

## New Members of the Leadership Team



### Andy Hedlund, Vice-Chair

My wife Laurie and I have four children. Jeremy who lives in Fairbanks, Alaska, Perryn and his wife Michelle live here in International Falls and have blessed us with three grandchildren, Morgan, Ryan, and Tyler, and Erica and Jordan live in Minneapolis. We love to travel, and spend time with family and friends, particularly on the lake soaking in God's creation. We started attending I Falls Covenant Church in 1979, and I have served a number of times on the Leadership Team, and other committees. I have taught Sunday school, been in small group Bible studies including DivorceCare, and helped out with AWANA throughout the years. My desire is that we as the body of Christ will increase in bringing the Hope of Christ to our community.



### Austin Homkes, Financial Officer

My wife Anne and I are transplants from Michigan, brought to northern Minnesota by my job studying wolves in the area as part of the Voyageurs Wolf Project. When we first arrived in International Falls, we were very openly welcomed to our church, first by Pastor Seth, and then by our entire church family. Because of this we have been able to grow roots not only in our church but also in our community. We were drawn to this church family in particular because of its commitment to seeking the Spirit's call, the use of the Word of God as a guide, and the church's outward facing character, all for the glory of God. Anne and I are both very excited to become more involved in the work God is doing through our church as the Ministry Team Leader for Media & Design and the Financial Officer of the Leadership Team, respectively. We look forward to growing together as we seek the Spirit's direction for our Church in our community. We also look forward to reuniting with our Church family in person as the pandemic winds down and welcome hearing from anyone to discuss church matters or just to say "hi" at (989) 948-8966 or [austin.homkes@gmail.com](mailto:austin.homkes@gmail.com).



### Dale Boyum, Administrative Officer

As the Administrative Officer, it is my responsibility to keep the records of the church, including Leadership and Church Business Meeting minutes, and to guide the Leadership Team on questions or procedures regarding the Constitution, By-Laws and church policies. Mary and I have three grown children, two grandchildren, and we have been a part of this congregation for many years. We've both been involved in many aspects of church life, and co-chaired the Communications Committee for our present Family Life Center building project. Personally, my passion is in Teaching, Administration and in using relationships to break down barriers to someone developing a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ. If you ever have a question

on the Administrative side of what goes on, have a concern, or just want to talk, give me a call. I can be reached at (218) 283-9513.



### Available

When I think of being available to the Lord, I think of 1 Samuel 3.9-10, "So Eli said to Samuel, Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed. And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." When we make ourselves available to the Lord like Samuel did, we are making room for Him to inhabit and fulfill our lives, where He can then do so much more in us and through us than we ever could on our own. How many of us are willing to say, "Speak, your servant is listening"?

The Lord calls us to be available leaders, ready for whatever He has planned for us. We can't just have God penciled in on Sunday's and an occasional Wednesday night; we need to continuously seek His Face through His Word by faith and righteousness only found in Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 3.16-17 says, "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work". God's Word is the beginning and foundation of our faith as we discover God's plan and purpose for our lives.

As missions week is right around the corner, I want to encourage you to listen to the song 'Available' by Elevation Worship and ask God what it means for you to be available to Him. As believers, we need to have a missional mindset no matter where we are in life. Whether it's serving our local community in various ways, serving in a different country, or sharing God's Word online, we need to be ready and available at all times for what He has in store for us. We cannot control how effective we are, but we are responsible for how faithful we are.



### What Matters Most

For many, this past year has stripped us down to the essentials. The words from Isaiah 40.8 resonate with me. 'The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.' When we understand what matters most, we can experience joy, peace, and contentment... no matter what. We can confidently live with certainty of our salvation and knowledge of His constant presence in our daily lives... no matter the circumstances.

Please consider exploring *What Matters Most*, a 7-week video Bible study by Karen Ehman, with me. We will meet via Zoom at 6:30pm on Thursday evenings, starting April 1. To register, or for more information, contact me at [stacy.hall@ifallscovenant.org](mailto:stacy.hall@ifallscovenant.org) or 218.324.2709.



