



Youth Pastor Search Committee Update

Hi Church Family,
Here is a brief update of our search for our new Associate Pastor of Youth.

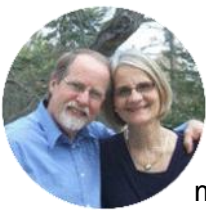
In August the Search Committee starting meeting. The committee members are: Pastor Seth Bjornrud, Polly Hebig, Jep Fator, Ella Bahr, Jess Schrock, Chloe Hufnagle, Joel Maxwell and myself.

We started right off prayerfully putting together a job description, and discussed the things that we think are important aspects of a Youth Pastor.

After taking a few weeks, we were able to get that job description done. The next step in the process was getting the job description out to various contacts. We are now waiting for resumes to come in.

We all have a specific job within this process. We ask that you would pray for us as we get ready for the next step which will be reviewing resumes. We know that God is the one who will send the right person for this position. He is the one we are all trusting to guide us along the way.

Valerie J. Peterson, Church Communicator



Leadership Team Guiding Us Forward

These are days of innovation and adaptation as we push beyond our normal ministry patterns to creatively thrive in all we do. For example, many have appreciated

our well attended outdoor worship services, and the hosted camp fires are to my knowledge, a first for this congregation. We will no doubt see other creative innovations as we endeavor to stay in touch during these unusual times. Some are even suggesting we are learning patterns we should continue after the pandemic subsides.

Many people seem to be coping well, but periodically we hear from those who are really struggling, often due to isolation. Let me encourage you to never pass up an opportunity to connect with the church family, and make it a point to encourage those who are struggling by lending an ear, and if possible a presence, which is what it means to be the church.

We want you to be informed about various decisions and actions of the Leadership Team, so I have listed some recent decisions and actions below:

1. We maintained our tradition of giving scholarships to our church students attending Christian colleges or universities. This year's \$500 recipients (\$300 in the Fall, and \$200 in the Spring) are: Katy Nelson, Elly Nelson, and Megan Clarity.

2. We are in the process of adding a new member to our leadership team, and will announce the name once it has been confirmed.

3. We have received inquiries, and are completing the selection of a new custodian, or custodians, and will also announce name or names when this has been finalized.

4. David Hebig is now heading up a by-law revision team, working to update certain points of this important document. Once change proposals have been approved by the Leadership Team, they will be read to the congregation and voted on three months later.

5. Following are the actual numbers in our recent call to Seth Bjornrud to be our Lead Pastor. In the quorum meeting at the church: 72 yes, and 2 no. In the Canadian vote: 6 yes, and 0 no. In mail-in voting: 29 yes, 6 no, 2 undecided.

6. A gift of \$500 was sent to Northern Options for Women - the same as last year for their 5K event.

7. At the request of our children ministry leaders, we will not use the "Awana" moniker this year, since their material will not work under current circumstances. Our ministry will be called "Covenant Kids," and budget funding for Awana will be transferred accordingly.

8. We are now using a new texting and emailing program that allows us to send personalized messages to announce various things for the church. It has already proven itself as a great addition to our church communications. If you are not receiving these announcements, please contact Melanie at the church office to be added to our contact list.

We are the church, and Jesus is Lord of the Church. He has his eye on you, and on all that is taking shape through our ministries. Together, we will be a blessing to this community.

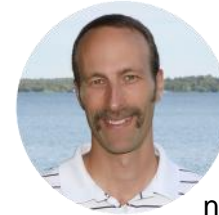
Alan Johnson, Chair

All-Church Bonfire



Saturday, October 10
6:30pm
Ed & Connie
Magnuson's home
3242 Cty Rd 24

Everyone is invited to grab their camp chair and head out to the Magnuson's home for an all-church bonfire!



Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp Update

This was a very different year for Bluewater. Early this year, Bluewater announced that the theme for this year was going to be "Overflow." The theme verse would be Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself." (NASB) The main idea being that we need to love the Lord with all that we are and then we can let that love overflow out of us onto others.

Of course, everything changed before the first camp was even scheduled to start. There was a time in March, April, and even part of May, where we were unsure if the state would allow overnight camps this summer. As a board we decided our goal was to have camp this summer as long as the state gave the go ahead. We also emphasized that we didn't want to have camp because that is what we always do or because we wanted to provide a little bit of normalcy to the kids of the area. We wanted to have camp because that is the camp's mission, to speak truth and love into these kid's lives and point them towards the true Truth and Love, that is Jesus Christ. In June the state gave the go ahead to hold overnight camps and gave Bluewater the okay that our camp had a plan that would meet the state's requirements. Which leads us to our second theme for the year, which Chadwick has repeated on many occasions, "Camp is different, but camp is good." Camp looked very different compared to normal years, from the long line of cars waiting to have their temperatures checked before they could enter the camp grounds, to campers remaining with their pods for the whole week, to outdoor worship services.

