



Covenant Highlights

December 2024

Volume 45, Issue 12



PASTORS CORNER

In Luke 1 we read that Mary went to visit Elizabeth. They were both experiencing supernatural births and they were encouraging each other. Mary is full of joy and gives praise to God:

Luke 1:46-49,

⁴⁶ Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. ⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! ⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me.

Mary was very humble. She was not affected by the knowledge that of all the women in history, she alone was the one chosen to give birth to the Messiah! Truly, the Mighty One had done great things for a "lowly servant girl".

It is wonderful to know that God, who took notice of humble Mary, will see us in our weakness.

James 4:6b (NLT) says,

"God opposes the proud but favors the humble."

The Apostle Paul was given a 'thorn' to keep him humble. In 2 Corinthians 12:8-10, Paul says, "⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

In your weakness and humility do not be discouraged. You are in good company and the Lord will lift you up in due time.

Pastor Dan

CHRISTMAS DESSERT THEATER

Christmas Dessert Theater

Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 pm

Friday, December 6th at 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 7th at 2:00 pm

Please join us for a great evening (or two)!
Invite neighbors, co-workers, family & friends!



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:

6TH GRADE SKIT:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
(BOTH SERVICES)

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
(10:45 SERVICE ONLY)

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Meet in the parking lot at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 11th to head into Clear Lake to spread

some Christmas Cheer!

After we are done caroling, we will come back to the church to enjoy Hot Chocolate and treats together.

If you'd like, please bring some Christmas goodies to share!



CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24th
4:00 pm
United Covenant Church



CREW (Christians Ready Equipped & Willing)



CREW is our Jr & Sr High Students (gr 7-12).

1 Timothy 2:1-2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly

and dignified in every way.

In our Sunday School class, we have been discussing how we as Christians should approach politics. This is a complex question with many perspectives. As believers, we are instructed to do our part for the welfare of others, and that includes being involved in politics. Some might be called to run for office and some might be called to speak up at town halls and board meetings, while others may simply be called to participate by casting their vote. No matter what level of involvement we feel led to, everyone is instructed to pray for their leaders so that we can live in peace. The prophet Jeremiah instructed the Israelites that while they were in exile that they were to seek the welfare of the city they lived in, and by doing so they would also benefit from the welfare of the city. We can all love our neighbors by praying for our leaders as well as doing our part to contribute to the community where God has placed us. Let's aim to be salt and light to those around us by caring for others each and every day.

Upcoming Event Highlights

Nov 27 - NO CREW (Community Thanksgiving Service)

Dec 4 - NO CREW (Dessert Theater Dress Rehearsal)

Dec 11 - Christmas Caroling

Dec 18 - CREW Christmas Party

The High School Sunday School class has jumped into the theme of "Got Questions" by discussing topics such as "What does the Bible say about piercings?" and "What is the unforgivable sin?" and "Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?" The youth are encouraged to submit questions to Josh Williamson related to the Bible, Christianity and any other theological questions they might be wrestling with and we will dive into those issues and discuss this year. Please discuss with your youth and encourage them to bring forward any questions they would like to study in Sunday School.



On Wednesday nights at CREW, we are journeying through the Alpha Youth Series! It is important that youth have a solid understanding of the basics of Christianity and salvation. This is a great series for new and young believers as well as a great refresher for anyone who is more mature in their faith.

If you are aware of any needs that the youth could help out with, we are looking to plan ahead for possible upcoming service project ideas. This is a great opportunity to show the love of Jesus with our neighbors and our community, and it blesses the youth to serve and for them to see the amazing impact they are able to have on others. Please talk to Josh Williamson with any suggestions you have.



Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 1 Peter 3:15

MILITARY CARE PACKAGE

IN SUPPORT OF OUR FRIEND REID SCHAD, WE'D LIKE TO PUT TOGETHER A CARE PACKAGE FOR HIS WHOLE DEPLOYED UNIT (ABOUT 45 PEOPLE)!

Please bring items for the care package:

- cards/pictures/letters for members of the unit
- art
- sports balls, frisbee, etc...
- small games (cards, board games, dice, etc..)
- coffee
- snacks, candy, drink mix
- toiletries
- notebooks, pens

Place items in the designated box in the foyer!

See box in the foyer for more specific ideas!

ALL ITEMS DUE BY DECEMBER 15TH!



MISSIONS TRIP

We are planning a Mission Trip to Western North Carolina in March 2025.