## Leadership Team Celebrates a Good Season

We are in a joyous and busy season as a Leadership Team that has included two congregational and two leadership meetings in the space of a month. The first congregational meeting extended a call to Marco Griffith to serve as Associate Pastor for Youth and the second was our 95th Annual Meeting at which we elected three new officers, three new Nominating Committee members, approved the 2021 budget, and put in motion two proposed By-Law changes to be voted on in May. Marco begins his ministry mid-March.

Our January leadership meeting finalized details for the Annual Meeting, and our February meeting welcomed Dale Boyum (Secretary), Andy Hedlund (Vice-Chair) and Austin Homkes (Financial Officer) for renewable two year terms. We also welcomed our new Ministry Team leaders whose first-ever meeting overlapped with ours for a time of sharing and prayer. Pastor Seth and I attended each of these meetings, with Seth facilitating the Ministry Team leaders, and me facilitating the Leadership Team. Our first joint evening went like this: 5:30 - 6:30, Ministry Leaders; 6:30 - 6:50, combined prayer; 6:50 - 8:00, Leadership Team.

Each Ministry Team leader has been approved by the Leadership Team for an indeterminate amount of time, and will soon be organizing a smaller team to work in their specialized ministry area. These teams will meet monthly to create and uphold seven ministry areas: Worship Arts - Tess Vollom; Media & Design - Anne Homkes; Welcome, Fun, & Fellowship - Mary Boyum; Kids & Families - TBD; Teens & Young Adults - Marco Griffith; Christian Formation - Diane Adams; and Outreach - Lynn Peterson. The ministry leaders will not only coordinate with the six other areas, but will also work in a unified vision for making disciples at every level of our ministry. The Leadership Team is also looking very carefully at the process and criteria for opening up our ministries in accord with national, state, and local guidelines. A dozen or more from our congregation have contracted COVID-19 over the past year, but other than some dismal lingering effects like loss of taste and smell, none remain seriously ill. We are nevertheless profoundly saddened by the loss of loved ones and livelihood, and continue to take the pandemic seriously. As part of that discussion, our Leadership Team is committed to continuing and strengthening live streaming as a valued addition to our total ministry.

Despite the limitations forced by this pandemic, we are excited to see great vitality, significant growth, and expanding vision for the days ahead. God is watching over His church!

Alan Johnson, Chair



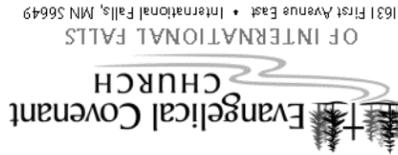
- March 2 -- Deion Kalar
- March 3 -- Sherry Austin  
-- Paul & Victoria Galusha
- March 4 -- Jim Johnson
- March 8 -- Ruth Vacura
- March 9 -- Ann Kaushagen  
-- Wayne Schrock  
-- Jen Vollom
- March 10 -- Steve Nelson
- March 11 -- Jerad Kostiuk  
-- Alan & Elaine Johnson
- March 12 -- Adam Aili  
-- Brenda Hjelle
- March 13 -- Greta Kostiuk  
-- Olnick & Mikaela Hultstrand
- March 14 -- Gerald Dion  
-- Edward Serrano  
-- Melody Silvers
- March 15 -- Kayla Dowty  
-- Mariah Layman
- March 16 -- Regan Bilben  
-- Betty Blankman
- March 17 -- Maggie Morgan  
-- Earl Sneller
- March 18 -- Kathy Blais  
-- Winona Ruffing
- March 19 -- Blair Hjelle  
-- David Kellin
- March 20 -- Stacy Hall  
-- Gerald & Louise Dion
- March 21 -- Priscilla Schrock
- March 22 -- Olivia Line  
-- Judy Pierce
- March 23 -- Ella Bahr
- March 24 -- Mike Carney  
-- Laura Zika
- March 25 -- Chadd Boyer
- March 26 -- Jeff & Diane Adams
- March 27 -- Megan Herry  
-- Dave Howdahl
- March 28 -- Rachel Griffith  
-- Jennifer Gustafson
- March 29 -- Katy Nelson
- March 30 -- Betty Williams
- March 31 -- Mary Boyum  
-- Tyrel Shoberg

