



Connection

Mission Covenant Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2021

“Good News That Brings Great Joy for All People”

We have just concluded our advent season with a sermon series called, “The World Needs Christmas.” It was a special five weeks where we looked forward to celebrating Jesus’ first arrival on Christmas Day and then anticipating that great and glorious day when Jesus comes again. In this sermon series we learned that God had planned Jesus’ birth from ages past and that everything came to fruition just as God had promised. The reason for Jesus’ coming that first Christmas was to save His people from their sins. This is the Good News that will bring great joy for all the people as Luke 2:10 states.

On January 3, 2021 we will be introducing our theme for the year which will shadow Luke 2:10, “Good News That Brings Great Joy for All People!” During the unprecedented times that we find ourselves living in with the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns, all the political tensions and social unrest people need to hear some Good News! They also need to know true joy; where it comes from, what it is based upon and that it is available to all who truly seek it.

In 2021, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, The Good News will be our focus. Romans 10:13 states for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

In Christs’ Love,

Pastor Darrell L. Nelson

2020 is Hindsight! (Colossians 3:1-17)

Ya know, they say hindsight is 20-20... But I think I am glad 2020 is hindsight, in the rear view! It will be very difficult for some to let go of the hurt and struggle of this past year. Our Nation as a whole will be discussing, rehashing, criticizing and cursing, lamenting and languishing over the hardships we have faced or the things we didn't like or want. I just hope we can learn from the past and to not live in the past, and find Hope for today and tomorrow! And we will find Hope if we live "in Christ" regardless of our circumstances!

*Let the peace of Christ rule
in your hearts, since as
members of one body you
were called to peace.
Colossians 3: 15*

1. Set your heart on things Above: Colossians 3:1-4

- a. *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*

2. Get rid of things that divide you from God and His church: Colossians 3:5-11

- a. *"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[b] ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all."*

3. Love others well, even those you don't agree with about everything: Colossians 3:12-14

- a. *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

4. Experience the Peace of God as you live "In Christ!": Colossians 3:15-17

- a. *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

Let's keep our eyes on Jesus, our minds on His Truth/Word, our hands to the plow, our feet ready to go where He leads, and our hearts fully committed to loving God and loving others!

Bananas 4 Jesus,
Pastor Carey

NEW BEGINNINGS

A new TV series called “The Chosen” was launched a few years ago and they are currently in process of filming season 2. I have never been so impressed with the quality/acting/editing/and storyline of a Christian film as I am with this series. One of the most powerful scenes from season one is when Jesus meets with Nicodemus in private. It is the account of John 3:1-21. Before you continue reading this article, either read along in the passage or watch the film of this scene through this link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_p2XIUK9VgA.

One of the most fascinating parts to this story is how Jesus tells of the new beginning that he is bringing. He was on a kingdom mission to save the world and not condemn it (verses 16-18). He was on a mission from God the father to deal with sin and to offer eternal life to all who would believe in Him. He came so that we might be born again as it says in verse three.

As we have now left 2020, a year of turmoil, remember that the mission of Jesus has not changed! So often we try to solve humanities problem of sin with human wisdom and methods...but they all fall short...This world needs a savior, and the only one that can save it, the only one that can provide a new beginning is Jesus. So, this year, I encourage you to have a kingdom focus and let this year be all about Jesus.

If you would like to watch the entire season one of “The Chosen”, here is a link to download the app to watch it free. <https://studios.vidangel.com/the-chosen>

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan

 **Download the app!** Start watching now!



“
God did not send his
Son into the world to
condemn its people.
He sent him to save them!”

JOHN 3:17





Mission Statement:

“Partnering with families to help children discover Jesus and learn how to live for Him”

For more details, go to missioncovenantchurch.org

Mission Kidz!

Is a ministry for children
6 weeks through 4th grade.

Mission Kidz! will continue to be the same as the past few months until further notice for children ages 3 years old through the 4th grade. Two-year-old children are welcome to attend at parents' discretion. Our Large Group Leader will be meeting the children by the MMC doors to walk them down to the classrooms and will return them to the MMC at the end of the service.

One side of the nursery will be open during all of the services for parents to bring and watch their own children. Video of the services will be livestreamed into the Mom's room.

January Bible Lessons

Jesus Clears the Temple

Enemies Threaten Nehemiah

God Gives Joshua Courage

Esau Forgives Jacob



Mission Project

In 2020, our children are once again collecting an offering to support Deyling Lisbeth from Nicaragua. Yearly Goal: \$550

Offering total so far for 2020: **\$489.00**

These monies are used to assist World Vision, a global Christian humanitarian organization. They partner with children (including Deyling), their families, and communities to help them reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Jesus' love is always at the center of their mission.

