



Leadership Team Update

Wow, we are already half way through the year. It has been another interesting year in our community and through it all, God remains the same. What a comfort it is to know that He will never change and that He loves us more than we can fathom. Our church has provided a wonderful amount of support to those experiencing flooding. I think we have truly been a blessing to the community.

We had another full agenda at the June leadership team meeting. The main topics we discussed were:

- We met with Lois Lundin and Joe Griffith who have completed the new membership class and requested to become members.
- Discussed the upcoming ECC Gather 2022 annual meeting in which Pastor Marco, Wes and Lynn Peterson will attend as our delegates. There are two items that we gave direction to the delegates as to how to vote.
 - If there is a vote to remove the credentials of a Covenant pastor who has violated his vows in regards to human sexuality, we have directed the delegates to vote to remove his credentials.
 - We have directed the delegates to vote yes to electing Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim as the President of ECC.
- We again had a lengthy discussion on the finances of the church including weekly attendance and giving. As a reminder, we do not have access to the information of individual givers nor do we want that information. Giving back to God is between the individual and God and is really a faith issue and not a financial issue. Financial items we discussed were:
 - We need to decrease our spending where we can without negatively impacting the ministries that are happening at I Falls ECC
 - We decided to suspend our contributions to the ECC and the Northwest Conference
 - We are looking at other budget line items that we can reduce the cost of and will be meeting with the ministry team leaders to see what expenses can be reduced in their areas as well
 - We also want to appeal to every attender to pray about their giving and assess if each of us is

where God wants us to be in giving. We recognize that it can be difficult to have our regular giving not be about; the money, what we think has gone well or not gone well at our church, what we think have been good decisions or not good decisions. It really is about giving how God wants us to, joyously in faith.

- We discussed a date for a congregation meeting. We are planning to have the meeting on Sunday, July 24 right after the church service.
 - We will be discussing the budget and looking to correct the budget issue as it pertains to Pastor Marco's annual compensation.
 - Please let me know if you have any topics you would like the LT to consider for the meeting.

Our church family is such a blessing to so many of us. I am always amazed at how God is working in us and through us. As we become more like Christ, we become a more effective tool in His hand. I am confident that God wants to use us to reach the lost and build disciples. Thank you for serving Him and for being brothers and sisters in Christ.

David Hebig
218-349-9756



Leadership Team Contact Information

If you have a question or concern, please reach out to one of the following Leadership Team contacts:

- David Hebig • Chair • 218.349.9756
- Andy Hedlund • Vice-Chair • 612.710.3058
- Austin Homkes • Financial Officer • 989.948.8966
- Dave Herrly • Personnel Officer • 218.417.0913
- Jerry Nyborg • Properties Officer • 218.324.3705
- Tom Clarity • Administrative Officer • 218.417.0517



Youth & Young Adults

June marks the start of everything summer related in youth ministry. We were able to finish our reading of the Old Testament and kicked off the summer with a big game of Colosseum. This entails making armor/weapons of cardboard, taping eggs to our shoulders, and then trying to break everyone else's eggs. You may wonder what this has to do with growing in our walks with God, and well, we're still working on that part too. But it was a great opportunity for youth to have fun and to display a lot of grace/good sportsmanship towards one another.

For summer activities we are meeting every Sunday night at our (Marco and Rachel's) place for a "Bonfire Bible Study" where we are studying the book of Ephesians, every Monday evening for some community ultimate frisbee, and every Thursday afternoon for lunch and games at the park. These events give us opportunities to grow in relationship with each other and with our glorious God.

I (Paul) pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Ephesians 1.18-19

In the young adults ministry, we have just finished up a series on relationships and have transitioned to studying the book of Colossians. With the college students attending plus some other new faces, we have been very blessed in our young adult group. We continue to enjoy meeting with them every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

For our personal update, Rachel and I are having a baby boy that's due in November! With our passion being focused on foster care this was a little bit of a surprise, yet we are of course super excited and still planning on pursuing foster care!