# March



<b>New Testament</b>		<b>Old Testament</b>	
<b>▶ MATTHEW</b>	<b>▶ ROMANS</b>	<b>▶ PSALMS</b>	<b>▶ NUMBERS</b>
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:23-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 48	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:33-46	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:18-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 49	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 50	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:15-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 51	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:34-46	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 52	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-11
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 53	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:13-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:12-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 54	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-17
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:25-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 55	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-20
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:15-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 56	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-22
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:15-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 57	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-25
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:36-51	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:13-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 58	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-27
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 25:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 59	<input type="checkbox"/> 28-30
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 25:14-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:18-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-32
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 25:31-46	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 61	<input type="checkbox"/> 33-36
			<b>▶ DEUT.</b>
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 26:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:19-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 62	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 26:17-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 63	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 26:36-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 64	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-8
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 26:57-75	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:25-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 65	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 27:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 66	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-17
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 27:11-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:9-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 67	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-21
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 27:27-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 68	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-26
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 27:45-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 69:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 27-28
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 27:57-66	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 69:19-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 29-31
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 28:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:14-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 70	<input type="checkbox"/> 32
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 28:11-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 71	<input type="checkbox"/> 33-34

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# The



# Messenger

March 2021

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### A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

On Sunday, March 15, 2020 we gathered as a church for worship. We were concluding our annual missions conference, and this day there was a somber feeling in the sanctuary as many knew this would be the last time we would gather together for worship for awhile. Corona virus, which would later be called COVID-19, was sweeping across the nation.

I'm filled with emotion when I think about it. Learning to walk hand in hand even when we didn't all see eye to eye, we did the best that we could, and God was faithful. I am so proud of the staff, the leadership, and all of you as we have strived together for the gospel, doing whatever it took to reach people for Christ. And now this feels like a watershed moment that we have made it to Missions Conference 2021. The dates of Missions Conference 2021 are March 5-14 and the theme is "Whatever it Takes." I love the attitude that missionaries have to do whatever it takes to reach people. No matter what obstacles or challenges come their way they are willing to do whatever they have to do for people to hear the Good News of Jesus. We have been going through a series in the book of Philippians, and the Apostle Paul had that same attitude:

*But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.*

*Philippians 1.18*

Even though Paul was imprisoned, it resulted in more people hearing about Christ, and that made him happy. That attitude shouldn't be just for Paul, or for missionaries overseas - that attitude should be imported here into each and every heart. I am so excited for Missions Conference 2021, and I pray that as you read this newsletter God awakens your excitement too.

This church has always been a mission-minded church. There are people all over the world that have been impacted for eternity by the giving and the sending from this church. It is my prayer that we emerge from this last year even more resolved in our commitment to reach people for the Gospel of Christ, whatever it takes!

Mercy, peace & love be yours in abundance.

Pastor Seth

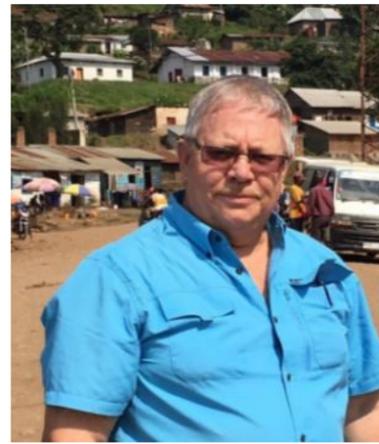


## Missions Conference 2021! March 5-14

What then? Only that in every way,  
whether in pretense or in truth,  
Christ is proclaimed,  
and in that I rejoice.  
Yes, and I will rejoice,  
Philippians 1.18

Schedule is as follows:

