

## Youth Ministry this Summer

Summer activities with the youth group have been going great! Monday nights playing ultimate frisbee, Thursday afternoons hanging out at City Beach, and my personal favorite, Sunday night Bonfire Bible study! During our bonfire Bible studies we are reading the book of Galatians and noticing that Paul is extremely concerned that some believers seem to be following “other gospels.” Through this study, we are being constantly reminded that the Gospel must be preached boldly and should not be compromised, even when those who are “wise” or “influential” deviate from its core tenants. Paul emphasizes this by even calling out the Apostle Peter for not living as a new creation in Christ! This has led us to look at multiple Scriptures regarding the confrontation of sin/conflict and find that the core principle is love, and a desire to restore them in kindness and truth. It has been so great to dig into Scripture with these youth.

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.” – Galatians 2:20-21

Rachel and I also enjoyed spending two weeks at Bluewater Bible Camp connecting with youth from International Falls, Baudette, and even some from our former youth group in New Prague! Bluewater has been an impactful place for both of us and we were excited to be a part of that experience in the lives of others.

For the rest of the summer, Rachel and I want to really focus on connecting with youth in smaller groups. We hope that we can grow into further relationship with them, but also grow together in our relationship with Christ. Not only this, but we want to be reaching out more in the community to those who are not connected to a church. Please be praying for us in these endeavors!

Grace be with you,  
Marco

# Under Construction



## Vacation Bible School

**July 26-28**  
**5:30-7pm**

We will be having Family VBS with a dinner and fun family activities provided. We're organizing activities for kids preschool thru 5th grade, but the whole family is invited to come. So mark your calendars and plan to come!

In order to do VBS, we need help with games, crafts, decorations, music, and skits. Please pray about where YOU could help this year to make it a fun time for families. There will be sign-up sheets in the foyer at church or call the church office to let us know.



We will be doing Kids Club, an outreach to South Falls Apartments, again this summer.

**When:** July & August

**Day:** Wednesdays

**Time:** 2-3pm

We will play games, do a craft, have a snack, tell a Bible story and hang out to get to know the kids. If you're interested in helping, let Lynn Peterson know, 218-324-0508. You can help one week or several!



- July 1 -- Wally Clement
- July 2 -- Kay Connors  
-- Lori Lyman
- July 3 -- Taleia Boyer
- July 4 -- Karen Layman
- July 5 -- Carol Hauge  
-- Jim & Lori Lyman
- July 6 -- Mike Silvers  
-- Darren & Robin Baumchen
- July 13 -- Jeff Adams  
-- Pablo Christianson
- July 14 -- Milt Layman
- July 17 -- Aaron Hufnagle
- July 18 -- Kari Obermaier
- July 20 -- Bob Morrison  
-- Elly Nelson
- July 21 -- Ellie Pound
- July 24 -- Patty Maruk  
-- Connie Todd  
-- Macy Zika
- July 25 -- Dylan Holt  
-- Phyllis Wallen
- July 26 -- Tom Worth
- July 28 -- Bob Dunbar
- July 29 -- Tikvah Boyer
- July 31 -- Adam Gustafson



### Grief Share

Struggling with the loss of a loved one? Need someone to talk to? Someone to listen? Please contact Tucky Dill at 218.742.6040.



As our church gets back to “normal activities,” there are many places you could help out. Some are:

**Nursery:** helping watch babies to 3 year olds, once every 3 months, if we get enough volunteers.

**Children's Church:** providing a service to young families of 3-7 year olds. Playing with them, doing a Bible story and craft, that's ready to go. Helping once every 2 months.

**Kids' Club** at South Falls: Adults and teens to play games, supervise crafts, tell a Bible story.

**VBS:** Adults and teens to supervise games and crafts, make decorations, lead music and do skits.

Please pray about where you could help & contact the office at 283-3365.

## Recipe Corner

### S'mores

Graham Crackers  
Chocolate squares (Hershey)  
Marshmallows



Optional items:

Peanut butter cups  
Chocolate Chip cookies  
Saltines  
Nutella  
Kit Kat bars  
Stuffed cookies-n-crème marshmallows

Roast your marshmallow over glowing coals, layer with your graham cracker (saltine), marshmallow, other yummy toppings, then top with another graham cracker or saltine.