Prayer Requests:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this coming new year and we look forward to the great things you are going to do.



STARS OF THE MONTH



THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEARS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM VIDEO, “FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS” AND ESPECIALLY FOR SHARING THE TRUE STORY OF CHRISTMAS WITH ALL OF US!

Financial Update

General Fund Actual Income through **Nov:** \$483,118
General Fund Budgeted Income through **Nov:** \$501,839

General Fund Actual Expenses through **Nov:** \$457,328
General Fund Budgeted Expenses through **Nov:** \$495,745

General Fund Actual Surplus through **Nov:** \$25,790
General Fund Budgeted Surplus through **Nov:** \$6,094

Missions Fund Actual Income through **Nov:** \$103,025
Missions Fund Budgeted Income through **Nov:** \$101,861



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 this all everyother 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.



Thank you for faithfully giving to Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika 2020



Good News Club is presently POSTPONED.

We are patiently waiting for clearance to hold Good News Club at NES. Thank you for understanding and please hug your Good News Club student for all of us. We miss each one so much! God is good and we are trusting Him for the right time to return. Please contact Jennifer Vik at 218-340-9059 if you have any questions.

January Sermon Schedule

Jan. 3: "We need Good News"
Luke 2: 10

Jan. 10: "Because I Am: Prayer Week"
Joshua 4:25-26

Jan. 17: "Generous Hearts"
Philippines 1:3-5

Jan 24: "Vision Week"
Proverbs 29: 18a K.J.V.

Live Stream Online and In Person

Mission Kidz! Reminder

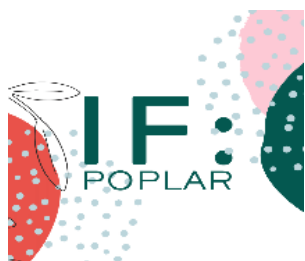


During the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. service Mission Kidz! is offered for ages 2-4th grade

Nursery is open but not staffed.

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

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



If: Table Via Zoom

Join us the first and third Mondays of the month beginning

January 4 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will have four questions for conversation, and no prep is necessary.

For questions and sign-up contact
Tracy Gaffke.

TLGaffke@gmail.com | 218-640-0381



Mission 101

Discovering Your Church

Wednesdays, January 8 and 22, 2021
at 6:30 p.m. in Pastor Darrell's office.

Led by Pastor Darrell

Sign up by calling the Church Office.



We will be handing out devotional guides and sending out daily devotions via email to encouraging your week of prayer.
Also available online.
<https://covchurch.org/2021prayer/>

Week of Prayer

January 10 - 16

In this season of uncertainty, one thing is certain. Jesus is alive and the only answer for our time. His death and resurrection prove He was who He said He was and that everything He said was true. Through the power of His Spirit, Jesus is with us. He is our help and our hope. Whatever concerns we have or circumstances we may find ourselves in, Jesus invites us to come to Him, breathe, and embrace His words: I AM.
Covenant Pastor Tammy Long

Save the Date

Morning Break

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, January 26, 2021



Annual Membership Meeting

**Sunday, January 31, 2021
6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**



**COVENANT
ABILITY
NETWORK**
MINNESOTA

New name and logo for the ministry that offers secure Christian homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities. They are located in Duluth and several suburbs of the Twin Cities.

For more information, please visit their website. www.covabilitymn.org

Office Closed January 1



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 Trip (grades 7-Grad)

**Registration opens on February 21, 2021
Early Bird discounts through May 1**

Save the Date



Family Camp

**Covenant Park Bible Camp
July 30- August 1**



Many thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to Mission Covenant Church. We are appreciative of your loyal service.

Special thanks to our church members who have served on various boards and council positions, whose terms have ended in 2020:

Bill Anderson – Men's Ministry
Brian Bustrak – Elder Board
Daniel Gant – Building and Grounds
Sarah Holsclaw – Finance Board
Rick Johnson – Building and Grounds
Naomi Musch – Finance Board
Cheri Peters – Children's Ministry
Mary Risley – Diaconate Board
Marcie Schulz – Women Ministries



Please welcome and pray for our members who will be serving in new roles starting in January 2021:

Bill Anderson – Elder Board
Darrell Anderson – Men's Ministry
Eric Gaffke – Building and Grounds
Cheri Peters – Women Ministries
Terry Petzold – Finance Board
James Tenney – Building and Grounds
Kris Westerlund – Children's Ministry
Eve Zosel – Diaconate Board



With the New Year will come new hopes and plans for Women Ministries. Marcia and Michelle are working on a new Morning Break Bible study. And your Women Ministries leadership team - Sandy Johnson, Marcie Schulz, Cheri Peters, Tracy Gaffke, Marcia Jamison, Perri Smith, and Annie Taylor - will begin making plans for future programs. As 2020 proved, we can make our plans, but the Lord ultimately directs our steps. Prayers for WM is appreciated and together we will do this!