We will have an informational meeting on Monday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm at church. Come and get more information about the trip!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



United Covenant Church collected 100 boxes for the Samaritan's Purse program. We also collected \$1064 during our Chili Cook-Off fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who donated! Pray for the children who receive the boxes around the world!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed 10 new members at United Covenant Church on November 24th! Our newest members are: Aaron

Amundson, Micah Dietrich, Charlie Munson, Brandon & Jessica Perry, Eden Perry, Jason & Michelle Sigsworth, Bill & Christine West.



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS



We are helping the Salvation Army by supplying volunteers to ring bells on Wednesday, November 27th and Saturday, December 21st from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm at Nilssen's Market in Clear Lake.

Sign up with a group, your family or individually! We want at least 2 people per time slot.

Sign Up at Sign Up Central!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Our Kids Blast, CREW56 & Adult studies will have a break over Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**NOVEMBER 27TH-JANUARY 1ST:
NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER OR CLASS***

**CREW will continue to meet - check the weekly schedule on the church calendar!*



**WE WILL RESUME JANUARY 8TH WITH OUR
REGULAR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE!**

Christmas for Children

Collecting items through December 15, 2024

The "Christmas for Children" drive provides gifts for area children who otherwise may not receive gifts at Christmas time. Christmas for Children is designed to reach more needs of our local community. This is the 31st year of this mission!

There is a barrel in the foyer & hallway to collect unwrapped gifts for children ages 0-18 in the Clear Lake School District area! Suggestions are: toys, games, art supplies, body wash sets, lotion, tools, books, jewelry, blankets, etc...

The need is great for older children, 7th grade through 12th grade. Suggestions for this age group: good art supplies (Acrylic paints, painting canvases, paint brush sets etc.), Bath & Body sets, nail items, makeup, gloves & mittens, beginning tools (screwdriver sets, work gloves, wrenches etc.), personal care, and car care items.

If you need gifts for your children or if you know of other families in the Clear Lake School District area who are in need of Christmas gifts for their children, please call Debi Ahrens 715-441-5477 or Diane Blanchard 715-263-2690 (if no answer, please leave a message.) All names will be kept strictly confidential.

THANK YOU!



United Covenant Church Family:
Thank you SO MUCH for your very kind and generous Pastor Appreciation gift! It was a great blessing and we really appreciate it. God bless you all, Dan & Leah

WOMEN'S EVENT JANUARY 2025

JOIN US FOR A...

Ladies Potluck Breakfast

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 4, 2025

When: 9am - 11:30am
Where: United Covenant Church Fellowship Hall
What: Potluck, bring food to share
Speaker: Sheryl Schanil,
NWC Women's Ministry President

ANNUAL MEETING TIMELINE

January 12th - Annual Report information due to the church office.
January 19th - Annual Reports will be available to pick up at church.
January 22nd - Budget Review meeting 7:30 pm
January 26th - Annual Meeting will be after the 2nd worship service.



CLOTHING ORDERS

Interested in buying your own United Covenant or CREW items?

Visit:

<https://www.twomomsmimagewear.com/general-6>



or go on our website www.unitedcovchurch.org and click the "shop now" button!
Or see Dayna Prindle for additional options!

**rightnow
MEDIA.**

We're excited to share access to an extensive video library called

RightNow Media! Scan the QR Code to get access—or go to our website and click the RightNow Media link!



PRAYER TIME

Prayer Time - Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. at church

Everyone is invited and welcome to come. Prayer cards are prayed over during these meetings. Please write your prayers (with or without your name) on the prayer cards provided in the chairs. Place them in the offering box in the sanctuary.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's opportunities for Bible Study during the week:



- **7:00 a.m.** on Saturday mornings at Jason Sigsworth's garage
- 2nd Saturday of the month at **7:00 a.m.** Men's Breakfast at church (bring a dish to share!)
- **6:30 p.m.** on Thursday Nights at church

WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Monday Night Women's Bible Study will meet: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

December 2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th:
We will not be meeting December 23rd.



We are beginning the study: Advent by J.D. Greear: The Christmas story, or Advent, is more than a sentimental myth or a quiet manger scene we use to decorate our living rooms. The Christmas story is the good news of God entering into our darkness. Join J.D. Greear in this four-session series as he takes a deeper look at Jesus as Emmanuel, our Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father, and the great I Am. When you know Jesus, you will realize Christmas is more than a nice story—the arrival of Jesus changes everything.

All ladies are invited as we learn more and grow deeper in love with our Lord.

We meet in the East Classroom at church

ZOOM DAILY PRAYER MEETINGS



Morning Zoom Prayer group meets on Zoom Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and

Friday mornings from 7:00 am to 7:10 am.

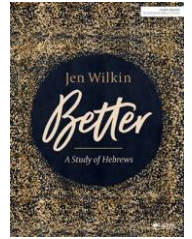
We would love to have you join us!

