

Youth & Young Adults

ECC Family,

I have been incredibly blessed by the youth ministry this past month. Friends are being invited to ultimate frisbee where graciousness towards one-another has abounded; Thursdays at the beach have been times where even families with young kids will come and be blessed as the youth do an amazing job interacting with the children; and our bonfire Bible study has led me to be very impressed with our youths' understanding and application of the Word of God.

James 3.14-17

¹⁴ if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

After studying the book of Galatians and understanding that "The Gospel is a Big Deal," we have now transitioned to the book of James and the seemingly troubling verse that "faith without works is dead." This seems to be such a stark transition from Paul's words that we are saved "by grace through faith", but in fact it compliments it well! From our studying we have come to understand that if we have genuine faith in Christ, it will produce the "fruit of the Spirit." Not that we are saved by our good works, but that good works will naturally follow a life in love with this glorious God who saved us. The youth have done a phenomenal job grasping aspects of the Gospel that can be hard for our naturally merit-based minds to understand. It has been so encouraging!

We also went on a camping trip this August with the big highlight being Jillian and Brooks Bilben getting baptized! It has been so wonderful to see the way they have grown in their faith as evidenced by how they interact with those around them! All in all, it was a great camping trip and youth that had stellar attitudes despite the colder weather and our inability to have a fire. We're so thankful!

For future events, I'm excited to get our school year youth group started off this upcoming September 8th! We're still going to keep our Sunday night Bible study, but will drop beach day when school starts, and ultimate frisbee when it gets too cold! Thank you for supporting Rachel and me as we work with the youth group!

Grace be with you,
Marco



We will be concluding Kids Club at South Falls on September 1. We have had 5-7 kids join us each week for games, a Bible story and snack.

Please pray that these kids will come to AWANA during the school year.

A special thanks go to Joe and Marco Griffith and Luke & Chloe Hufnagle, and Issac Emerson for helping out!



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



- Sept 1 -- Jim Peterson
- Sept 3 -- Nick & Kendra Steines
- Sept 4 -- Darlene Walls
-- Ted & Vivian Bernard
- Sept 5 -- Aaron & Kristy Hufnagle
-- Von & Kris Morgan
- Sept 6 -- Bernie Bahr
-- Wes & Lynn Peterson
- Sept 8 -- Vivian Bernard
-- Sam & Meghann Cassibo
-- Paul & Brenda Hjelle
- Sept 9 -- Ed Magnuson
-- Bryce & Blair Hjelle
- Sept 11 -- Heidi Ohlquist
-- Rachel Lucy
- Sept 13 -- Oskar Aili
-- Mary LePage
- Sept 16 -- Eric Kulig
-- Lynn Larson
- Sept 17 -- Molly Larson
-- Mia Zahn
- Sept 18 -- Jon Blankman
- Sept 20 -- Louise Dion
-- Eric Todd
-- Jim & Marcia Ohlquist
- Sept 21 -- Caleb Benedix
-- Gordon & Lori Dobbs
-- John & Kim Morrison
- Sept 22 -- Braylee Averill
- Sept 23 -- Jessica Kulig
- Sept 24 -- Gracie Bahr
-- Judy Keeney
- Sept 25 -- Don Schmidtbauer
-- Tammy Shoberg
- Sept 26 -- Kendra Steines
-- Ruth Sumner
-- Reynold & Joan Lofgren
- Sept 27 -- Gary Anderson
-- Lori Carney
-- Mike & Lori Carney
-- Earl & Janice Sneller
- Sept 29 -- Ben Skifstad
- Sept 30 -- Jens Bilben



Children's Ministry Opportunities

As a church in this post pandemic season, we metaphorically find ourselves much like Nehemiah in rebuilding the walls. This is especially true for our Kids & Families ministries. With this imagery in mind let's look ahead at what is happening with our kids' programming.

Wall building takes prayer. Many of us are faithfully praying for our church and its ministries during this new season that we are entering.

Wall building takes a strategic plan. Here is a brief update on the two areas that are our top priorities...or gates as it were.

Children's Church - With the recent addition of leading the Kids & Families Ministry to my Internship responsibilities, one of the first things I did was survey our Children's Church parents. From their responses, you will see a few changes in the coming weeks. Some things, like the age range being for 3 to 7 year olds, will remain the same. The first is a change in the curriculum. On September 12, we will begin using the Beginner's Bible Curriculum. Each week our kids will enjoy an animated video, engaging teaching, and fun activities as they discover a new story from God's Word. And for each week's lesson there is a family take-home page to encourage continued learning at home.

AWANA Clubs - AWANA Clubs are returning in October! On Wednesday, October 6, we will have our Ice Cream Social Registration Night. One change with our Awana clubs is in the age groups. This year we will focus on the Sparks club for Kindergarteners through 2nd grade and the T&T club for 3rd through 5th graders. The great news is that Miss Karen and her kitchen crew will be back to feed our families and leaders! And we have found a super fun volunteer to lead game time!