- **Friday, Mar 5**—6:30-10pm  
Voice of the Martyrs, virtual event at the church
- **Saturday, Mar 6** — 6:30pm  
Dinner Party via Zoom, call church to sign-up
- **Sunday, Mar 7** — 10:30am  
Worship Service with Galen Johnson
- **Monday, Mar 8** — 6:30pm  
Zoom Prayer Meeting
- **Wednesday, Mar 10** — 6:30pm  
Can't Miss it Zoom Chat—  
'How to Decide which Missionaries to Support Personally'
- **Saturday, Mar 13** — 9am  
Prayer with Missionaries  
(at church or at home via Zoom)
- **Sunday, Mar 14** — 10:30am  
Worship Service with Matt Keller



### Galen Johnson Cru

The ministries I have participated in required me to learn and to use French, Lingala and Fulfulde.

Throughout my missionary career I have been primarily focused on training up national leaders, either youth or

adult. This is an important part of partnership development and skills development in Bible translation as well.

I have been privileged to witness lives transformed by the impact of scripture and the faith community. With the Seed Company, Biblical stories were used to address the trauma of multiple communities in central Africa. Seeing vulnerable women and children, as well as men, able to release their accumulated anger and despair brought on by war and traumatic experiences, has been extremely rewarding.



### Matt & Heidi Keller

### Youth With A Mission

We are Matt & Heidi Keller and

we have been missionaries with Youth With A Mission in Boise, Idaho for the past 8 years. Our ministry is to those in the city (*specifically those that came as refugees*) that have a hunger for Jesus (*whether they know they do yet or not*) and this includes people from many different nations and even religions. We are able to host Bible studies in our home with high school and college age youth as well as house visits to many families in our community. For most, this has been the first time they have ever read the Bible on their own and it has been life changing! We truly believe that we live in the greatest time in the history of the world and that God is doing a great work among the nations right here in our city. Two of our three boys still live at home (Trace and Perrin) while our oldest (Indiana) lives in Bemidji where he's working and saving up for Bible School.

### What is the Faith Promise?

It is strictly between you and God. Faith Promise giving includes income one expects to receive plus additional income to be supplied through faith and prayer alone—trusting God to provide through you during the coming year. It is waiting before the Lord for His instructions as to what He wants you to give in reaching the world with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. It must be carried on by faith, that God will supply for other things which arise, as you proceed in giving what you promised.

### How the Faith Promise Plan Is Carried Out?

During the month of March, you will be asked to indicate on the Faith Promise Cards provided what amount you will give for the next year. You do this without putting your name on it. For online giving, go to the church's website, <https://ifalls covenant.org/missions/> and click on the gray button to make your faith promise. The money promised through our Faith Promises will be recorded and the Missions Committee will use these amounts to determine our missions budget for 2021-2022. Faith Promise gifts can be placed in the offering during any service of the church or given online. It must be marked "Missions".

**We trust that each of you will pray and ask what God would have you to do in our missionary giving.** Through your participation, many will be reached for Christ. Faith Promise giving is another expression of our obedience to Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations."

This year's goal is \$73,000. It will enable us to support the missionaries we currently help and to back new missionaries going into the mission field.



### Tigetege Sauce

#### Fry together:

1 lb beef, cut into cubes  
Salt/pepper to taste  
3 small tomatoes—chopped  
1/2 medium onion— chopped/diced  
1/2 medium green pepper — chopped/diced  
1/4 C oil

#### Add as frying:

2 TBSP tomato paste

#### Mix in:

1/3 C natural peanut butter

#### Add & let cook until meat is tender:

1 C water

**Mix more water (1-2 C) in slowly as peanut butter heats up**, careful it doesn't burn; Simmer fairly briskly until the oil in the peanut butter separates forming a new pea-size patches, about 10-15 minutes.

**Add & cook some more**, cabbage will be limp: 2 C spinach—cleaned; cut in 1" pieces  
1/3 medium head cabbage—cut into 5-6 pieces  
1 or 2 cubes chicken bouillon (depending on saltiness)

Serve over rice.

This recipe is from Galen & Jill Johnson from Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Galen's Notes: Americans attempting this recipe often don't get enough flavor—either by adding too much water, not adding enough bouillon or salt.