



Youth Pastor Search Committee Update

Hi church!

It's time again for a short update from the Youth Pastor Search Committee. As a committee we have done interviews by way of Zoom with those individuals we have decided may be what we are looking for to fill the Youth Pastor position. It has been fun to get to know these people personally and to put a face to a name. We feel good about this process and think we are close to deciding on someone. We are hoping we can extend a call very soon. Again, thank you so much for your prayers. We ask that you continue to partner with us in prayer. These are exciting times in our church as God goes forward and meets all our needs.

Thanks, Valerie



Important Times in Leadership

As a school boy I ran Cross Country, a sport where distance running takes place in parks or on golf courses, and there were times when just as I thought I could run no farther, I came into view of the finish line. The recent announcements of Covid-19 vaccine brought that feeling to me again. In this grueling part of the pandemic race, the finish line has come into view.

In the mean time, we are encouraged to see how God's Spirit is continually at work. Through Pastor Seth's recent membership class, Ariana Vacura has subsequently been approved for membership after an interview by the leadership team, and another young mother, in noting that personal faith is required for membership, engaged in conversation about what this means and then committed her life to the Lord.

Our November Leadership Team meeting, which was done via Zoom, heard a positive financial report, meaning that our annual giving is three thousand dollars ahead of spending. We should note, however, that our financial obligations have just expanded with the hiring of Tess Vollom as our Interim Director of Worship Arts, under an agreement of twenty hours a week through the end of May. Furthermore, the Youth Pastor Search Committee is prepared to present the name of a full-time youth pastor to the Leadership Team, and then to the con-

gregation. This will be an important next step in our ministry. These positions in worship and youth ministry fill the vacancy left when Pastor Seth accepted the call to be our Lead Pastor. Thank you so much for your faithful financial support of this ministry.

As we near year's end we are putting together a Nominating Committee to help fill a couple of Leadership Team positions, and are working toward a 2021 budget, to be approved at our Annual Meeting about a month into the new year. We are also working to develop ministry teams as described in our by-laws, which will help us make disciples at all levels of our ministry.

In our November meeting we also approved \$300 to Servants of Shelter for assisting the homeless, approved \$500 to The Bridge radio station at 91.9FM, allowing Pastor Seth to record ads for the Christmas season, and also purchased ads on KGHS/KSDM for \$185.

Remember, we can see the finish line. If you feel safe worshipping in the Family Life Center under socially distanced and face masked conditions, you are most welcome to attend. Otherwise, services can also be heard live on 91.9FM at 10:30 am, or viewed online after 7:00 pm. Our footprint is much larger than the sixty who worship live, and when we finally cross that finish line, it will be wonderful to see how many were also running the race with us.

Alan Johnson, Chair



Properties Update ...

The new LED lights have been installed in the gym and are so much brighter. Thanks to Advanced Electrical for installing the new lights!



Monday Night Prayer Meeting

Join others each Monday night at 6:30pm in the lower lobby area for a time of prayer.



Connection & Communication

When the Pandemic of 2020 happened, life changed. Suddenly, like in many areas of our lives, technology became a huge part of how we do church together. Getting our Sunday worship services on the radio, on TV, and online quickly became one of our highest priorities.

Being part of the Production team, I can tell you that we have spent the last several months learning to pivot and think outside of the comfort of our sound booth box. As we have settled in the Family Life Center for the time being, we have had to pivot yet again.

Audio - For years we had been transmitting the recorded and edited 9 am service to the radio station at 10:30 am, but with one service time, this was not possible anymore. This meant rethinking how we have done our radio broadcasts. Thanks to Mike Carney for setting up a way to monitor and adjust the radio feed levels on the soundboard. Thanks to Jeff Adams and Bruce Christopherson for setting up the equipment to send a live audio feed from our soundboard straight to the radio station. Thanks to Tim Nelson for monitoring our audio feed and being ready to step in should there be a glitch.