But even though camp was different, camp was still good. Camp officially started on July 3rd with family camp. Then, there was one camp for each age group as well as one additional family camp. In total, there were 494 youth campers (including 11 from our church) and 14 new decisions to follow Christ. And true to the theme of the summer, some of the most common goals from the campers leaving were to spend regular time with God and to seek ways to serve others. Please pray that campers will stay connected with God and fellow believers now that they are home from camp.

Justin Carney, Bluewater Board Representative



Monday Night Prayer Meeting

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



Teens for the Fall Season

While we look for a new youth pastor, we are still wanting to offer something for our teens to connect with each other and with God this fall. We have been blessed with awesome Youth Coaches in recent years but don't have quite enough this year to do regular small groups. God must have a different plan so now we are exploring new ideas such as finding people willing to host a certain age group of students for a Bible Study, or putting together a fun and safe outdoor event where they can interact with peers and have fun. If you feel God pushing you in that direction please contact me and let me know. We are also trying to figure out how to do confirmation in the safest and most effective way for all the kids going through it this year. God loves our teens so much, even more than we do. As we go through this season of navigating a youth pastor search and a pandemic, let's be in prayer for our teen ministry.

Pastor Seth



Church Financial Update

A brief note on church finances. This month your generosity provided for:

- \$50 for an oil change for someone in need
- gift cards for groceries

Thanks to all who continue to give even though things aren't quite normal. We are currently experiencing an average \$1,400 a week shortfall to budget for the year. Soon we'll encounter the heating season but with many expenses curtailed the church's total of all funds did increase by \$26,044 for the year.

Some reasons why giving could be down— some people give when they are in church, some people are laid off or making less money than before COVID.

I am not overly concerned with the church's finances. My comfort is in the fact that we have a large emergency fund, and the balance has crept upward, and this year is an extraordinary event.

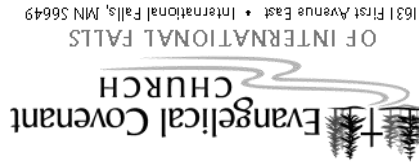
Nick Steines, Financial Officer



New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ JOHN		▶ ECCLES. ▶ JEREMIAH	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-18	▶ JAMES	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:19-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:29-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:17-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:35-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:19-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:43-51	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:16-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-11
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:14-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-13
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10. <input type="checkbox"/> 3:22-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:11-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:15-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-25
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-29
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:15-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:7-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-31
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:27-42	▶ PETER	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 32-34
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 4:43-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 35-38
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:10-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 39-43
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:16-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:17-25	▶ SONG OF SONGS	
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 5:31-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 44-46
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 47-48
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:16-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 49
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:25-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 50
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:41-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:8-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:8-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 51
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 6:60-71	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:13-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 52
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-11	▶ LAM.	
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:14-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:12-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:25-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:8-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
		<input type="checkbox"/> 8:8-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5

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In This Edition...

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A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

Remember this old song from preschool? “The leg bone's connected to the knee bone, the knee bone's connected to the thigh bone, the thigh bone's connected to the hip bone, now shake dem skeleton bones!” What would we be if all those bones weren't connected? Let's just say we wouldn't be able to “shake dem skeleton bones.”

The Apostle Paul knew that the church couldn't do much without being connected to each other and that's why he compared us to a body:

Under his (Christ's) direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. -Ephesians 4.16 TLB

One of the things that people are struggling with during this pandemic is isolation. This isolation has caused us to feel disconnected from friends, family, and even the church. So how do we help people to feel connected to each other and to the larger church?

You will see in this October newsletter some of the efforts being made to help people feel more connected. In the newsletter itself we are making an effort to inform and encourage people more. Stacy, our Organizational Intern, has sent out a couple of surveys to help us to understand the scope of people's church involvement and connection. You have probably also seen the new church email and text notification system at work to keep people informed (if you are not getting these please contact the church office). I have also been doing Facebook Live videos to be more available to people. We are also thankful for the campfires that people hosted on September 26, where old and new connections were kindled. Please see the information about the All-Church Bonfire inside!

Let's make “connection” our theme this fall. As staff, leadership, and congregation, let's seek ways to create and participate in opportunities to build connection with each other. Let's also work as a body of Christ to always be in communication with each other. Let's pursue connection together so we can be as the verse says, “healthy and growing and full of love.”

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

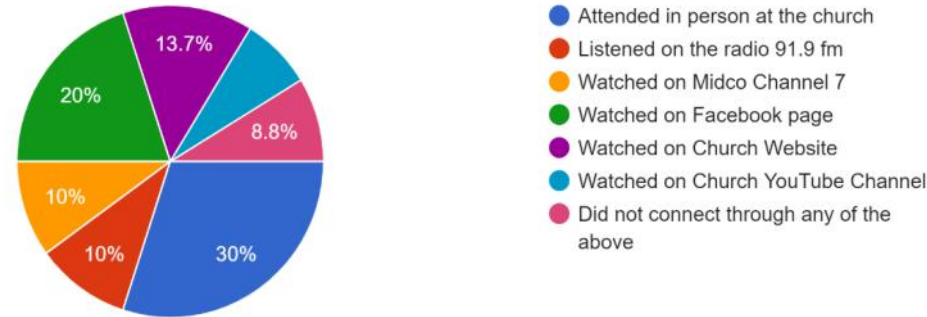


Survey says...