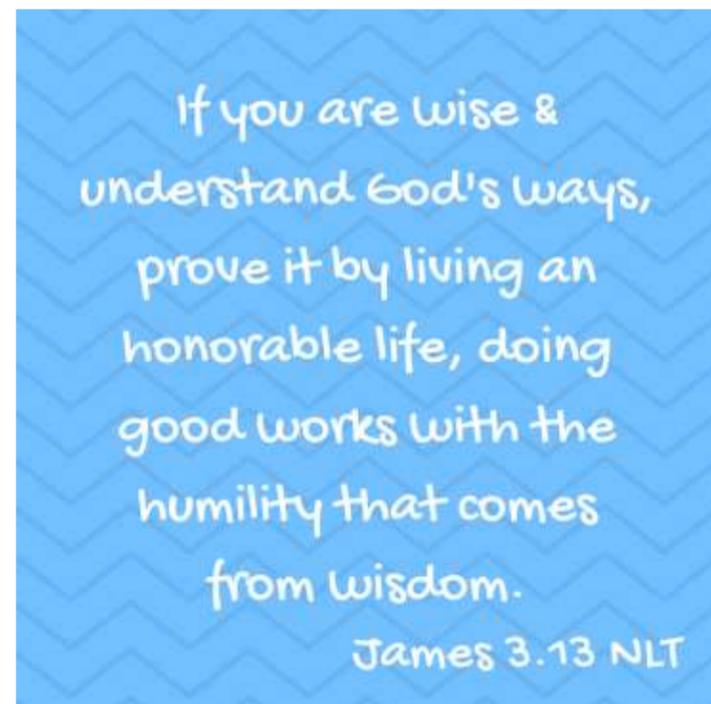
Other than that we have been blessed with very minimal water in our basement lately. Thank you continually for your prayers!

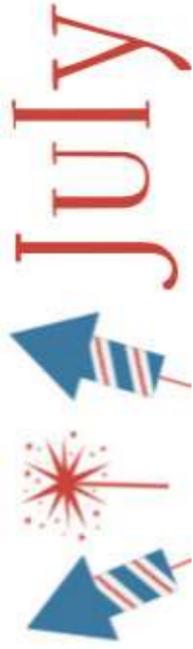
Grace be with you,
Marco



Kids Club at South Falls Apartments

We will be doing Kids Club again this summer at South Falls Apartments. It will be on Wednesdays, 2-3:30pm starting July 13-August 31. If you would like to help in any way, providing snacks, helping with crafts, music, games or the Bible story, see Joe Griffith, or call Lynn Peterson at 218-324-0508. If you can't help, please be praying for our time with the kids each week.





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Return Service Requested

New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ LUKE		▶ COLOSSIANS	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:11-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-14	▶ PSALMS	
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:18-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:15-29	▶ 1 CHRON.	
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
		<input type="checkbox"/> 132	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
		<input type="checkbox"/> 133-134	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-22
		▶ 1 THESSALONIANS	
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:28-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 135	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-25
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:37-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 136	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-28
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:51-62	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:10-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 137	<input type="checkbox"/> 29
		▶ 2 CHRON.	
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 138	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:17-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:7-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 139	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:25-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 140	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:38-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:11-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 141	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-9
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 142	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:14-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:12-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 143	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-16
		▶ 2 THESSALONIANS	
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:29-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 144	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:37-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:8-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 145	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-21
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 146	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-24
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:13-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 147	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-27
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:22-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 148	<input type="checkbox"/> 28-29
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25. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:49-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:14-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 150	<input type="checkbox"/> 34-36



A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth . . .

I learned how to love my enemies at a grocery store. After graduating from college I worked in a grocery store as a cashier. I was so determined that I wanted to love people like Christ while I worked there. Little did I know how God would answer that prayer.

While I strove to make customers feel welcomed and most of my coworkers like working with me, my manager didn't like me. She would give me the worst jobs, be more critical of my work than other cashiers, and would belittle me to other staff. Inside I grew bitter and wanted to avoid her, but I was challenged by Jesus' words.

