

#### Trunk or Treat 23



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Nicaragua • Jan 2024

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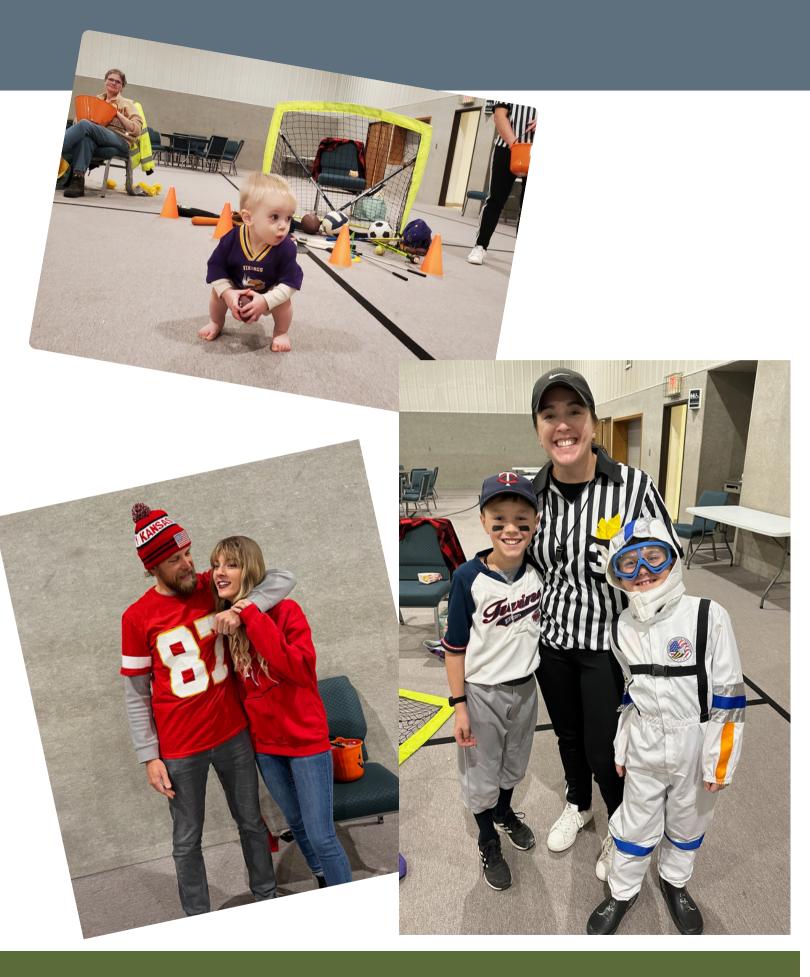
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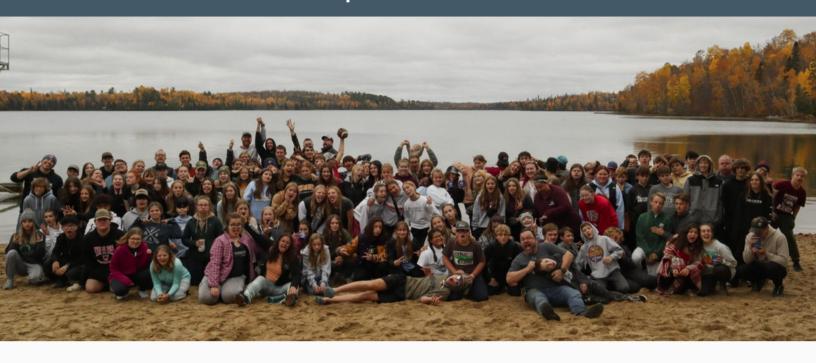
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# Fall Youth Retreat at Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp





FALL RETREAT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH OTHER YOUTH GROUPS AND WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME!

THIS YEAR, WE HAD SOME YOUTH MAKE SOME BAD DECISIONS WHICH WAS INITIALLY A BUMMER, BUT THEN SEEING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH TAKE HOLD AND FOR YOUTH TO REPENT OF SIN, MAKE THINGS RIGHT, AND MOVE FORWARD FORGIVEN WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING TO SEE!