Sharing One's Surplus

Saturday, January 9



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





From the Interior

Christmas 2020



Lorraine Green

(There has been no international mail in or out of South Africa since March due to Covid)

Ph:+27 84 441 8152

lgreen50528@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021

This year of 2020 was certainly a memory maker. This being my last year as Senior Director for TEAM's work in Africa, the year was the total opposite of the previous year when I traveled nearly non-stop. All travel plans hit the ditch with the Covid lockdowns 9 months ago. I am so thankful that I've been able to maintain contact with my colleagues near and far via Zoom. Since I live alone, the internet offered my only means of communication. I think I'm the only person on the planet who actually looked forward to Zoom calls. I'm thankful that I live in South Africa, and I'm thankful for electricity, and I'm thankful that my internet service improved in 2019 so that I could enjoy video calls without too many skips, gaps, and buffering.

Of course, I read the news over the internet, too, and I see how so many in the world are experiencing terrible financial setbacks and a grim future. I'm thankful for each gift toward my support by faithful and generous donors who keep me here in Africa and on task. I pray for friends and family who have been affected by the pandemic and humbly plead for the Lord's grace to sustain them in dark times. I've been able to keep up on my administrative duties but regret that I wasn't able to visit my colleagues as I did in the past. Exploring new opportunities and cultivating contacts has also been limited. Our Ministry Area Leaders retreat in September had to be canceled, but we tried to use this year for training TEAM leaders via Zoom. Obviously, there were pros and cons to that. The training was offered to a broader audience, but the personal touch and sense of community was lacking, of course. We hope for better days ahead.

Liz Guille from Minnetonka, MN has been with TEAM for 3 years as a Regional Member Care Coordinator. She was appointed to replace me as Senior Director of Global Ministry in Sub-Saharan Africa. After the New Year I'll work to orient her to my responsibilities and our mission partners. Liz will be a capable leader and I wish her the best.



**The Evangelical
Alliance Mission**

PO Box 1683
Carol Stream, IL
60132 - 1683

800- 343-3144

www.team.org



Please join me in prayer for my team:

Rich Hoyt has been our Ministry Area Leader in Chad for 12 years. His wife Anne leads a team working with vulnerable women in N'Djamena. Anne hasn't been well for months, so in October they finally took a health leave in Illinois. Pray for Anne's health, of course, and for the Chad field as they adjust to Rich's absence.

I rarely mention our missionary kids, but we have some great kids and they are multiplying. Some go to school in Kenya, some are homeschooled, and some attend private or public schools. Mercy Burleson was born with limited hearing, and recently she had a cochlear implant which went well, but required very difficult decisions for her parents, along with many medical appointments leading up to the surgery. And in mid-stream, her brother broke his arm. Pray for **Ryan and Amanda Burleson**, who are due for a Home Assignment, but are also looking at Covid restrictions as they try to plan an effective ministry among their supporters and friends.



Nido and Helaine Goncalves in Mozambique are also feeling confined by Covid restrictions. Helaine's father died recently, and they should be attending their team's annual conference in Zimbabwe in January, but they aren't able to cross the border or travel as they wish. Usually they care for medical/dental issues and vehicle maintenance in South Africa, but they haven't had a break from their work all year. Pray for their safety and for strength in spite of disappointments.

Tillie Tiller in Chad has an aging mother. Tillie will travel home in March to check on her and assess the situation. Many of us feel the distance keenly, as well as the weight of our familial responsibilities, as we get older. Pray for wisdom and grace for Tillie and others who are concerned about their parents.

North of Tete, Mozambique, we've been cultivating contacts with a rancher who asked for our help to establish churches among the people living in a very isolated location. By partnering with the Church in Malawi and America, TEAM helped to place two evangelists who speak the language. Covid's reach even affected this remote location when the borders closed. But the Church proves victorious as new congregations are formed and leaders are being trained.



Video clip [here](#).



Speaking of Mozambique, the aviation ministry called **Mercy Air** works in the Zambezi Delta, and they are again asking TEAM to help them to work with pastors and churches in **Marromeu** and villages in the delta region. I need someone with good interpersonal skills to cultivate contacts with existing partners to establish the churches with sound doctrine and effective Gospel ministry. Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send workers.



