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My best memory in high school was being on the foot-ball team. There are a lot of team sports, but there is something about football with eleven people, each doing their part, but working together, that makes you feel a part of something bigger than yourself. That sounds a lot like what the Bible says the Church is all about.

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. -

Ephesians 4.12-13,16

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In this analogy I suppose that as the pastor I would be the coach. My job is not to do the ministry. My job is to equip and train you for the work of ministry. You have unique abilities that our team needs! We have lots of open spots on our team for you to serve.

Make sure to attend our Ministry Fair on September 11 after the worship service where we will highlight many of our ministries. Learn more about them and pray about joining the team. We can only be successful if we have the whole team, each doing their part, but working together for something bigger than ourselves. That something bigger is people becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus.

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



Youth & Young Adults

August was an intense month in youth ministry! After coming off a busy week of speaking at Bluewater and having our church retreat, I was hit with a

bad cold that would just not go away. This was stressful because the next weekend I was supposed to lead MUUUCE, our middle school youth conference in Minneapolis. After panicking and calling other leaders to step in, Max Ducharme very graciously took my place and he and Rachel led the trip. The youth had a great time and it was a wonderful opportunity for them to grow in relationship with one another.

Two weeks after that event, we had another unique situation involving a youth camping trip, torrential rain, and having to really adjust our definition of camping. We had arrived in Big Falls expecting rain, so we quickly set up our tents/gear to prepare. We set up in time but it turned out our tents were leaky! After some aggressive rain, we had some really soaked gear and low morale because rain and thunderstorms were on the forecast for almost the entirety of the weekend. After talking to the group, Rachel and I then made the decision to continue the trip as a two-day stay at our house back in I Falls. We still ate food by the fire, went swimming and hiking at Voyagers, and of course had some acoustic worship. It ended up being a great "camping" trip that will be very memorable for vears to come.

Other than these two events, we've continued our normal summer activities, including ultimate frisbee, hangout at the park, and studying the book of Ephesians on Sunday nights. Most recently, we tackled Ephesians chapter 5 which discusses Christian roles in marriage. It can be a difficult conversation, but Rachel and I were very impressed with the youth and their ability to keep level heads and to stay unified despite potentially coming to different understandings of the passage.

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you,

along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4.30-32

With all the events this month, Rachel and I haven't been able to be as involved with the young adults on Thursdays but have still connected with them on Tuesdays and feel incredibly blessed with that group. It's been tough having to say goodbye to some as they head off to college and move away from I Falls but we're excited to see what comes next for them.

For our personal update, Rachel and I were finally able to get our current house inspected for foster care, and we are only three months from our due date! With house projects in preparation for kids, youth ministry, and young adult ministry, we feel like this summer was absolutely packed with activities! It's been a great summer, but we're looking forward to the slower pace that will hopefully come with fall.

Grace be with you, Marco



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

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As the summer draws to a close and we start thinking about fall, which by the way is my favorite time of year, we are looking forward to new activities happening

at church. With the start of the school year; youth and children's ministries will switch from summer structures to school-year structures and we will look forward to new small groups starting. I hope you will have a chance to attend the ministry fair on September 11. Whether you attend or not, please be praying about how God would like to use you and the gifts He has given you. Then, jump into one of the opportunities of ministry!

The LT continues to look at the finances of the church and appreciates the discussion we had at the congregation meeting in July. Please reach out to one of us if you have suggestions or ideas you would like us to consider. Other items we discussed were:

- Pastor Seth met with the other pastors of the NW conference to discuss the ECC Gather 2022 meeting. At the Gather 2022 there wasn't the opportunity to vote on removing the credentials of the pastor who violated his vows. The group is like minded and agrees that work needs to be done to ensure our human sexuality policy is affirmed and that pastors are held accountable to that policy. We drafted a letter to ECC President, Tammy Swanson-Draheim expressing our disappointment in the process and asking that a change be made. A copy of that letter is available to the congregation, please let us know if you would like a copy.
- During the past couple of years some people have decided to not attend church in person on Sunday morning. Some have started attending a different church, some attend online and others have gotten out of the habit of attending. We certainly want to respect everyone's personal decision and choice of attending in person or not. If you have not attended in person for quite some time, we would like to talk with you to see if there is something we could do differently and to encourage you to attend in person. We miss you, would like to see and interact with you.

