



Connection

Mission Covenant Church

April 2021

“You Are Sooooo Loved”

For the believer, our experience with our heavenly Father is a love fueled story from beginning to end. It begins as Psalm 139 teaches at conception in our mothers' womb: “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mothers womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Our love-fueled relationship with our heavenly Father begins in utero and it reaches its crescendo in the place where Jesus died. John 3:16 says – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life.”

The verb here in the first half of this verse is loved and the adverb is so which is emphatic. The verse could have read: “For God loved the world” without adding the emphasis of the adverb so. Why did God use such a potent little description like so? Why did He give one of His most definitive proclamations of His love through a little adverb? Why, because God was trying to get through to us. God doesn't merely love us. He so loved us.

This is not some kind of contractual, obligatory, perfunctory love. It is an emphatic love. God soooooooo loved you that He gave His one and only Son. God values us that much! Do you realize that the six hours when Jesus hung on the cross says more about you than all the other hours of history put together. The cross says without a shadow of doubt: “God Loves You!”

In Christ Love,
Pastor Darrell L. Nelson

Praise to God for a Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-4

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.”

Phil Wickham, the singer songwriter who has released contemporary Christian staples like “Great Are You Lord” and “This is Amazing Grace,” is the author of our Easter choir number, “Living Hope.” It began as a collaboration between he and Bethel music’s Brian Johnson, put together over hundreds of text messages that began with Johnson’s simple tune for the now verse and the phrase, Living Hope. As they continued to write this back and forth, the emphasis became the Gospel and especially the third verses articulate and picturesque rendering of the resurrection; “...out of the silence, the Roaring Lion, declared the grace has no claim on me!”

Have you ever really stopped to think about the fact that the hope we have in Jesus life, death and resurrection is a LIVING HOPE!??? It is not a hope in the past, or even just in the future! It is not a hope that can be squashed or stopped (that wouldn’t really be Hope now would it?). It is not a hope that could suffer diminishment, let alone some kind of human caused death. Our Hope in this life, as well as the life to come, is as certain and eternal as the resurrected Life of Jesus Christ! This Hope has always been, it is daily present with us now, and will lead us to and keep us in the life to come! Jesus is alive, and therefore so also our Hope!

To often in this life we lose hope or find it evasive because we are looking for hope in all the wrong places; a relationship, new job, better social or economic standing, a medical treatment, a fitness program or even political reform. But these are all earthly, finite things. They have not always been, and they surely will not always be! Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” There is only One place to find infinite Hope!

- “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” – Isaiah 40:31
- “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” – Jeremiah 29:11
- “To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” – Colossians 1:27
- “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13
- “Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love.” – 1 Corinthians 13:13
- “You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. “ – Job 11:18-19

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There’s salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Bananas 4 our Living Hope!

Pastor Carey

Living Hope by Phil Wickham: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>

Song Story for “Living Hope:” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhMf5qotNeQ>

Place of Springs

Part of Jewish tradition was to journey (pilgrimage) to the temple for festivals like passover. Psalm 85:5-7 describes what it is like to be one of those people on their journey to the temple.

*⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
⁷ They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.*

The journey to the temple was not easy. They did not relax in their fancy vehicles eating cheeseburgers and a milk shake only to complain at the end of the day of how brutal it was to sit in the vehicle for 10 hours...we never do that right? To journey to the temple was a labor-intensive process and was even dangerous. If you had a beast carry your load, you were fortunate. For many, they had to carry their possessions needed in the sweltering heat of the sun in a dry (borderline desert) region. Often travelers were of age or had family to help along the way. But the journey was important and was not something to skip out on, so people made a way.

Blessed are those on the journey whose strength is found in the Lord! In verse six we read that there was a place called the Valley of Baca (Balsam tree). This was an area that was waterless region, but the Valley of Baca had springs with pools of water. Travelers who were tired and thirsty longed to arrive at this location so that they might be blessed and renewed in their journey to the temple. This place was seen as a blessing from God!