Wall building takes people. To make Kids Ministries happen, we need people. We need people to rock babies in the Nursery on Sunday mornings. We need people to help with the Children's Church. We need people to show up and take tables down after our meal and before the kids can use the gym on Wednesday nights. We need people to show kids how to look up their Bible verses in AWANAs.

"...Come, let us rebuild the wall..." (2:17) With the words of Nehemiah, I invite you to find your place where you can help rebuild our kids' programming.

-Stacy

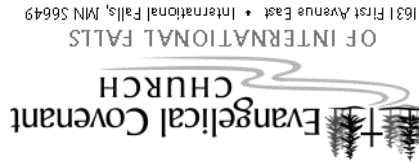


September

New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ LUKE		▶ PROVERBS	
▶ HEBREWS		▶ ISAIAH	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:27-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:41-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:10-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:1-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:15-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-8
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:20-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-10
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:29-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:16-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-13
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 21:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-16
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:14-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 21:17-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-20
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:24-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-23
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:31-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:17-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 24-26
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:39-46	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:13-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 23:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 27-28
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:47-53	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 23:19-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 29-30
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:54-62	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:11-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 24:1-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-33
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 22:63-71	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 24:23-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 34-36
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:7-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 25:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 37-39
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:13-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 25:15-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-41
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:26-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:11-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 26:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 42-43
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:32-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 26:17-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 44-45
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:38-43	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:19-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 27:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-48
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:44-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 27:15-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 49-50
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 23:50-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:17-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 28:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-53
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:32-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 28:15-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 54-55
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:13-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 29:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 56-58
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:28-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:14-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 29:15-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 59-61
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:36-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 62-64
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 24:45-53	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:9-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	<input type="checkbox"/> 65-66

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A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

School is here and fall is right around the corner and you know what that means? Football! NFL, college, and high school are here whether that's good news for you or not. Many of you know that I am a coach on the high school team. We'd love to have you out there on Friday nights supporting our Broncos!

One of the things that I love about football is that it's the ultimate team sport. The goal is simple; score more than the other guys do, but the variety of roles that players have to get the job done is unlike any other sport. You have some whose job it is to block the other team, while some specialize in throwing the ball to those who catch, and there are even people whose job it is to kick a ball between the yellow poles. All these different roles working together to win the game. God has designed the church in a similar way:

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4.10 NLT

...when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Ephesians 4.16b ESV

The question is - do you know what gift God has given you and are you using it in the church? That is going to be our focus this fall. You will notice in this issue there is a spiritual gifts assessment we are encouraging everyone to fill out. That will be great to know when I begin a sermon series called "Empowered" on September 26. That same Sunday we will have a ministry fair after the service where you can learn about the different ministries going on in our church, and "try one out" if you aren't currently serving in one. Just like a football team, we need everyone working together with the gifts with which they have been empowered.

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

In This Edition...

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- Celebrate Recovery
- Waffles & Widows
- Missions Update
- Children's Ministry
- Short-Term Mission's Trip
- Dive Deeper

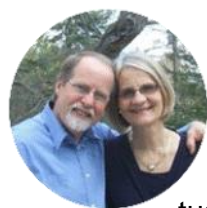
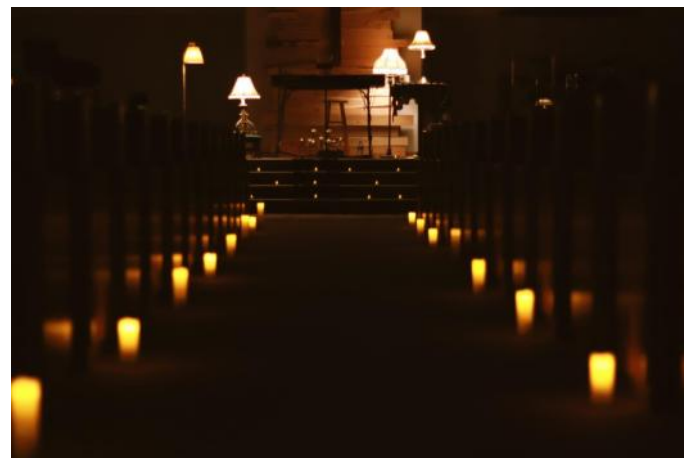


'Be Still' Prayer & Worship Night

Hello Church!

We just wrapped up our August worship night called "Be Still" and wow, what a powerful night. We sang together and worshipped our great God, spent some time practicing being still in His presence, and ended the night with some dessert and laughter. It was truly a night to remember, as the Lord's presence and hand on it all was SO evident. Thank you to everyone who came and I just want to say a special thank you to everyone who was involved with the night, from set up to tear down, computer and audio, desserts, etc. We hope to do another prayer and worship night soon!

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." - Psalm 46:10



Just an Idea?

