



Youth & Young Adults

ECC Family,

At the time of writing this, we've just finished studying the book of Galatians during our Sunday night bonfire Bible study (law-abiding fire pit). Throughout the book we ended up summarizing every chapter and therefore the entire book with the phrase, "The Gospel is a big deal." Paul is extremely adamant in the book of Galatians that we are saved by the grace of God and to add anything else to that grace is a corruption of the Gospel. Rachel and I have been so encouraged to see the way the youth have been digging into Scripture, contributing to the discussion, and asking questions. It's been incredible!

Galatians 6.14-15

¹⁴ But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

Our other activities have been going really well too! We've had a pretty big group of competitive people for ultimate Frisbee every week, yet the sportsmanlike conduct and the inclusion of others has been great to see. Our beach days, on the other hand, have had a smaller turnout, but it has been a great way to connect with some of the youth in smaller groups so we can get to know them better!

Rachel and I have also continued to meet with smaller groups of youth throughout the week, but then were hit with the common cold! When you haven't been sick with a cold for over a year it's a weird experience to have one again. We're both recovered at this point and are excited for the last month of summer to hang out with the youth and continue to study/teach about the glorious God we serve!

Grace be with you,
Marco



Family Vacation Bible School

Families had a fun time learning about how God has great plans for each person, when they put their trust in Jesus, as their Savior and Lord. They played fun games, did interesting crafts & enjoyed great food. A special thanks to each of the people who helped ahead of time and during the three nights of VBS.



at South Falls Apartments

When: Wednesdays, August 4 - September 1

Time: 2-3pm

Where: Red Playground off 22nd Street

Who: Anyone, teens-adults, who would like to get to know the kids at South Falls

What: We play games, do a project, have a snack while listening to a Bible story
Please join us!



- August 2 -- Jayde Hall
- August 3 -- Ted Bernard
-- Will Davies
-- Tara Nelson
- August 5 -- Norman & Loretta Christianson
- August 6 -- Dick & Renee Frederick
- August 8 -- Jerad & Ashley Kostiuik
- August 9 -- Thor Einarson
-- Brian & Judy Keeney
-- Tim & Beth Nelson
- August 10 -- Dan Griffith
- August 11 -- Thomas Holm
-- Lindsey Lucy
-- Larry & Rosemary Reese
- August 12 -- Larry Reese
- August 13 -- Tom & Jennifer Vollom
- August 14 -- Marco Griffith
- August 15 -- Renee Frederick
-- Dave & Kathy Howdahl
- August 16 -- Luke & Laura Zika
- August 17 -- Elaine Grill
- August 18 -- Stan Kuttles
-- David & Tammi Cain
- August 19 -- Tim Klein
-- Lila Kuttles
-- Derek & Regan Bilben
- August 20 -- Alan Johnson
- August 21 -- Shirley Anderson
-- Ashley Kostiuik
-- Jim & Debbie Peterson
- August 22 -- Tammi Cain
-- Jean Larson
-- Ben Line
- August 23 -- Chad & Tammy Shoberg
- August 24 -- Rodney Lofgren
-- Eric & Denise Kulig
- August 26 -- Kim Boyer
-- Colton Hollis
-- Philip Ruelle Sr.
- August 27 -- Luke Hufnagle
- August 28 -- Reynold Lofgren
-- Seth Peterson
- August 29 -- Allen Peterson
-- Doug & Kathy Galusha
- August 30 -- Ian Hall
-- Henry Morgan
- August 31 -- Lois Holm
-- Kadence Schmidtbauer



We are going to have a baptism service on Sunday, September 12. If you are interested in being baptised, please contact the office.



Prayer Outreach

We would like to invite everyone to come to the Prayer Time at 6:30 on Monday evenings.

On August 2, we will walk around the neighborhood and pray for the people near our church. It's just walking and praying.

On August 23, we will have a time of worship and prayer in the sanctuary. We would like to invite people to come with specific requests to be prayed for.





New Testament	Old Testament
▶ LUKE	▶ PROVERBS
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:10-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-3
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:22-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:15-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:25-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:11-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-9
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-10
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:10-18	▶ NEH.
▶ 1 TIMOTHY	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:17-32
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:16-31
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:11-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:15-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 5:16-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:13-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 14:1-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 6:11-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 14:19-35
▶ 2 TIMOTHY	▶ ESTHER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:8-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:18-33
<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:1-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 2:14-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:17-33
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:1-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:10-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:15-28
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▶ TITUS	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-9	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:10-16	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-10	
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<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-8	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:9-15	
▶ PHILEMON	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1-11	
<input type="checkbox"/> 12-25	

The Family Messenger

August 2021

1631 1st Ave. E • Intl. Falls, MN • 56649 • 218 283 3365



A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

Last month we had the joy of seeing seven people follow Jesus in baptism. The weather was wonderful as we celebrated by having our service at City Beach. After the service our Welcome, Fun & Fellowship Team provided a meal for us while we enjoyed being together.

Standing at the front of the beach I observed the joy in people's faces as they visited with each other, and saw people going out of their way to welcome new people. It was then that I realized that this was a significant moment. This was something we weren't able to have for almost two years.