Though we do not physically travel to the temple to be in God's presence, we can see this depicts our journey as followers of Christ! We live each day on earth in this temporary home, headed to the destination of God's blessed presence in eternity. Along this journey, we face the blazing heat of this life, the struggle and hardship. We endure the cold nights. But along the way, God's blessings appear in various forms. A timely word, a season of rest, a relationship that builds you. Seasons of refreshment are a blessing from God! Have you taken time to stop in the Valley of Baca to be renewed or are you so concerned with the destination that you walk right by and put your life in danger? More than ever, in this season of covid, healthy and renewed Christians are so important. We see burnout and frustration on a level that we have never seen before. Nerves are fried from all the worry and many people are depressed and without empathy for others...yet the unending refreshment of the Holy Spirit is available. Is your life characterized by the struggle OR by verse 7? I encourage you, find your strength in the refreshment God offers along the journey and experience what it is like to go from strength to strength till that moment you are in God's presence.



In Christ,
Pastor Nathan



MISSION KIDZ!

Mission Statement: "Partnering with families to help children discover Jesus and learn how to live for Him"

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you so much, Julie, for your 15 years as Mission Kidz! Co-Coordinator! Your love for the Lord and for the children in Mission Kidz! has been and will continue to be evident in all that you do! You will be missed!



April Bible Lessons

Easter

The Armor of God

Stay Connected

The Serpent Tempts Eve

Mission Kidz! is a ministry for children 6 weeks through 4th grade.

Mission Kidz! will continue to be dismissed during the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services for children ages 2 years old through the 4th grade. Our Large Group Leader will be meeting the children by the MMC doors to walk them down to the classrooms.

A nursery is provided during the 10:00 a.m. service for children ages 0-2. During the other services, parents are welcome to bring and watch their own children. Video of the services will be livestreamed into the Mom's room.



Deyling, our World Vision child we have been sponsoring since 2012, has graduated from the World Vision program! Our children are collecting an offering to support our new World Vision Sponsored child from Nicaragua, **Itza Jahaira Rivera Mercado.**

World Vision is a global Christian humanitarian organization. They partner with children, their families, and communities to help them reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.



Yearly Goal:
\$500

Offering total so far for 2021:
\$127.00

Prayer Request

Pray that the children in Mission Kidz! will invite their friends to join them to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday!

Financial Update

General Fund Actual Income through **Feb:** \$91,555
General Fund Budgeted Income through **Feb:** \$100,203

General Fund Actual Expenses through **Feb:** \$66,299
General Fund Budgeted Expenses through **Feb:** \$88,448

General Fund Actual Surplus through **Feb:** \$25,256
General Fund Budgeted Surplus through **Feb:** \$11,755

Missions Fund Actual Income through **Feb:** \$11,904
Missions Fund Budgeted Income through **Feb:** \$17,266



All men are invited to join us for an hour of Bible study and Christ-centered fellowship every Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Adult Bible Class

Want to learn more?

Join us every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
for our adult **Quest** Class taught
by Pastor James.

Sign up by calling the Church Office.



Wednesdays

Confirmation Classes: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

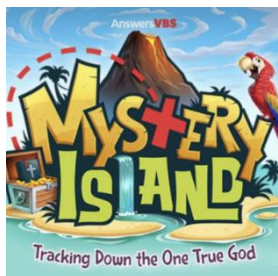
Sundays

Confirmation Classes: 10:00 a.m.

Youth Group, Wednesdays

Elevate, Grades 6-8: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Vertical, Grades 9-12: 6:15-8:15 p.m.



Vacation Bible School
June 14 - 18, 2021

Adult and Youth
volunteers needed!

Registration is open for kids entering 4K-
5th Grade!

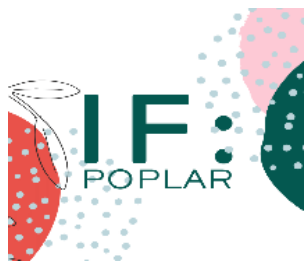
Sign up for both on the church website or at
one of the Vacation Bible School bulletin
boards.