Recently Pastor Seth asked me to conduct a Survey of Worship Service Participation so that we could get a better understanding of how people had been connecting with our services and why. What we found was that people were connecting with our services in many ways.

During the months of July and August, how did you most regularly connect to our worship services?

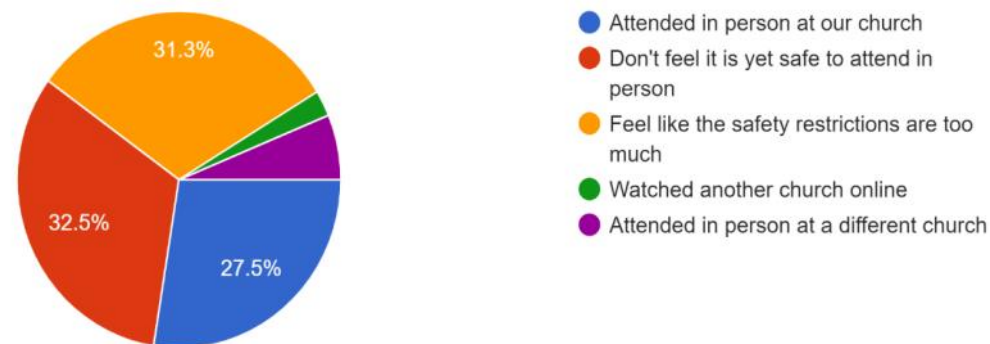
80 responses



We also got a better understanding of why people were connecting in this way. Quite honestly, we were surprised to see so evenly a split among these responses.

Help us understand why in the months of July and August, you connected in this way

80 responses



Our final question looked forward to this fall. 24% of respondents said that they planned on continuing connecting from home. 21% of respondents expressed an "other". The common threads in the "other" comments included border closure, frustration with the state's mask mandate, preferred a later service time, or their own personal schedule and/or health concerns. 45% of respondents responded that they planned on attending our Sunday worship in person. These responses influenced the decision to move to one, outside service at the later time.

Thank you to all who responded,
Stacy Hall

COVID Response Update

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan – Phase Three

As the COVID related guidelines change so does our church's Preparedness Plan. There were four notable changes made this past month.

- 1) Bibles & hymnals have been returned to the pews.
 - 2) The fabric on the pews is no longer being sanitized immediately after each service.
 - 3) We are no longer required to participate in contact tracing.
 - 4) People are not required to immediately leave the building at the conclusion of the worship service.
- A copy of this updated plan can be found on our website and on the main entry bulletin board. Printed copies are available upon request.

Family Life Center Usage Policies

Beginning October 1, we will once again allow outside groups to use our Family Life Center. We have developed two policies. One covers usage for physical activities such as gym time, and the other for social gatherings such as receptions. These policies follow the current guidelines set by the Minnesota Department of Health. Copies of these policies are provided upon request from the church office.



Beginning, *Wednesday, October 7*, we will help your family eat together, learn together and play together!

At 5pm, drive through the church parking lot to pick up your take-home meals and at-home activity kits. Preregistration is required.

At 6pm, join us for music, Bible stories, and more when our weekly program will be posted to our website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. It will be prerecorded, so you and your kids can watch at any time that fits your schedule.

Next, open your at-home activity kits for crafts, games, and more optional fun activities to do together with your kids.

Preregister for our kids at-home program at www.ifallscovenant.org/covkids/



- Oct 2 Nancy Johnson
- Oct 4 David Griffith
- Oct 5 Mark Rooney
Lillie Strong
- Oct 7 Jim Bissonnette
Todd & Rosa Christianson
- Oct 8 Maurice Ohlquist
- Oct 9 Alex Arch
Jillian Bilben
- Oct 10 Dick Frederick
Victoria Galusha
Dick Lorette
- Oct 11 Jim Hummel
- Oct 12 Luke Zika
- Oct 13 Scott Mann
Ariana Vacura
- Oct 15 Julie Christenson
Doris Porter
- Oct 16 Robin Baumchen
- Oct 17 Stan & Lila Kuttles
- Oct 18 Barb Herryly
Jim Lyman
- Oct 19 Doug Galusha
Dawnelle Meyers
- Oct 21 Eric & Connie Todd
- Oct 22 Jennifer Holm
- Oct 23 Arvid Hoppe
- Oct 25 Shelby Layman
Nick Steines
Jerry & Kimberly Dawn Nyborg
- Oct 26 Bill Maruk
Eric & Stacy Hall
- Oct 27 Barb Cassibo
Tom Holm Sr.
- Oct 28 Peggy Ridgeway
- Oct 29 Adam & Danni Aili
Gary & Terri Anderson