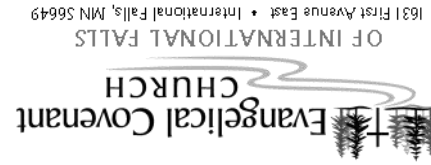




Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Int'l. Falls, MN  
Permit No. 1

Return Service Requested

<b>New Testament</b>		<b>Old Testament</b>	
<b>▶ LUKE</b>		<b>▶ COLOSSIANS</b>	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:11-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-14	<b>▶ PSALMS</b>	
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:18-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:15-29	<b>▶ 1 CHRON.</b>	
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:36-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 123-124	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:8-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 125	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:16-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:16-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 126	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:26-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 127	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:40-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:15-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 128	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-11
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 129	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:18-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 130-131	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-16
	<b>▶ 1 THESSALONIANS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 132	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:28-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 133-134	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-22
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:37-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-9		
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:51-62	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:10-20		
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-6		
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:17-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:7-13		
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:25-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-10		
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:38-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:11-18		
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-11		
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:14-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:12-28		
	<b>▶ 2 THESSALONIANS</b>		
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:29-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 138	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:37-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:8-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 139	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 140	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:13-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 141	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-9
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:22-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 142	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:35-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:6-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 143	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-16
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:49-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:14-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 144	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
		<input type="checkbox"/> 145	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-21
		<input type="checkbox"/> 146	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-24
		<input type="checkbox"/> 147	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-27
		<input type="checkbox"/> 148	<input type="checkbox"/> 28-29
		<input type="checkbox"/> 149	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-33
		<input type="checkbox"/> 150	<input type="checkbox"/> 34-36



**In This Edition...**

- Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth
- Youth Update
- Leadership Team
- People to Celebrate
- Celebrate Recovery
- Grief Share
- Worship at City Beach
- Missions Update
- VBS
- Short Term Mission's Trip
- Coming Events



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

The past few months I have been asking the question, "What kind of church would we be if we were the church of your dreams?" I shared that I would love to be a **Commissional** church that lives out the great commission to make disciples of all nations. In June I shared that I want to be a **Community** church that serves in the community to reach our community. This last one is another "C" word: a **Covenant** church. I know, I know... we already are a Covenant church. Let me tell you what I mean though. There is a phrase in the Covenant denomination taken from Psalm 119 that captures this well.

*I am a friend to all who fear Thee - Psalm 119.63a*

A Covenant church occupies a unique space in the community. It is neither mainline nor fundamentalist, neither conservative nor liberal, but instead defines itself by our identity in Christ. Put another way, a Covenant church plays well with other churches. As my friend Father Ben says, "Let's keep it about Jesus." When Jesus returns He isn't going to care about what denomination we were in, but whether we are in Him. We are not competing with other churches but want them to do well because we are on the same team. We aren't competing to reach church people. We are trying to reach unchurched people.

We do this by keeping the main the main thing. The main thing is Jesus Christ. Because of this we have people in our church from many different faith backgrounds; Catholic, Lutheran, Evangelical, Charismatic, and even those with no faith background at all. Jesus said himself that our love for each other (that includes the believers in other churches) is our greatest witness (John 13.35). When we work with other churches, when we keep the main thing the main thing, and when we seek to reach the unchurched - that's what a **Covenant** church looks like.

When I think about the kind of church I would want to be in, it would be a **Commissional**, a **Community**, and a **Covenant** church. I hope that resonates with your heart and excites you as you dream about the kind of church you would like us to be.

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



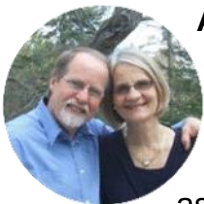


### Worship at the Beach!

Hello, church!

Can you believe we're already in the month of July? Time is flying! On July 11th, it is baptism Sunday! We will be having our worship service at City Beach at 10:30am, so make sure to join us there for a fun time of worship and fellowship! Lunch will be provided afterward, so come hungry, and make sure to bring a chair or blanket to sit on! If you're interested in being baptized, you can fill out a Covenant Connect card during one of the Sunday services prior to the 11th, otherwise send an email to [ecc@ifallscovenant.org](mailto:ecc@ifallscovenant.org) and we will get you signed up. We are so excited to worship together at the beach and can't wait to see you there!

Blessings,  
Tess Vollom



### A Time of Reflecting & Re-forming

In these quieter days of summer I have been reflecting on what our congregation has just come through as vaccinations have arrived in our part of the world even though COVID-19 races forward in many other regions. I express gratitude to God for another grace extended through the vaccine, and the privilege of gathering again in worship and fellowship without restrictions.

My mother brought my brothers and me to this congregation sixty-six years ago, and until her passing in January at the age of 97, she was its oldest surviving member. She chose this congregation because of its clear message of salvation and its strong ministry to children. Now, I am one of the longer-standing attendees and have known hundreds through the years who are no longer with us, but the message of God's grace is still proclaimed, and new families and individuals continue arriving. God is re-forming his church.