Consider what it could mean if some day we redesigned our church's sanctuary so that we were seated in a semicircle with the platform on the side. It is an idea that has been raised by each of our lead pastors going back at least 20 years, and as a Leadership Team we have begun asking how seriously we should take this. We heard about a Covenant architectural student who could render drawings at no cost, so we have decided to pursue this with him. At this time, this means very little, since a change of this nature would require a great deal of study, conversation, and support of the congregation, but drawings would help us visualize what this might mean. We do not want to disregard the on-going recommendation of our lead pastors.

A year ago we began worshipping in the parking lot due to the pandemic, but as temperatures became cooler, we moved into our gymnasium. The gymnasium allowed us the distancing we needed but also introduced us to worshipping in a semicircle around a platform at the side. It was a new experience but not a new concept, and many people felt that their closer proximity to the worship leaders and the pastor enhanced their worship. This is the benefit we would be looking for.

It's a big question and as leaders we assure you nothing is in 'the works' since this is clearly a congregational issue that would be a major investment, but we believe that taking a step forward with initial drawings is the responsible thing to do.

On another note, we decided in our August meeting to approve Stacy Hall as Ministry Leader for Families & Children, which completes the Ministry Leader Team in seven ministry areas. These seven leaders meet regularly with their sub-teams, but come together on a monthly basis to coordinate ministries with Pastor Seth. Stacy will provide a great benefit to our vision of making Christ's followers among all ages.

These are encouraging days for this congregation as we move forward in fun and fellowship, with incredible worship, outstanding preaching, and expanding ministry. Our Ministry Leaders and Leadership Team will be taking two half-day retreats in September and October to develop ministry strategies for the days ahead.

Thank you for your continuing involvement, support, and prayers. God is doing a wonderful thing through the ministries of this congregation!

Alan Johnson, Church Chair



Planning Center Training

Are you volunteering in a role on Sunday mornings? Then you are going to be added into the Planning Center.

What is that you ask? Planning Center is a cloud based software tool that helps plan, schedule, and communicate with volunteers. Our Worship and Production teams have been using it for several years. And over the next month, we will be adding in all the other volunteer roles that help make our Sunday morning Worship services happen... including Nursery and Children's Church.

The next time you are scheduled for your ministry role, you can expect to receive an email from your ministry leader through the Planning Center about a week beforehand. This email will give you the option to accept or decline.

If you create an online account or download the app, you will be able see the calendar ahead of time and block dates that you know won't be available.

You can learn more about Planning Center by attending a brief training at 5:30pm on Wednesday, September 15 in Room 200. Or to set up a one-on-one session, contact Stacy Hall at 218-324-2709 or stacy.hall@ifalls covenant.org.



Costa Rica Mission's Trip

There is still time to decide to come on the mission's trip. Please pray and ask the Lord if he wants you to go. Then let Lynn Peterson know at 324-0508.

We will start fund raising in September with a Taco-in-a-Bag lunch after church on September 12. All funds raised will go to the missions trip.

We will also have envelopes on the windows on the back of the sanctuary numbered 1-100. You can choose a number and put that amount of money in the envelope, then put it in the offering box. There will be monthly fund raisers until January. Thank you for supporting this outreach!



Mission Updates...

Gene & Inga Whitehead - Sweden
Praise for the three teens who decided to follow Jesus and were baptized this summer.

Pray for the 15 students attending their school this year. Pray for wisdom in deciding what to teach from the Bible and opportunities for one-on-one pastoral care.

Bill and Cindy Hoppe - AWANA

Praise for a new AWANA program starting in Spooner, Wisconsin. Pray for all the programs starting again this fall. Pray that they would have enough workers, and that the workers would love the kids and lead them to Christ or disciple them to grow in Christ.

Keith and Myrtle Wardlaw - Ethnos 360 retired missionaries

They thank the church for 30 years of support and prayers. They are now living with their daughter and family in northern Georgia. They will be 98 and 93 years old this fall, still praising the Lord and reading their Bible daily.

Nate & Candace Oylo - Agape First, ministry to those struggling with sexual identity.

Praise that Nate's health improved so he could lead worship this past weekend. Praise for more staff that are working with Agape First.

Pray for unity among the staff, a speaking engagement in Nebraska, the Freedom United Rally in October, and protection and provision for their family and staff.



Dive Deeper

Beginning September 12, 9:30-10:15am, come and discuss the previous week's sermon by looking at other scripture & resources through discussion questions and reading together. Or come on Wednesdays, beginning September 15 from 6-7pm for a similar discussion time.

We will start looking at the Sabbath and then move into the 7-week sermon series on spiritual gifts. If you have a question about fall activities, please contact a member of the Christian Formation team—Phyllis Holm, Mikaela Hultstrand, David Hebig, or Diane Adams.

Beginning Monday, September 20, at 1pm, Phyllis Holm will be leading a Louie Giglio study entitled, 'Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table'. Sign up by September 6.