

MARCH • APRIL • MAY 2025

# THE FAMILY MESSENGER

Newsletter of the I Falls Covenant Church



## MN Adult & Teen Challenge Choir

You are invited to hear the MN Adult & Teen Challenge Choir on Sunday, March 30 at 10:30am.

Join us for songs of hope and stories of freedom from those who are breaking the bonds of addiction.

## Last Living Supper

On Thursday, April 17 at 6:30pm, we will be experiencing the Last Supper in a new way.

There will be a reenactment of the final meal with Jesus and the disciples.



## This issue:

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## A Season of Great Joy

It finally happened! I am now a married man. On January 25 Kaitlyn and I were married in Big Sky Montana, followed by a Minnesota reception in International Falls that many of you attended. Thank you so much for that! By now many of you are getting to know my wife and see what an amazing woman of God she is. In February she shared her testimony at Women Growing Together and many were blessed. What's more amazing is that she is blessing the community as a home health occupational therapist which was such a great need for our area. We both feel called to serve Jesus in International Falls and are seeing more and more of why God brought us together.

Kaitlyn and I are settling into our home together in International Falls and that includes a lot of house projects. We aren't trying to end up in Better Homes and Gardens magazine. We are trying to make our home a hospitable place where we can glorify God by ministering to people that we have over. In our house, like our marriage, we are trying to live by Psalm 127.1 which says, "Unless a house is built by the Lord, its builders labor in vain."

Let me close by encouraging you with that word. Whatever situation you find yourself in right now, you are building something with your life. That might be single or with a family, at work or home, or any other situation. The question is, are you building on the foundation of Jesus and His Word? If you commit to Jesus and His Way, you are building something that is built to last!

Mercy, peace & love be yours in abundance.

-Pastor Seth



## Blessed & Thankful

BY PASTOR MARCO & RACHEL

The last few months of ministry have been very encouraging! Some highlights of youth ministry are continued growth in numbers, the formation/development of youth-led worship, an uptick in Bible memorization, and overall hearing youth express that they feel genuine growth in their walks with God. To help cultivate all of these things, our big event every February is our trip to Bluewater for our Winter Retreat and we were so blessed with amazing weather this year! We had a great time connecting with one another, a couple of other youth groups, and of course our glorious God!

Rachel and I have felt very blessed connecting with the young adults lately as well. For a while it seemed like we were having a different young adult over every day of the week and it was great! At Thursday night young adults group, Rachel and I were both able to share our testimonies recently and it's always good reflecting on what God has done and is continuing to do in our lives! It's also been a huge blessing to see all the young adults develop genuine, Christ-centered friendships that continue beyond Thursday nights.

Mark 15:37-39 – Jesus, uttering a loud cry, breathed His last. And the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

In our personal Bible reading, Rachel and I are reading through the New Testament starting with the Gospel of Mark. It can catch you off guard how fast some of the Gospel writers fly through Scripture being fulfilled, especially after reading through the long passages of the Old Testament that point to our need for a Savior. Having just finished reading the Pentateuch and now reading Mark it feels like, BOOM! THE MESSIAH IS HERE! HE IS WHAT WE’VE WAITED FOR! AND HE’S FULFILLING EVERYTHING! It’s been awesome!

As a family, it feels like we can’t permanently escape being sick with something at least once a month. Whether it’s stomach flu or just the common cold, it seems like we are constantly interacting with sick people and therefore getting sick ourselves. Despite how tough that may sound, God has been so gracious to us in that Rachel and I are almost never simultaneously sick and our kids seem to sleep great when it feels like we all could use a good night of sleep. It turns out that kids coughing directly into your face really puts your “good” immune system to the test.

Loving life for He is life!

# Winter Retreat at Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp



Our youth had a fantastic time attending the winter retreat at Bluewater Bible Camp this February! We brought quite a crew of youth and connected with other Covenant Church youth groups. Rachel Staudahar shared during chapel along with two youth sharing their testimonies. The weather was beautiful and allowed for lots of fun snow time.



## Women Growing Together



Women Growing Together has been meeting for a several months. We have been so blessed to have about 50 women gathering, sharing, listening, and praying together at our gatherings. It has been such a blessing for so many to have the opportunity to pray for and be prayed for by others. God is so good!

Our next gatherings will be at 6:30pm on:

- March 24 -- Kiki Laurens
- April 28 -- Penny Persons
- May 19 -- Mary Hummel

## Covenant Trust Presentation



On Sunday, May 4, we will be hosting a lunch following our time of worship. At the lunch, Steve Allison from Covenant Trust, will be sharing very helpful financial information that individuals and families need to be aware of. Anyone who is interested in attending is welcome.

Each of us interacts with and/or uses money everyday, yet often the amount of time we spend thinking about or planning for our financial future is lacking.

In this presentation we will look at 10 areas of our financial lives and discuss how to analyze where things are at and plan for the future. Steve Allison from Covenant Trust will discuss these important areas and also be back on May 17th for individual meetings to answer any specific questions and help you formulate your personal plan to move forward.

# Upcoming Spring Calendar

## **MN Adult & Teen Challenge Choir •**

Sunday • March 30 at 10:30am

Come and be encouraged by the songs of hope and stories of freedom from addiction.

## **Waffles & Widows • Saturdays at 10am**

March 8

April 12

May 10

## **Men's Breakfast • Saturdays at 8am**

April 5

May 3

## **Women Growing Together • 6:30pm**

March 24 • Kiki Laurens

April 28 -- Penny Persons

May 19 -- Mary Hummel

## **Last Living Supper**

Thursday, April 17 at 6:30pm

## **Covenant Trust with Steve Allison •**

Sunday, May 4 at 11:45am; Saturday, May 17

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

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

**Buffalo Covenant Mission Group • June 16-20 •** The group of junior high youth will be doing service projects and leading VBS.

## **All Church Retreat at BCBC**

• July 11-13