In all of the Zoom meetings and virtual services of the past year we realized how much we took fellowship with each other for granted. I thank God for the technology that helped us through the pandemic, but the one thing that it couldn't replace was the scene I was seeing before me as I looked out at the beach. How fitting it was that we were celebrating baptism, which provides a picture of newness of life.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

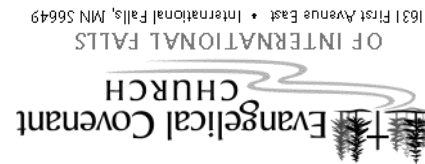
Romans 6.5

This last year has left a lot of people feeling lonely and isolated. Even now many are struggling to re-socialize, and haven't gotten plugged back into the rich fellowship of the church family. Maybe as you are reading this I am describing you right now. If so, I want to encourage you to take this opportunity to walk in this newness of life and not take coming together for granted. Now is a great time for you to come and worship with us in person. There will be a handshake or hug, joy-filled faces, and a great cup of coffee waiting for you.

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

In This Edition...

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



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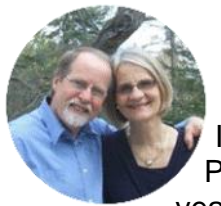
Be Still Worship Time



Hey, church family! With summer's end approaching and the school year on the horizon, it tends to get difficult to find moments in our weeks to just be still. It's not easy for us Christians to learn to be still before God in daily life, because our life is always occupied with something. Whether it's the busyness of work, the chaos of house chores and noisy kiddos, or the other time commitments that just keep building up and building up. It seems impossible to take a moment to be still, even though it's often what we need most. In fact, we're told in Psalm 46.10 to, *"Be still, and know that I am God."* So, on Monday, August 23rd we are hosting a prayer and worship night in the sanctuary at 6:30pm to do just that. This event is open to anyone and everyone, and we encourage you to invite your friends and family, whether they're part of our church or not! This will be a time for you to come, spend time in prayer and the Word, be still, receive prayer, sing songs of worship, and enjoy some dessert and fellowship afterward. This will be such a special night of rest, healing, and restoration and I couldn't be more excited to see what the Lord has in store for us individually and as a church during this event. Make sure to mark your calendars, and I can't wait to see you there.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest," Matthew 11.28

Blessings,
Tess



Thriving Faith, Through it All

It was recently reported by Gallup Polls that for the first time in eighty years, U.S. adults affiliated with a church, synagogue, or mosque has dropped below 50%. The drop to 47% signals a downturn of more than 20% in the last twenty years, and while the United States remains a predominantly religious nation, the number of Americans with no religious preference continues to rise in all age groups, but especially among younger adults. This trend is expected to continue, and is leading to financial struggles for existing congregations and the closure of thousands of Christian churches every year.

While these statistics are sobering they are not unexpected, and with the many challenges we face as a society, the need for a committed and growing

faith has never been clearer. As we slowly recover from the impacts of COVID 19, we are grateful for the devotion of our dedicated pastors and staff. The recent baptisms in Rainy Lake are not to be taken lightly as they signal a public commitment to faith in Christ, who is the hope for individuals and for nations.

These first months of warm weather have focused on rebuilding relationships in the church after so many limitations, and the "Fun and Fellowship" team is working hard and effectively to bring us together. As we enter the second half of warm weather we are encouraged by children and youth ministries like the just completed Family VBS, a Kid's Club outreach to South Falls Apartments (where Pastor Seth now lives), Bible Camp attendance, and an active youth schedule led by Pastor Marco.

Adult ministries are also expanding as our Spiritual Formation Team is developing equipping ministries, our Worship Team is calling us to "Be Still" on an August 23rd evening of worship and prayer. Plans are in place for a September baptism service followed a few weeks later by a ministry fair, followed by fall teaching on spiritual gifts. Then, in February, a team of us will travel to Costa Rica to minister on a coffee plantation. Regardless of the challenges revealed by the Gallup Poll, we can be thankful for this dynamic and faith-growing congregation that is serious about bringing Christ to our neighbors, family, and friends. Your faithful participation and financial giving is making it possible, and what you do is greatly appreciated!

Alan Johnson, chair



Missions Trip to Costa Rica

There will be an informational meeting for anyone interested in going to Costa Rica on August 4 at 6:30pm at church in Room 200. The trip is open to teens and adults. We will go over what activities we'd be involved in, the cost, and things to be thinking about. If you have questions ahead of time, let Lynn Peterson know, 218.324.0508. Please be praying about your involvement.



FREE

August 15 is FREE Sunday. On Sunday morning, churches across the Covenant denomination will raise awareness and support for the work of anti-sex trafficking, so that together we might see a collective movement toward opposing this evil as we partner with relentless hope to pursue God's shalom for our world. We share a commitment to complement the work of our partners as coworkers entrusted with the mission of God. Together we seek to oppose the evil of sex trafficking and effectively serve those impacted by the perils of trafficking, abuse of power, poverty, and injustice around the world.

Our core denominational identity as Mission Friends is rooted in its deep desire to seek to respond to God's call in Isaiah 1.17, "Learn to do good, seek justice, and encourage the oppressed" in our world. As a response to this call, Serve Globally and Love Mercy Do Justice are collaborating to address the evil of sex trafficking locally and globally through FREE, an anti-sex trafficking initiative of the Evangelical Covenant Church that calls the church to Pray, Learn, Give, and Act, alongside our domestic and global partners.

You can learn more about the FREE initiative at www.covchurch.org/FREE or contact me for more information.

Stacy



Missionary Prayer Requests

Craig Wickstrom - Congo

On July 16, a lightning strike caused the Karwana Central Pharmacy to burn down. This pharmacy served 50-100 smaller pharmacies and hospitals. Please pray for supplies to be re-established and funds to rebuild a new pharmacy.

Colleen Estes - Pikangikum

For the past three weeks, wild fires have burned out of control in NW Ontario, causing many reserves to evacuate. People in Pikangikum have evacuated. Please pray for soaking rains, safety for the firefighters, the people who have been evacuated, and those that have stayed. Pray for the leaders for wisdom in knowing what is best for their people.