Projection - We have also had to change our visual projection system. Thanks to Will Davies for pulling the iMac from the sound booth and connecting it to the projector in the Family Life Center. Also for attending worship practice every week to make sure the slides are ready for Sunday mornings.

Video - Since this past June, Joel Maxwell has been video recording, editing, rendering, and uploading our services to our Facebook page and YouTube Channel every Sunday. Then he delivers it on a flash drive to Tim Nelson who gets it aired on KCC-TV the following Sunday. Thank you, Joel for all the hours you have put into video production.

Live Streaming - Recently we piloted live streaming on the church's YouTube channel. We are excited about this. People at home can now participate live with our worship services on any device that has YouTube. This includes streaming on a smart TV. Thanks to Jeff Adams for his time researching what equipment and software that we should be using.

"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— to make artistic designs... and to engage in all kinds of crafts.'" – Exodus 31: 1-4

When we read Exodus 31, we see that God has a special place in his heart for our creative services. We may not think of technological skills as being Spirit-filled creative services, but I think perhaps we should.

Stacy





The Family Messenger

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New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ JOHN	▶ REVELATION	▶ JOB	▶ HOSEA
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:15-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:9-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:22-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:18-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-14
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:18-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:14-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	▶ JOEL
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:12-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 31:1-23	▶ AMOS
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:25-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 31:24-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 17:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 17:6-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 33:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 17:20-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 33:12-33	▶ OBADIAH
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 34:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-21
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:19-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 34:21-37	▶ JONAH
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:28-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-4
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 36:1-15	▶ MICAH
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:17-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 36:16-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:28-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 37	▶ HABAKKUK
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:38-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 38:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 38:22-41	▶ ZEPHANIAH
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:19-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	▶ ZACHARIAH
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:24-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 41:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 41:12-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-9
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:15-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 42	▶ MALACHI

In This Edition...

- Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth
- Youth Pastor Search Update
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- Grief Share



A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

When it comes to Christmas there are a lot of things that we expect. We expect that once Thanksgiving ends we will hear Christmas music being played everywhere. We expect that we will get together with friends and family where we will share gifts, good food, and worship the birth of Jesus. We expect to watch Hallmark Christmas movies, and we expect them to be about a career woman who is too busy for love but she has to move to a small town where a handsome local bachelor teaches her about the true spirit of the holiday. It starts snowing and they kiss... there is also a dog.

Much like Hallmark Christmas movies, we don't like there to be unexpected twists and turns that come our way, especially at Christmas. But 2020 hasn't lived up to our expectations. Cancelled plans, our lives thrown into chaos, an endless cycle of bad news, and a lingering cloud of grief and sadness has made this year less than what we hoped for. But what if none of this was a surprise to God? What if He wants to use this to reveal Himself to us? That's what He did when Jesus was born in an unexpected way in an unexpected place among unexpected people. One thing is clear about God - He doesn't do things the way we would do them.

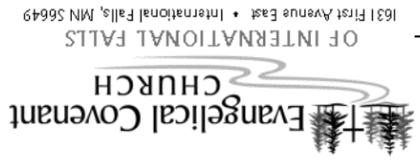
This Christmas season we will be doing a new series through Luke's telling of the birth of Jesus called "Unexpected Christmas." We will also be doing "Unexpected Christmas Eve" services in which we will gather together for a 25 minute service of singing Christmas Carols and telling the Christmas story. Those will be at 4:30 and 5:30 on December 24, and due to COVID restrictions we are having you contact the church office and reserve tickets ahead of time. This Christmas, come and join us in discovering God in unexpected places because God is the God of the Unexpected.

Mercy, peace & love be yours in abundance.

Pastor Seth

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Mission's Update

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to support our missionaries with their Faith Promise. It encourages them to know that our support is still coming. We had just concluded our Missions Conference when everything was shut down in March. The missionaries we support have continued to minister in their areas, with modifications.

We emptied the missions barrel and plan to give the funds to Michael Schrock for his training with YWAM. He had planned to go to Norway by January, but his plans have changed and he hopes to go in October 2021.