Elizabeth and Julie

For me personally, pray for these remaining months in Africa. In November I traveled to Chad to attend TEAM's annual conference, and to visit my Chadian colleagues with whom I taught in the years past. There were many teary moments as I said good bye to friends I love. Traveling these days is very difficult because of Covid. Nevertheless, I will make one more trip to Zimbabwe in January, and then to the Midlands of South Africa for TEAM conferences, before settling down to focus on orienting the next Senior Director. If all goes as planned, I will leave South Africa in April, and begin a Home Assignment in the States.



Sana and Mbatel

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI Jan 1	SAT 2
	<h1>January</h1>					<div>Hudacek, Tom & Renee</div> <div>Jardine, Keith & Cheryl</div> <div>Trautt, Nicole</div>
3 <div>Trautt, Amanda</div>	4 <div>VanAernum, Scott & Tin</div>	5 <div>Raatz, Aileen</div>	6 <div>Taylor, Crystal</div> <div>Trautt, Haley</div> <div>Vik, Jennifer</div>	7 <div>Zambori, Paul & Cecelia</div>	8 <div>Greatsinger, Jen</div> <div>Nelson, Harrison</div>	9 <div>Beede, Brook</div> <div>Hildreth, Bailee</div>
10	11 <div>Larson, Jacob</div> <div>McFaul, Mason</div>	12 <div>Peterson, Tom & Sue</div> <div>Raunio, Paul E.</div>	13 <div>Green, Kathy</div> <div>Laakso, Eunice</div> <div>Williams, Linda</div>	14 <div>Lubbers, Maura</div>	15 <div data-cs="2" data-kind="parent" data-rs="2"> <h2>Happy Anniversary!</h2> </div>	16 <div>Hildreth, Chad</div>
17 <div>Kman, James</div> <div>Leffel, Scott</div> <div>Orme, Kevin</div> <div>Peterson, Tom</div>	18 <div>Anderson, Hayden</div> <div>Gant, Daniel</div>	19 <div>Soyring, Linda</div>	20 <div>Martens, Janet</div> <div>Newman, Tyra</div> <div>Peck, Roger</div> <div>Staffrude, Paul & Sherry</div>	21 <div>Korhonen, Kathy</div>	22 <div>McFaul, Prince</div>	23 <div>Moores, Greta</div> <div>Peck, Gail</div> <div>Schmid, Elizabeth</div>
24 <div>Hansen, Roger</div>	25 <div>Johnson, Ben</div>	26 <div>Gregory, Donna</div>	27 <div>Anderson, Cindy</div> <div>Gergen, Travis</div> <div>VanGuilder, Julie</div>	28 <div>Fredericks, Luke</div> <div>Paulson, Heidi</div>	29 <div>Hursh, Tiana</div> <div>Schaffer, Montana</div>	30 <div>Anderson, Meredith</div> <div>Bloomquist, Dennis</div> <div>Hursh, Irene</div> <div>Melin, Jacob & Kally</div>
31 <div>St. Onge, Patricia</div>	<div>  </div>					<div>  </div>



January Ministry Calender

Office Closed
Happy New Year!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 10am - Confirmation, MMC 10am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional	6:30pm - Elder Board		7:30am - Men's Bible 3:30pm - Confirmation, CE 3:30pm - Elevate, Youth 6:15pm - Vertical, Youth 6:30pm - Quest Adult Bible	6pm - Worship Practice,	6:30pm - Mission 101,	9:30am - SOS Food Share,
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Week Of Prayer						
8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 10am - Confirmation, MMC 10am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional		7pm - Council Meeting, CE	7:30am - Men's Bible 3:30pm - Confirmation, CE 3:30pm - Elevate, Youth 6:15pm - Vertical, Youth	6pm - Worship Practice,		9am - Rural Care & Share
Week of Prayer 10-16th						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 10am - Confirmation, MMC 10am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional	6:30pm - Elder Board		7:30am - Men's Bible 3:30pm - Confirmation, CE 3:30pm - Elevate, Youth 6:15pm - Vertical, Youth 6:30pm - Quest Adult Bible	6pm - Worship Practice,	6:30pm - Mission 101,	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Vision Sunday		10am - Womens Bible	7:30am - Men's Bible 3:30pm - Confirmation, CE 3:30pm - Elevate, Youth 6:15pm - Vertical, Youth	6pm - Worship Practice,		
31						
8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 10am - Confirmation, MMC 10am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional 6pm - Annual Meeting,						