Good News Club is
meeting on **Wednesdays**
from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the
Library at Northwestern
Elementary School.

April 14th is the last Good News Club Meeting

Parents: **MAKE SURE** you have a note for your child's teacher that says they are to stay for Good News Club **EVERY** Wednesday. Children that don't have notes will not be allowed to stay, and no phone calls home can be made. We are looking forward to sharing Wednesdays with your child! Contact Jennifer Vik at 218-340-9059 if you have questions.



If: Table Via Zoom

Join us the first and third Mondays of the month from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will have four questions for conversation, and no prep is necessary. The last session will be May 17. For questions and sign-up, contact Tracy Gaffke.

TLGaffke@gmail.com | 218-640-0381

Join us for **PICKLEBALL** at Mission Covenant Church. This is an extension of our SAM Ministry, but all adults are invited to play. We have the equipment – so come out, join the fun and bring a friend!

We will play Monday & Wednesday
from 9:00-11:00 a.m.



April Sermon Schedule

April 2: "A Tale of Two Trees" (Good Friday)
Genesis 3:1-15, Galatians 3:13

April 4: "His Surpassing Power" (Easter Sunday)
Ephesians 1:18-21, Romans 8:11

April 11: "A Father's Approval"
-2 Corinthians 6:18

April 18: "Call Him Father" -*Ephesians 1:17*

April 25: "Our Perfect Father" -*Matthew 11:25-30*

MISSION KIDZ!

Current Schedule: During the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services, Mission Kidz! is offered for ages 2-4th grade.

Nursery for ages 0-2 is staffed for the 10:00 a.m. Service.



Did you miss Mission Kidz!?
No Worries...

A recorded session of Mission Kidz! is available online each week.

GOOD
FRIDAY



Good Friday
April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 4

8:30, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.

HE IS RISEN
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION



Confirmation Graduation

**Sunday, April 25, 2021
4:00 p.m.**

Congratulations to the following
students for completing their two
years of Discipleship Confirmation:

Paislee Lystig
Sophie Navarro
Mikenna Stroede
Tysen Teal
Keegyn Tribby
Elijah Westerlund
Jayton Wright

Sermon on the Mount

Morning Break

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

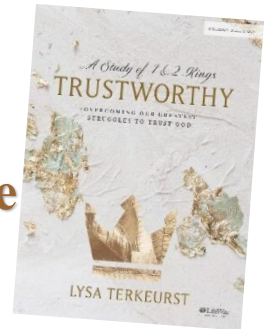
Tuesdays through May 4
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Watch Online: missioncovenantchurch.org/events
Facebook Live
or Join In-Person

6 Weeks

March 30- May 4

Child Care Available
Study Guides \$10.00



A Study of 1 & 2 Kings
TRUSTWORTHY
LYSA TERKEURST



**Quarterly
Meeting
APRIL 18TH
6 P.M.**

ZOOM LINK AVAILABLE

Thank you!

Marion Bradley would like to
thank everyone that helped with
the blankets for the homeless
project. Thirty-six waterproof
blankets have been made and
delivered. Special thanks to Ben
Johnson, Bill Anderson, Roger
Risley and Shirly Deterling.



Don't forget to sign up for transportation

CPBC Registration open!
Early Bird discounts through May 1

Coupon Codes

POP100 (\$100 off full-week camps)
 POPDAY (\$15 off day camp)
 POPMINI (\$50 off mini camp)
 POPADV (\$50 off adventure camp)

Camp Dates for 2021

June 27-July 1: Trailblazer (grades 4-6)
 July 7-9: Mini Camp (grades 2-4)
 July 11-16: JH/SH (grades 7-Grad)
 July 7,8,9 Day Camp (grades 1-3)
 July 18-23: JH (grades 7-9)
 July 25-30: SH (grades 10-Grad)
 August 2-4: Adventure Camp (grades 4-6)
 August 9-13: Backpacking (grades 7-12)