During this time of change, three members of the missions team have stepped down. We would like to have three more mission-minded people to join us by January 1. If you have an interest and heart for missions, please talk with me, and I can give you more details. (218-324-0508)

Please continue to pray for our missionaries. These are tough times for them, but people need to see the hope that Jesus gives in hard times. If there are specific missionaries that you would like to know how they are doing, please check with me.

Thanks for praying!
Lynn

Welcome to our Interim Worship Arts Director



Hey everyone!

My name is Tess and I am so excited to be serving as the Interim Worship Arts Director here at I Falls Covenant. I am a recent graduate from North Central University, with a major in Music Business and a minor in Christian Studies. A few fun facts about me are that I absolutely love to write songs, watch Hallmark movies, and drink good coffee (more often than not you'll see me walking around with my mason jar full of iced coffee!)

The Lord has given me such a heart for music, and from a young age music has been

my way of connecting with others and the Lord. I grew up in International Falls and spent so much of my time here at ECC as a kid and as a teenager. I remember the summer going into 7th grade I spent every single day trying to teach myself piano so that when it came time for Teens to start up, I would be ready to audition for the worship team. When I made it on the team and was able to play for the first time at youth group, I knew it was something that I never wanted to stop doing. It is such a blessing to be able to return to my home church as the Interim Worship Arts Director, and I am so excited to grow and worship with you all during my time here. May the Lord bless you always!

Tess Vollom



The Covenant Kids at Home program continues to reach several families in our community each week. We are helping families 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. Then, open your at-home activity kits for crafts, games, and more fun activities to do together with your kids.

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



Financial Update

	October 2020	
	Offerings	Expenses
General Fund YTD	\$238,893	\$217,385
Missions Fund YTD	\$48,328	\$40,115



- Dec 1 -- Dave Anderson
-- Wes Peterson
- Dec 2 -- Tom & Phyllis Holm Sr.
- Dec 3 -- Kimberly Askey
- Dec 5 -- Carmen Zahn
- Dec 6 -- Audrey LaBlanc
-- Melanie Clarity
-- Bill & Patty Maruk
- Dec 8 -- Jeff Bernard
-- Joyce Kelly
- Dec 10 -- Emma Clarity
- Dec 11 -- Luke Hollis
-- Gerald & Rita Forsythe
- Dec 12 -- Will Peterson
- Dec 13 -- Graci Bissonnette
-- Ken Shoberg
- Dec 15 -- Violet Johnson
- Dec 18 -- Norman Christianson
-- Nicholas Jones
- Dec 19 -- Olli Aili
- Dec 22 -- Mike & Allison Wulff
- Dec 23 -- Derek Bilben
-- Julie Bissonnette
-- Kathy Jackson
-- Char Ruelle
- Dec 26 -- Ron Herivel
- Dec 27 -- Tim & Kathy Jackson
- Dec 28 -- Tom Holt
-- Marlana Sinderman
-- Milt & Karen Layman
- Dec 29 -- Tom Holm Jr.
-- Joel Maxwell



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Recipe Corner

Peppermint Crunch White Chocolate Covered Graham Crackers

10oz. Ghirardelli White Chocolate Melting Wafers or Chocolate
8 graham crackers
Crushed peppermint



Place Ghirardelli White Chocolate Melting Wafers in microwave-safe container. Microwave chocolate for 1 minute. Stir thoroughly. If not completely melted, continue to microwave at 15 second intervals and stir until smooth. Overheating will cause wafers to burn. Dip graham cracker sections one at a time, coating both sides, using a fork and place on parchment paper. Add crushed peppermint to top. Let sit at room temperature until set.



Join us for the Christmas story and caroling on Christmas Eve! We will be holding 2 services— 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm. The services will be about 25 minutes and we will be standing throughout the service.

Please contact the office to request tickets to the service that you would like to attend. Space will be limited to 80 individuals per service. Masks are required if physically able.