sad turn for our congregation is that Pastor Ed has completed his time as our Visitation Pastor. We are not planning to replace his position, but will have it done by me and volunteers (which you will see inside you can be part of). Ed will be sorely missed. It would mean a lot to me if you did this - give Ed a phone call or send him a card letting him know how much you appreciated his ministry. Thank you, Ed, for your friendship and partnership in the Gospel.

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