Some are missing because they have passed and are present with the Lord, but some are missing because of the pandemic and have chosen not to return. Pastor Seth is making contacts where he can, and my speculation is that a certain number are attending other congregations, while others no

longer attend anywhere. In either case, these are people we have known for a long time and they are missed.

In my doctoral studies at Fuller Seminary, our professor, Dallas Willard, surprised us one day with a simple question: "Why are Christians so mean to each other?" His experience told him that meanness stems from undo emphasis on doctrine over relationships, and that some believe they are required to attack those they disagree with in order to defend the faith. But isn't there a certain irony in being mean to other Christians in order to defend a faith built on love?

The infusion of politics into every area of American life has added to the pain, and for the church it has been a poison. Many friendships simply vanished over political differences, and we are finding it is beyond our natural capacity to love those who have hurt us. That's why this entire process of re-forming the church requires the ongoing bestowment of God's grace.

It is a season for restoring relationships where we can, and for expanding our circle of fellowship by inviting new people into our lives. It is also a time to put aside the politics that have poisoned the church, and to realize that correct doctrine without love is just a lot of noise (1 Corinthians 13). By God's grace, and concerted effort, we are moving into a bright season for his church.

Alan Johnson, Chair

### Mark Your Calendar for...

**July 11** • Baptism service at City Beach

—Join us as we gather to worship, learn, enjoy a baptism service, and share in a meal together. All the food will be provided; please bring a chair to sit on.

**July 23** • Family Movie Night —

Join us at 6:30pm as we watch "Ramona & Beezus" in the gym.

Please bring a blanket to sit on; popcorn & water will be provided.

Chairs will be available along the wall.

**July 26-28** • Family VBS

**August 8** • Reel Hope Ministries will be sharing

**August 15** • Fellowship Meal



### Missions Update

"Thank you so very much for your love and support towards Hands of Action International and for the donation toward our chapel building project! Oh, my heart is so joyful knowing that this project is getting funded!"

Much love, Jenn Anderson"

Our church gave \$3,000 from the Faith Promises towards this project. Thank you congregation!



## Short Term Mission's Trip

We are planning a Missions Trip with Merge Ministries to Costa Rica.

**Who:** Teens-Adults, maximum 30 people

**When:** February 5-12, 2022

**Where:** San Isidro, Costa Rica with the church, Iglesias Jesus Pan de Vida

**Cost:** around \$1500/person, this includes air fare. There will be fund raisers to help with the cost.

**Housing:** at the church

**What:** The church's outreach is to migrant workers (Nicaraguans), working on a coffee plantation. The focus is children, youth, and adults, doing English classes in the school, working in the community center to feed kids, youth camp, visiting women in need, food distribution, and repairing homes of the migrant workers.

If you are interested, please contact Lynn Peterson at 218.324.0508.



### Gather 2021

Annual business meetings are not everyone's cup of tea. Especially when the meeting is virtual, which means two and one-half full days sitting in front of a computer screen. Again this year, I found myself one of the delegates representing our church at Gather 2021, our denomination's 135th annual meeting.

Yes, I am one of those odd people that finds it interesting to read through the constitution and by-law's and their proposed changes. Reviewing the pages of the annual budgets and auditor reports puts my college education to good practice.

While as much as I do enjoy this administrative part of the organizational meeting, it is the reports from the ministries that my heart delights in... the voting in of 16 new congregations; the commissioning of 27 church plants with 35 more locations coming up the pipeline; the honoring of our global mission friends who are retiring; the commissioning of those who are just answering the call; the lifetime service awards for both laypersons and clergy; the updates from the dozen affiliate ministries such as North Park, Covenant Living Communities; and Covenant Trust Company; the election of servant leaders as officer and trustees to the many boards of those ministries, and the presentation of the 99 men and women for Ordination to Word and Sacrament or to Word and Service. Many of the Gather 2021 highlights, reports and worship services are available for your viewing at <https://gather.covchurch.org/>

In his President's report, John Wenrich highlighted some of the hardships and the victories that some of our sister congregations had experienced during this time of global pandemic. He said that despite a year of pandemic where our congregations could not gather together, our congregations grew through the power of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the storm our denomination remained steadfast in being biblical, missional, devotional, and connectional. "By God's grace, we have endured the storm... The big question is not, how do we get back to normal, but how do we get back to mission—and the new thing God is doing among us?"

To God be the glory,  
Stacy