Other Covenant Park Activities

May 6-8:
 Men's Retreat

 May 17-23:
 Quilter's and Crafter's Retreat

 July 30-Aug 1:
 Mission Covenant Family Camp

 September 11-13:
 Women's Retreat

Side By Side
Mens Work and Worship
Weekend
May 6-8, 2021
Register at covenantpark.org



Quilters and Crafters Retreat
May 17-23, 2021
Register at covenantpark.org



Associate Pastor Search Committee Update

At our annual meeting on January 31, 2021, Pastor Carey Vik notified the congregation of his intention to resign from his position as Associate Pastor at Mission Covenant Church effective May 31, 2021. Pastor Carey has served our congregation as a pastor for 29 years! Thank you, Pastor Carey, for your heart for the Lord and your ministry in this church!

The following is an update for the congregation regarding the search for an Associate Pastor. A Search Committee has been formed with names listed below:

- Darrell Nelson, Lead Pastor
- Brian Johnson, Church Chair
- Laura Wolden, Elder Board Representative (Search Committee Chair)
- Justin Orme, AV/Tech Specialist (Search Committee Vice Chair)
- Wanda Paulsen, Congregation At-Large Member (Recording Secretary)
- Marilyn Nelson, Traditional Service Representative (Prayer Coordinator)
- Grace Vandermeiden, Contemporary Service Representative (Social Coordinator)

The Search Committee began meeting on February 10, 2021; and has met 4 times as of the writing of this article. Here is a short progress report. So far we have:

- reviewed the pastoral search process;
- appointed Search Committee leadership positions (listed above);
- interviewed Associate Pastor Carey Vik to better understand the scope and duties of his position and to receive his insights and recommendations for the position;
- held a Search Committee prayer meeting;
- and began discussion of expectations for the qualifications of the Associate Pastor position.

The Search Committee asks the congregation to be in prayer during this transitional time. Please pray for our church body, the Search Committee members, and for the search process. And please keep the Vik family in prayer as they continue to follow God's lead.

The Search Committee will be opening a period for comments from the congregation on April 11. For those who would like to provide input regarding the search process, we will announce more details regarding an opportunity for congregational input at that time.

On behalf of the Associate Pastor Search Committee,
Laura Wolden, Search Committee Chair



The Search Committee for our Associate Pastor of Worship has started meeting to begin the process of finding our new Associate Pastor.

Please be in prayer with us as we are on this journey together.

MISSIONS

Greetings Mission Covenant!

Thank you for your generous support in missions giving this month. Because of you, we were able to meet all of our obligations. As we move forward into the year, we look forward to continuing to support His work around the world.

In Him,

Dan Diamon
Missions Chair

Conversations for Congo

March 23, 2021

Volume 3, Issue 2

Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (Matthew 6:34)

Dear Friends for Congo,

Recently I was reminded that God invites us to a life of insecurity. Or perhaps it is better to say that God invites us to a life of *true* security. Our natural desire is to secure life by our own efforts, but as we quickly discover, we cannot, in the end, control our lives. Whether the threat is “natural” (like COVID, hurricanes, wild fires, or a polar vortex) or man-made (like racial violence or terrorist attacks), we soon find that true security comes only when we trust God, submit to the consequences of our faith, and embrace the responsibility that entails.

I began fund raising in January, 2019, and I have needed to hear Jesus’ advice to not be anxious about tomorrow again and again. I have sometimes felt frustrated at my inability to raise funds, but I have always remained secure in my sense of calling and God’s faithfulness to provide sufficiently for each day. Last week I finally received confirmation that ***my accumulated and anticipated finances are adequate to begin service***. This does not eliminate the need for ongoing fund raising. However, it does signal a change in focus.