## **Apologetics Conference**

BY MARCO GRIFFITH



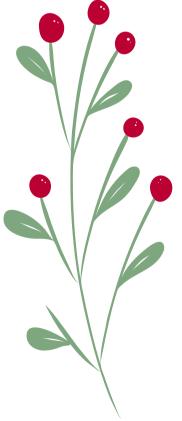
Recently, we had the amazing opportunity to attend an apologetics conference in Minneapolis with the youth group! We listened to speakers such as Sean McDowell and my (Marco's) old Moody professor, Dr. Yuan, as they spoke Biblical truth to cultural issues and shared about our identities in Christ. The church I formerly worked at, FaithPoint, graciously hosted us overnight and it was such a blessing to connect with brothers and sisters in Christ!

Carl & Karen Groot, missionaries from Thailand, were recently in northern Minnesota and had a chance to visit with our Covenant Kids & Teen group.



Carl & Karen Groot





## **Women Growing Together**

BY RACHEL GRIFFITH

Women Growing Together has now been meeting for a couple months and we've been so blessed to have nearly 50 women sharing, listening, and praying together at our gatherings. Personally, my favorite part of the evening has been the opportunity to pray for and be prayed for by the women at our table. Not only do I get to know these women on a deeper level, but it allows me to feel more deeply known and cared for. What a tremendous blessing!

Our next gathering will be Monday, December 4th at 7:00pm and Pastor Seth's mom, Jeannine Bjornrud, will be joining us to share about biblical hospitality. Grab a friend and join us for an evening of fellowship, prayer, and homemade beignets!



The theme for Bluewater in 2023 was "Vivid." The theme verse was John 1:4, "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men." The staff focused on Jesus being our light, how we should live in that light, and sharing that light with others.

It was another year of growth. For the second year in a row, camp set a new high for the number of youth campers with 1,100 (topping last year's total of 1,028). Our church sent 43 youth to camp and provided scholarships to 2 of them. The MEA weekend retreat this fall was full, there was no extra room. So many churches wanted to come that they might have to split into two groups next year.

There was also growth in relationships with Christ. The staff was terrific at keeping Jesus at the center of activities, conversations, and relationships with campers. Their devotion to Christ was evident through their work ethic and interactions with campers. Each camper had the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and a chance to look at their life and walk with God without the distractions of everyday life.

The property itself was benefited from a boys and girls group of Leaders in Training (LIT). This is a program for 10th-12th graders that want a chance to learn about leadership and benefit camp in a tangible way. The girls group was at camp during the first 7th-8th grade camp. They built benches and a woodshed for one of the fire pits. The boys group was at camp during the second 7th-8th grade camp. They installed a new sand volleyball court next to the basketball court.

Overall, it was a great year for Bluewater. It was a place for everyone to spend time in nature, have fun and games, have deep conversations, and sing, read, and discuss God's Word. This included all of the staff and youth, as well as all the family campers and various retreat groups





Row 1: Erika Scofield, Melanie Dueck, Lynn Peterson, Diego Christianson, Dalton Johnson Row 2: Polly Hebig, Seth Bjornrud, Will Peterson, Wes Peterson, Marco Griffith

## Nicaragua Missions Trip

BY LYNN PETERSON

On January 9, 2024, 11 people from our congregation will be flying to Managua Nicaragua, then driving to Rivas to work with Ana Angulo at Bethel Mission. We met her in Costa Rica and heard about her ministry to the children whose parents scavenge at the dump. She provides a meal and helps with education each day. We will be doing construction, a VBS program, visiting the elderly and possibly handing out snacks for the parents.

We are almost done fundraising with one more activity planned for December 15 & 16. We will be wrapping gifts for a donation. More information will be in the bulletin. We appreciate your great generosity during this past couple of months!

We would also appreciate your prayers as we finish up our preparations, and for the time we're in Nicaragua. We will have prayer cards available, and hope to keep you informed while we are there. We will be flying back on January 16.













## **Upcoming Winter Calendar**

**Teens** • 6-8pm • Each Wednesday evening; doors open at 5:30pm; free supper at 6pm.

**Covenant Kids** • Wednesdays • 5:15-5:45pm • free family supper; 6-7:30pm club activities.

Covenant Kids/Teens Christmas Gathering • December 20; Join us for a free family supper from 5:15-5:45pm; at 6pm there will be a short program in the sanctuary for youth & parents. Cider & cookies will be available.

**Christmas Eve Service** • Sunday, December 24, 5-6pm. Join us as we gather for Christmas carols & a reading of the Christmas story.