If you would like to join, please contact Sarah Enslin at 612-723-2714 to get the zoom link!

WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will not be meeting December 24th.

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." Hebrews 1:1-2



We are working through: "Better-A Study of Hebrews" by Jen Wilkin. This 10-session study is a verse-by-verse study of Hebrews, exploring through Paul's letters how Scripture points to Christ as the new-better covenant for us to have access to God!

This Bible study meets in the upstairs, east classroom at church each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Study books are available! **All ladies are invited and welcome to come anytime!**

MISSION STITCHERS

Mission Stitchers will not be meeting December 5th.



Mission Stitchers meets the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at church at 9:00 am. Join us to cut, sew, match up fabrics or just for fellowship!

T-Shirts and Fabric donations are always needed & welcomed!

HEARING LOOP

We have a Hearing Loop in our sanctuary!

A hearing loop shuts out the distractions so that users can hear the sounds they want directly through their hearing aids.

We also have headphones available for use—pick one up at the Connections Table!



Upcoming Dates to Know:

- December 5th, 6th & 7th Christmas Dessert Theater
- December 8th: 6th Grade Skit (both Worship Services)
- December 11th Christmas Caroling
- December 15th Sunday School Christmas Program (10:45 am)
- December 24th Christmas Eve Service, 4 pm
- January 8th: Regular Wednesday Schedule returns
- January 26th: Annual Meeting

Dates/times subject to change



LEADERSHIP MEETING

November 4, 2024: Leadership Team Notes

Present: Terry Silverberg (via phone), Pastor Dan Pearson, Brenda Cogbill, Lucas Carlson, Jacob Peterson, Susie Thayer, Burt Beebe, Tim Jurisch and Cindee McBride. Josh Williamson was present for youth report.

Call to Order, Devotions and Prayer: Lucas called the meeting to order. Cindee led devotions. James 1:5 If anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach. Cindee prayed.

Agenda and last month's meeting minutes: Emily motioned to accept; Tim seconded. Motion passed with no objections.

Youth Report by Youth Pastor Josh Williamson: Cindee motioned to accept. Emily seconded. Motion passed.

From Josh: Underground church was a success. Close to 150 kids came. Appreciation to Erik and Janelle Johnson. Six churches participated in the underground church. We are hoping to do more events with other youth groups. Kids went to Lake Beauty. Thank you for Megan and Dave. We are averaging over fifty kids in the youth group and so we need more volunteers. Our youth are bringing their friends. We are currently going through the Youth Alpha Series. Sunday School is also going well—just wrapped up the topic of "once saved/always saved." Next week the topic is: Does the Bible support slavery. Coming January 10-12 is the youth conference in Green Bay, WI called "Districts Youth Conference."

The financial report for October will be sent via email.

Old Business:

- Ridgeview: Tim reports all is good.
- Station 19 Progress: Workshop 2 was held with the building team. Terry and Lucas had a zoom follow up meeting to share questions from that meeting with Station 19. Workshop Three is scheduled for November 11 at 6 pm.
- Word and Spirit Conference: review is that it went well and was a blessing to other churches as well.

New Business:

- January 26 was set for the Annual Meeting date.
- Burt asked to spend up to \$500 on A/V improvements. Emily moved. Cindee seconded. Motion passed.
- Terry stated that it is time for the Mutual Ministry team to meet. Emily will join as the second representative from the leadership team.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9 at 6 pm. Lucas will lead devotions and prayer.

Adjournment: Burt motioned to adjourn. Emily seconded. Motion carried.

Lucas closed us in prayer.



LAKE BEAUTY
BIBLE CAMP

For more
information or to
register go to
www.lbbc.com

Mark your Calendars! 2024/2025 Camp Dates:

- Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner:** December 7th, 2024
- Young Adult Retreat:** December 28th - December 30th, 2024
- Marriage Retreat:** February 14th - February 16th, 2025
- Memorial Day Family Camp:** May 23rd- May 26th, 2025
- Jr. High Camp:** June 8th- June 13th, 2025
- Trailblazer Camp:** June 22nd- June 26th, 2025
- Frontier Kids:** June 29th- July 1st, 2025
- 4th of July Family Camp:** July 3rd- July 6th, 2025
- Senior High Camp:** July 27th- August 1st, 2025
- Labor Day Family Camp:** August 29th- September 1st, 2025
- Women's Retreat:** September 26th- September 28th, 2025

Fall Youth Retreat: Dates TBD

LBBC Annual Meeting: November 1st, 2025

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner: December 6th, 2025

Young Adult Retreat: Dates TBD

2025 Theme: Built for More

"Living Out the Great Commission"

Theme Verse: *Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 CSB*