My next challenge will be to navigate the administrative, logistical, and health challenges of traveling in this changed world. If those pieces all come together, my hope is to return to Congo in June or July for an exploratory trip before other Covenant groups also begin traveling. My first goal will be to strengthen old relationships, build new ones, and assess the logistical environment for future travel. In the past, a resident missionary staff has assisted in preparing the way for groups visiting northwest Congo, but there are no missionaries in northwest Congo at this time. The Congolese community is a hospitable and generous community, but I hope to add an American perspective as we prepare, together, for visitors.

These next few months will be busy ones for me. In addition to preparing for my own trip, I will become more involved as an intermediary to the Congolese Covenant that is gearing up under a new administration. The installation of President Duale and Vice President Abulu took place on March 14 in the presence of 6,000 people, including both church and government leaders from many parts of Congo. Now they are ready to take action.



President Theophile Duale Langba and Vice President Eric Abulu Batobabe

Following up from last month, many churches in the break-away regions sent representatives to the installation of President Duale and Vice President Abulu, showing more signs of reconciliation in the midst of continued tension. The trip to remote regions for training in fish culture was a huge success and again contributed to reconciliation efforts. Now emergency aid for refugees along the border has been requested from Covenant World Relief and Development, leading to new opportunities for reconciliation.

Let us not be anxious about tomorrow for there is much yet to do today. Thank you for caring about Congo and about my personal ministry journey. I have posted additional resources and earlier “Conversations” at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ConversationsForCongo>

Yours in Christ,

Craig M. Wickstrom

- ☐ My hope is to be part of a community of Covenanters in conversation to reinforce the relationship of the Covenant churches in America and Congo.
- ☐ Praise God for the Congolese Covenant and its desire to serve faithfully in Congo.
- ☐ Praise God for those who have faithfully supported me financially even when I was unable to travel. Those accumulated donations have made it possible for me to begin service at this time.
- ☐ Please pray for Cheryl and me as we anticipate long periods of separation in the coming months and years.

[Craig Marvin Wickstrom](#)

[Serve Globally](#) Liaison to
the Covenant Community In Congo
craig.wickstrom@covchurch.org
+1-440-344-1855 (U.S. cell phone)

FB: <http://tinyurl.com/CovCommunity>

ONLINE GIVING:

<https://tinyurl.com/CovCraigGiving>

Checks payable to “Evangelical Covenant
Church” may be sent to:

Serve Globally

8303 West Higgins Road Chicago, IL 60631
(Memo: “Wickstrom Support - Congo”)

Ladies Night Out

Planter Box Make and Take

May 4th | 6:00-8:00 p.m.

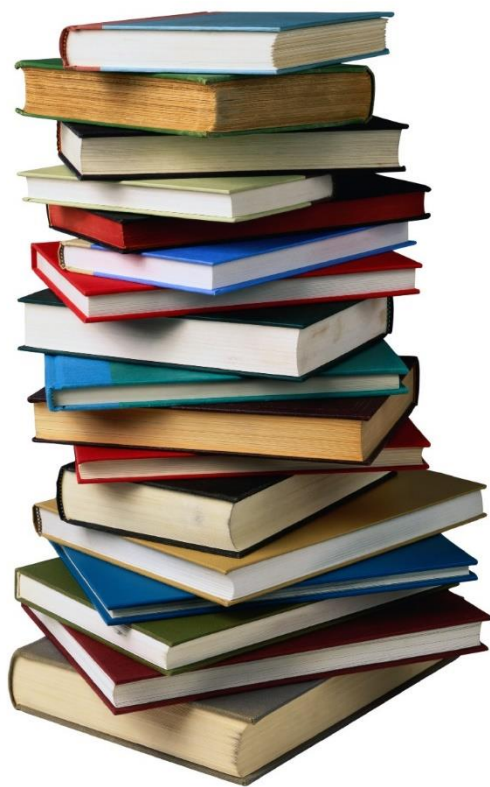
@Mission Covenant Church
Watch for signups mid-April

Save the Date!



