

JUNE • JULY • AUGUST 2026

THE FAMILY MESSENGER

Newsletter of the I Falls Covenant Church

Colosseum Summer Kick-off



The last few years we have kicked off our summer with the 6-12th grade youth group by playing a big game of Colosseum. It's a game where we make cardboard weapons/armor, tape eggs to our shoulders, and run around trying to break each other's eggs. I wouldn't call this a great faith building activity, but it certainly is fun for youth involved. This year a lot of the male youth teamed up and systematically eliminated all of the girls and leaders. It was very strategic (and a little brutal) and if we play again next year, we'll have to do a better job mitigating that power alliance!

This issue:

Centennial Celebration

A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth

God's Goodness & Provision from Pastor Marco & Rachel

Men's Breakfast

Summer Ministry Schedule



A Cup of Coffee with Pastor Seth

Happy Summer Church! Normally, I like to use this article to update you on things that are happening with me and my family, as if I'm inviting you into our living room for a cup of coffee. But because this summer is our church's 100 Year Celebration I felt it was important to make this article more of a coffee break to update you on all the things going on!

The first thing is to make sure to mark your calendar for the 100 Year Celebration July 31-August 2. The theme is "To God Be The Glory" and we will be celebrating 100 years of faithfulness of glorifying God in our church. God worked through faithful people who laid the foundation for who we are today, and we take time to recognize and celebrate that at the end of the summer.

The second thing I want to point out are the things being done to get the church building ready for the celebration. In this newsletter you will see pictures of some of those updates. The first is that the roof over the gym, kitchen, and offices was re-shingled and as they say, "A good roof over your head helps you sleep well at night." Other things you will see is work done on the garden spaces around the building and signs on the light poles. Inside, there are paint and light fixture updates to freshen things up.

Lastly, I want to invite you to join us in seeking God together for how we can glorify Him for another 100 years! There will be opportunities shared this summer about ways you can join in praying and seeking God for how He is calling us to continue glorifying the name of Jesus. This summer, please join us in honoring our past, celebrating our present, and looking forward to our future together.

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



God's Goodness & Provision

BY PASTOR MARCO & RACHEL

We wrapped up Covenant Kids this year at the end of March, and it was a blast! Dave Austin did a great job teaching the youth about the time of Judges through David becoming king of Israel. I personally had a great time finishing the year and was impressed by their passion in singing worship songs and the books of the Bible. I've been missing the youth since then but am excited for the VBS we'll be hosting later this summer.

Our teens ministry has also been very exciting these last few months. We had youth going on the Costa Rica missions trip, youth getting baptized, and youth sharing their testimonies to our Wednesday night group of 40-50 teens. I enjoyed our continued journey through church history where we finished up the year talking about slavery and Abolitionism. This is something that the youth are taught in school, but they unfortunately are not taught that the fight against slavery was led by believers in Christ and that almost all of the formal slaves they are taught about in school were strong believers in our glorious God. It's always a joy to see Christians of the past firmly understanding the Gospel and living by it.

"In God I had such a friend. He thought that all men, great and small, bond and free, were sinners in the sight of God and that they must repent of their sins and be reconciled to God through Christ. I cannot say that I had a very distinct notion of what was required of me, but one thing I did know well: I was wretched and had no means of making myself otherwise."— Frederick Douglass

Rachel and I continue to be encouraged by the young adult group as they study the book of Romans, have worship nights, share testimonies, help out with projects around the church, and hang out together any chance they get. They are a very servant-hearted and intentional group and we are so thankful!

In the Griffith household we have had some adjustments recently. The biggest change is that after a year in our house, our two sweet foster girls have transitioned back home. Everything is looking great and we still get to bring them to church with us every week and babysit when needed so it's fun to still be involved in their lives. On one hand, our life is physically much easier and more restful (it turns out having four kids that young was quite demanding!), but of course it has been emotionally complicated with them gone. We also were able to rest up by going on vacation to Florida with family in May for a little over a week. It was very relaxing and a blessing for Casper and Svea to have so much parent/grandparent/aunt/uncle time.

Loving life for He is life,
Marco & Rachel

Building Projects at ECC





Centennial Celebration

Please Consider this your official Invitation to join us.

- **What:** Anniversary Celebration of our church and congregation
- **Where:** At the Church, located at 1631 1st Ave East, International Falls Minnesota. 56649
- **Who:** For all current and former members, attenders, missionaries, etc., no matter where you currently reside.
- **When:** Friday, July 31st through Sunday, August 2nd.
- **Schedule:**



Friday, 7-31-2026	6:30pm	Fellowship Time in the Family Life Center
Saturday, 8-01-2026	8am-10am	Breakfast (FLC Gym)
	Afternoon	Events for Youth and Children (pending)
	5:30pm	Celebration Dinner in the Family Life Center <i>(Former Pastors sharing)</i>
Sunday, 8-02-2026	9: 30am	Coffee & Doughnuts
	10:30am	Morning Celebration

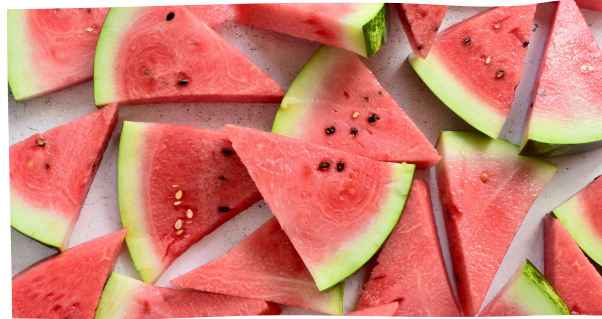
- **Why:** Because:
 - God has been working in our fellowship for 100 years.
 - He's allowed us to participate in what He's been doing.
 - Lives both here and around the world have been changed by the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Outcome:** We look forward to seeing you for this weekend of Praise, Worship and some serious "Catching-up."
- **Cost:** Oh yea, **cost**. There *isn't* one for any of the events. We don't want any barriers to influence your decision.
- **Accommodations:** Stay with family or friends, or we recommend either the **AmericInn** or **Cobblestone** hotels, or other motels in town. Please don't wait till the last minute to book.
- **Attendance:** Please, let us know ASAP if you can make it, and how many to expect. You can email us at ECCIF100@ifallscovenant.org or leave a message at (218) 283-3365
- We are looking forward to seeing you. And please forward this to someone whom you think might be interested in coming.

Upcoming Summer Calendar

Men's Breakfast • Saturdays at 8am

June 6

July 4



All Church Retreat at BCBC

- July 17-19

Sign-up in the lobby for the entire weekend or if you will be traveling down for a portion of the time, please let the office know.



Centennial Celebration

- July 31-August 2



Vacation Bible School

- August 3-6

This is for all kids, K-5th grade! Bring your kids, neighborhood kids, or grandkids. It will be from 4-6pm and conclude with supper. Please contact Pastor Marco with any questions.