• Even though it is only September, we have asked the nominating committee to get together and start the process of determining who God would like to serve on the LT. We think it would be best to start the process early and give people the time needed to prayerfully consider if God is calling them to service in leadership. If you feel God tugging on you to use your gifts in this capacity, please let one of the nominating committee members or LT members know.

As we move into the fall and school season, let's be excited for what God has planned for us. As with any changing time, it can be both fun and challenging. Like most situations, our attitude is what determines our experience. Let's choose to embrace what God has planned and thrive in His plan.

David Hebig 218-349-9756



Mission Budget Update

We have very gracious missionaries! I had to let them know that we had to cut their support by 10% this year, since we did not meet the support level from last year. Each one that has replied, has been very understanding and thankful for the

years of support they have received from our church. Please pray each week for the missionary highlighted on the back of the bulletin. They need our financial support, but even more, our prayer support.

Thank you, Lynn Peterson



Kid's Ministry



As a homeschooling mom, I loved the month of September. It meant that our lives would return to daily routines and col-

or-coded schedules again. With the carefree days of summer behind us, our day's lessons and activities would be mapped and planned out so that we could reach our goals. These did not just include our educational and physical activities but our spiritual ones as well.

Schedules help us feel less chaotic and more peaceful. Chances are your family already has some sort of schedule or rhythm to your day. And everyone is different. You may not have it in writing, or color-coded just right, but you do follow some sort of a routine. But if you are not intentional about scheduling your priorities, then other things will fill in. Does your family's schedule include your priorities?

Here are a few church activities for kids that you should consider adding to your family's schedule this fall.

Kids Sunday School, for kids in grades K to 6th, is held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15am, beginning September 18. This is a combined age group where everyone will get the most out of each week's lesson to apply foundational Bible truths to their lives.

Kids Church, for kids in PreK to 2nd grade, is held during the 10:30am Worship Service on Sunday mornings. Children are released from the Worship service just before the sermon begins to participate in an age-appropriate Bible lesson.

Covenant Kids Club, for kids in grades K to 5th, meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30pm, beginning September 14. This Scripture-based program promotes Bible literacy and helps kids develop lifelong faith in Christ. A free family meal is served from 5:15-5:45pm.

Serve with Love, Stacy





September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept 1 -- Jim Peterson

Sept 3 -- Nick & Kendra Steines

Sept 4 -- Darlene Walls

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 12 - Becky Emerson

Sept 13 -- Oskar Aili

-- Mary LePage

Sept 15 - Eli Anderson

Sept 16 -- Eric Kulig

Sept 17 -- Mia Zahn

Sept 18 -- Jon Blankman

Sept 20 -- Louise Dion

-- Eric Todd

-- Jim & Marcia Ohlquist

Sept 21 -- Gordon & Lori Dobbs

-- John & Kim Morrison

Sept 22 -- Braylee Averill

Sept 23 -- Jessica Kuliq

Sept 24 -- Gracie Bahr

-- Judy Keeney

Sept 25 -- Don Schmidtbauer

-- Tammy Shoberg

-- Riley Ducharme

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

-- Adeline Peterson

Sept 30 -- Jens Bilben



Kids Club at South Falls Apartments

Kids club has wrapped up for the summer. We met from July 13-August 31. We played games, had a snack along with a Bible story, and more games. Two to seven kids came each week, along with Joe Griffith who helped out. Please pray for these kids. The Gospel was presented several times and in different ways. Pray, too, that they would come to Covenant Kids on Wednesday nights.

Root Beer Floats

Free root beer floats were served at the Concert in the Park, July 6 - August 17, by individuals from our church family to the people who attended the Wednesday night event. It was a fun way to meet people from all over, from the community and visitors passing through. One comment heard was "I haven't had a root beer float in 40 years. It was delicious!" Many thanks to everyone who spent a couple of hours serving our community!