Practical & Fun





LIBRARY



New quality Christian fiction for younger readers! Look for these soon in the church library. The Wingfeather series is written by Andrew Peterson, the songwriter of "Is He Worthy?"



UPCOMING EVENTS

To see the full NWC Calendar, visit northwestconference.org

April 23-24 2021

Northwest Conference Annual Meeting - Virtual

June 19-26, 2021

Adventures in Leadership - Grand Marais, MN

Connection Events

Church Planter's Connection - May 11

Children & Family Ministry Connection - April 15

Youth Pastor's Connection - April 15, May 20

northwestconference.org | 612.721.4893 | [follow us on Facebook](#)

Sharing One's Surplus

Saturday, April 10



We will continue our SOS Foodshare distribution the same as we have the past 3 months with **ONLINE PURCHASES- see link below** and it will be a **DRIVE THRU ONLY service**, where guests will stay in their vehicles and shares will be brought out and loaded into your vehicle by our volunteers.

This process will be as follows:

- **DRIVE THRU ONLY** format so **PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLES**.
- You will be directed where to line up your vehicle.
- Please **ONLY** arrive 10 mins before your online registration time slot.
- Registration will begin at 10:00am and will end when all shares have been distributed.
- While you are waiting in line, our volunteers will come to your vehicle to confirm your online registration and put a 1/2 or full sign under your windshield wiper.
- When prompted you will pull your vehicle up the side church doors and volunteers will bring your share(s) to your car and load it into your vehicle.
- PLEASE HAVE **YOUR TRUNK EMPTY AND READY TO RECEIVE THE BOXES** CONTAINING YOUR SHARE. Some things may be boxed, but you should also have an extra empty tub or two in your trunk.
- **THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL NOT BE OPEN**, however, you may use the restroom.

In light of the current situation, we will be carrying out this distribution with considerably fewer volunteers. Please be patient with this process as we strive to follow CDC guidelines while we help our community to stretch their food budget during this critical time. We are hopeful that with a little patience and understanding we can make this a safe and successful distribution for those that participate.

Link for online purchases which will only stay open until 12pm Friday!

<https://eventsframe.com/e/tZ94lrs7C/mission-covenant-church-sos-food-share/>

Blessings,
Your SOS Foodshare Volunteers

Dear Church Family,

Several months ago, the Church Council approved the creation of an electronic directory for our parishioners. The new electronic directory is hosted by, “The Instant Church Directory Online.” This program allows us to access our churches directory online via phone app and home computers. We can also print hard copies for those who would so desire. The site is secure, password protected, and only authorized directory participants of Mission Covenant Church can access it. You can share as little or much information as you want about yourself/family.

Information you can share;

Name(s)

Home address

Email address

Phone number

Photo (you will need to email photo the Church office)

Birth and anniversary dates



The advantage of an electronic directory is you can update your information instantly. If something changes it can be updated quickly so the directory stays current.

We understand that some people may want to be included in the directory and others are not interested. So, we are asking that you let the church office know your participation preference & information from above that you want shared. Please contact us via email at, info@missioncovenantchurch.org or call the office 715-364-2738

The administrative team is working hard to be accurate with all the information entered into the directory, but it will require you in phase two of this rollout, to check **your profile** for accuracy and make necessary updates.

What is next?? Please contact church office with your participation preference and the information you would like shared in the directory as listed above in bold.

Thank you, MCC Electronic Directory
Team



APRIL 2021



COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP

WHERE FRIEND MEETS FRIEND AND BOTH MEET GOD



PRAYER REQUESTS

-Construction on the Lakeside Lodge, volunteer help to be provided to finish the bathroom wall tiling, fireplace stone and kitchen.