*But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
Matthew 5.44*

I began to pray for my manager, and what I noticed is that God began to change my heart. One day I was in the break room and she walked in crying. I asked what was wrong and if I could pray for her. In the break room I prayed for her and God turned someone who was my enemy into my friend.

How about you? Is there someone you've been treating like an enemy in your life that God wants you to befriend? In the passage about loving your enemies Jesus says that loving those who love you is the same thing non-Christians do, but what makes us different as his followers is that we are to love our enemies.

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

In This Edition...

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- Celebrate Recovery
- Bluewater Family Camp
- Kids Ministry



Plans are underway for I Falls ECC Family Retreat at beautiful Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp near Grand Rapids, July 29-31. Our own Pastor Paul Langmade will be speaking. We have already gotten a number of families signed up, but have room for more, so PLEASE JOIN US!! And if camp cabins aren't your thing, there is room for a few RV campers or tents....just let us know as soon as possible. There will also be a day trip down to camp on Sunday, July 31. Sign up in the lobby or contact the church office at 283.3365. Sunday, July 10 is the final registration day. Your \$25 deposit is due by this time.

Things to Bring:

- Weather appropriate attire
- Sleeping bag or bedding for a twin bed
- Pillow
- Bath towel
- Beach towel
- Swimsuit
- Bug Spray
- Bible
- Sweet treat to share
- Anticipation of a great weekend!

Feel free to bring a fishing rod & any games you may want to play!

Join us at Bluewater...you're never too old for camp!



Wednesday Night Outreach

We would like to be a blessing to our community by providing free root beer floats at the Concerts in the Park on Wednesday nights at Smokey Bear Park. If you would like to meet new people, please sign up for a Wednesday on the sign up sheet at church or call the church office (283.3365) to volunteer. You would serve from 6:30-8:30pm and the float supplies will be ready to go. We're hoping to do this each Wednesday evening through August 17. Find a friend to serve with you, and meet new friends!



Kids Ministry

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

We strive to be excellent in every way. And in Kids Ministry there are several areas that can get factored in. For some time, there have been three key questions that we have been dwelling on. (1) Are we providing a safe environment? (2) Is our program working? (3) Are we connecting with parents? These are foundational things that we believe are needed to provide young attenders the best experience and build lasting relationships.

Safe Environment - Our leadership team approved the new Safe Place Policy in March. Individuals volunteering in the Nursery, Kids programs and Teens are being trained in the coming months on this. The first training is for Nursery Volunteers which will be on Sunday, July 17 directly following the Worship Service.

Engaging program - We are excited for this fall as we introduce our Covenant Kids Club on Wednesday evenings. Our weekly time with kids is going to be creative, multisensory experiences that immerse them in deep Bible learning, and help them develop a genuine, growing relationship with God by getting to know his heart.

Connecting with parents - Take-Home pages, Facebook groups, emails, and texts are great ways that we communicate to parents. But we want to connect with them, too! That is why we intentionally have children worship with their families before coming downstairs to Nursery and Kids Church on Sunday mornings, offer our Family Meal on Wednesday evenings during the school year and do our VBS program "Family" style.

Like the Apostle Paul, let us *press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* in all that we do.

Serve with Love,
Stacy

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 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
- July 11-- Darren & Robin Baumchen
- July 13 -- Jeff Adams
-- Pablo Christianson
-- Mike & Melody Silvers
- July 14 -- Milt Layman
- July 15 -- Anne Homkes
- July 17 -- Aaron Hufnagle
-- Adam & Jennifer Gustafson
- July 20 -- Bob Morrison
-- Bob & Cathy Morrison
- July 21 -- Ellie Pound
- July 24 -- Patty Maruk
-- Connie Todd
-- Macy Zika
-- Ed & Connie Magnuson
- July 25 -- Dylan Holt
-- Phyllis Wallen
- July 26 -- Tom Worth
- July 27 -- Ron & Marlan Herivel
- July 28 -- Bob Dunbar
- July 29 -- Tikvah Boyer
- July 31 -- Adam Gustafson
-- Jeff Anderson
-- Damion Magel