-God's continued provision for the ongoing ministry at Covenant Park

-Program planning, staff and volunteer recruiting for 2021

Men's Work and Worship Weekend

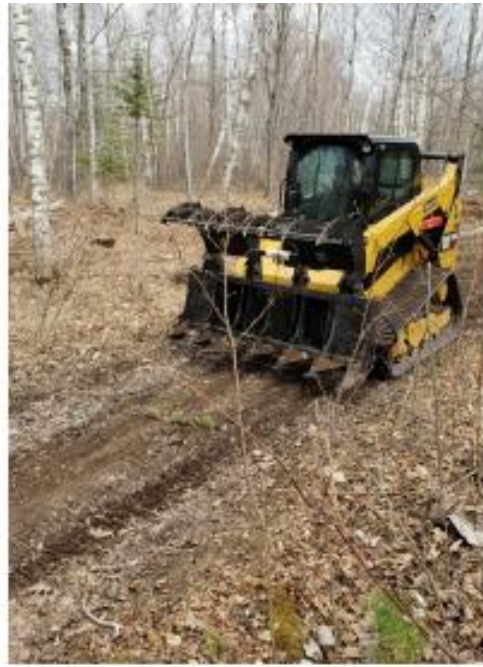
"May 6-8, 2021

\$30/person

Work shoulder to shoulder on projects like interior demolition on the staff cabin, putting finishing touches on the Lakeside Lodge, building benches, and tree clearing.

Find encouragement in your walk of faith with devos around the campfire.

Learn More and Register at
covenantpark.org/events



TIME TO MAKE PLANS FOR SUMMER CAMP

Early Bird Registration Discounts
Available Until May 1!

We are so excited to have you
back in 2021!

See covenantpark.org for dates
and details.

Covenant Park is looking
for wooden picnic tables
in good condition for
our summer 2021
programming.

We are also in need of
1/2 inch sheets of
plywood.

QUILT AND CRAFT RETREAT

May 17-23, 2021

Learn More and
Register at
covenantpark.org/events

FAMILY GETAWAY WEEKENDS

June 24-26
August 19-22

Create your own camp
experience!

Step 1: Rent a cabin or an
RV/Tent space.

Step 2: Choose from lots of
activity options.

Step 3: Make lots of
memories together!

More Information at
covenantpark.org/events

WORK DAYS 2021

Lakeside Lodge Grouting Day!

April 10
9-3pm

Lunch Provided

We need your help to
finish up the grouting in
the bathrooms.

Spring Cleanup!

May 1 & 22, 2021

9am-3pm
Lunch Provided.

Come help us get camp
ready for summer!

NOW HIRING!

We are looking for
summer staff: male and
female counselors,
adventure camps
director, waterfront
director. Also seeking
Weekend Hosts for
guest group ministry.

Learn more and apply at
covenantpark.org





Should Children Be Kept in the Loop?

During estate or financial planning, the topic often comes up regarding how much to involve children. The question, “Should I share this information with my children?” is an important matter to consider and discuss. There is perhaps no better time to address this than during times of short and/or long-range financial planning. This is when it is most fresh and pertinent in your mind.

How this is handled is different for each family. You are the best one to make this call because of the unique relationship you have with your child(ren). You probably have a good understanding of each of their strengths and weaknesses. You are most familiar with how your children interact with each other and are aware of other dynamics impacting how they may or may not get along. Often during times of health crises or the death of a parent, differences among children are more strongly expressed. For example, if one or both parents’ care requires moving them to an assisted living facility, what to do with the existing home can become a tense issue. If children are spread out geographically, these conversations can become even more complicated.

As much as is possible, we have found it helpful to have the child(ren) informed regarding their parents’ estate and financial planning decisions and directives. Being proactive and intentional about communicating your wishes and desires to them and sharing relevant information about your plan not only helps them to be as prepared as possible should you need their help in the future, it can also help reduce misunderstanding and potential conflict in a stressful time.

We encourage arranging family meetings from time to time to share and/or update parents’ wishes for both the present and future. These meetings are important opportunities for all involved to raise questions, express concerns, and exchange ideas. It is best to have these conversations when a child or children can hear you express your desires. This can help avoid speculation later, especially when emotions may be running ahead of the facts. In an ideal world, this all sounds good, however, there are situations where it is best not to share too much if any information with children. It bears repeating, we believe these decisions ultimately belong to you.

This article is brought to you by the local Financial Services Representatives of the Northwest Conference. Got financial questions? Need help with your financial plan? Give one of them a call and they will be happy to discuss your financial needs and see how Covenant Trust can help you manage your money during retirement.

Steve Allison
Financial Services Rep
847-583-3264

srallison@covenanttrust.com

Erik Carlson
Financial Services Rep
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April

| | | | | THU Apr 1 | FRI 2 | SAT 3 |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | Laabs, Jeff Tangen, Al Vik, Pastor Carey Youngstrand, Fred | Musch, Quinn | Evans, Bailey Evans, Jacob Evans, Lindsey |
| 4 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Anderson, Ava Deterling, John Johnson, Bob Trebilcock, Richard | Holly, Keith & Lenore Orme, Payton | Smith, Perri | Hildreth, Mariah Peters, Cheri | Olby, Lisa | Burke, Mike & Sherrie Johnson, Richard & Diane Weiss, Brook | Anderson, Barb Anderson, Sydney Edquist, Skylar Staffrude, Sherry |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Burkhart, Ryan | Gaffke, Eric & Tracy Hill, Garrett Kern, Ana | | HAPPY BIRTHDAY | | | Navarro, Nora |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | Anderson, Bill | Olson, Ashley Wennersten, Adam | Westerlund, Stephen | Gant, Timothy Nelson, Kennedy Wisted, Angela | Navarro, Wesley (Rocky) | Crozier, Wayne Fredericks, Violet Thompson, Michelle |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| Johnson, Jaelyn Tuura, Thor | Bourque, Paul & Becky Csomos, Joe & Alice Larson, Annika | Birdseye, Patti Hardy, Randy Jamison, Don Risley, Rueban Sayles, Amanda | | | Jardine, Cheryl Nelson, Virgil | Happy Anniversary |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
|  | | | | 1 6pm - Worship Practice, | 2 7pm - Good Friday Service | 3 |
| | | | | 8 6pm - Worship Practice, | 9 | 10 9:30am - SOS Food Share, |
| 4 8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 10am - Confirmation, MMC 10am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional | 5 9am - Pickle ball, MMC | 6 10am - Womens Bible | 7 7:30am - Men's Bible 9am - Pickleball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation, CE 3:30pm - Elevate, Youth 6:15pm - Vertical, Youth | 8 6pm - Worship Practice, | 9 | 10 9:30am - SOS Food Share, |
| 11 8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 10am - Confirmation, MMC 10am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional | 12 9am - Pickle ball, MMC 6:30pm - Elder Board | 13 10am - Womens Bible 7pm - Council Meeting, CE | 14 7:30am - Men's Bible 9am - Pickleball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation, CE 3:30pm - Elevate, Youth 6:15pm - Vertical, Youth 6:30pm - Quest Adult Bible | 15 6pm - Worship Practice, | 16 | 17 9am - Rural Care & Share |
| 18 8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 10am - Confirmation, MMC 10am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional 6pm - Quarterly | 19 9am - Pickle ball, MMC | 20 10am - Womens Bible | 21 7:30am - Men's Bible 9am - Pickleball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation, CE 3:30pm - Elevate, Youth 6:15pm - Vertical, Youth | 22 6pm - Worship Practice, | 23 | 24 |
| 25 8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 10am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional 4pm - Confirmation | 26 9am - Pickle ball, MMC 6:30pm - Elder Board | 27 10am - Womens Bible | 28 7:30am - Men's Bible 9am - Pickleball, MMC 3:30pm - Elevate, Youth 6:15pm - Vertical, Youth 6:30pm - Quest Adult Bible | 29 6pm - Worship Practice, | 30 | 1  |

