



COVENANT HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER 2024

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PASTORS CORNER

Zechariah 4:10

10 Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand."

Zerubbabel was one of the leaders of Israel that was commissioned with the responsibility of rebuilding the temple. The original temple that was built by king Solomon had been very beautiful and glorious, but it had been destroyed by the Babylonians. Now many years later as the Israelites were released from Exile, they wanted to rebuild the temple.

The second temple that Zerubbabel built was nowhere near as grand as the first temple, but God was still pleased with it. The Lord is pleased with our acts of obedience.

On September 11, our church will begin Wednesday activities. This year the adults and the youth are going to do the Alpha study. Alpha is an evangelistic series that introduces the basics of Christianity in an eleven, week Bible study. I want to encourage you to invite anyone in your life who has questions about faith. Alpha is a safe place for anyone to ask questions and learn what we as Christians believe.

You may think inviting someone to church is a small thing, but it is actually huge in God's eyes. Prayerfully consider who you might invite. Through the Alpha course they may accept Christ and have their whole life and eternity changed!

May God bless you as you reach out for Jesus,
Pastor Dan

SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS



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.

CREW (Christians Ready Equipped & Willing)



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

Proverbs 18:13 Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

We are living in a time where information travels so fast through the internet with social media and other outlets. We are also able to react instantly as well. This is what the world does, but as Christians we need to be cautious and use discernment. We might still arrive at the same conclusions in the end, but let's be willing to take the time necessary to let the dust settle and for more information to come out before we put our voice out there. By doing so, we can not only avoid looking foolish but we can also be more confident in our stance and articulate it with clarity, patience and love.

Upcoming Event Highlights

Sep 11 - CREW Kickoff Party!

Sep 25 - See You At The Pole

Oct 19 - Underground Church

Oct 25-27 - Fall Youth Retreat @ LBBC

Exciting news!! Fall Youth Retreat at Lake Beauty Bible Camp is back!! Kids in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us for an epic weekend! Come play games, dance in chapel, be encouraged by our speaker, and reconnect with your camp friends! It's a weekend you won't want to miss! Registration opens September 24th. Cost is \$160 per youth. Scholarships are available. Please talk to Josh Williamson if you are interested or if you would consider being a chaperone. See lbbc.com for info!

The High School Sunday School class starting this fall will be themed "Got Questions?" 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 our Wednesday nights at CREW starting September 11th, we will be 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.

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

ALPHA - WEDNESDAY STUDY



Our Wednesday Night Adult Study will be doing the Alpha Series at United Covenant Church starting Wednesday, September 11th. See below for more

information about Alpha & please sign up so we can order workbooks! Scan the QR Code to sign up, or sign-up at church at sign up central.



- What is Alpha?
Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life and the Christian faith.

- Who is Alpha for?
Alpha is for everyone! It is a safe place to ask any questions relating to Christianity. It is for those who are exploring faith for the first time, and for people who have been Christians for many years. Invite your neighbors, friends, co-workers and family members!

- What will we do at Alpha?
If you'd like, we start with a meal at church at 5:30 pm. Then at 6:00 pm we break into small groups to watch a short video and then have a discussion related to the video.

- How long does Alpha run?
Alpha will start on Wednesday, Sept. 11 and continue each Wednesday until Nov. 20—a total of 11 weeks.

- How much does Alpha cost?
Alpha is free! (\$5.00 donations are accepted for workbooks)

- What topics are covered in Alpha?
There are several topics covered, including: Who is Jesus? Why and How Do I Pray? How Does God Guide Us? How Can I Resist Evil? and many more!

NEWCOMER LUNCH



If you began attending United Covenant in the past year and have not yet

attended a Newcomer Lunch, plan to join us on Sunday, September 29th for a lunch gathering after church. You will have the opportunity to meet others and learn more about our church! Sign up at sign up central so we know how many to prepare for!

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK OFF

To help us prepare, please register your kids for Sunday morning and Wednesday night programming (Sunday School, Kids Blast, CREW56, CREW, etc...)

To Register, scan the QR code or go to the church website or:

<https://forms.office.com/r/iU0cvhyFcd>



We are looking forward to Sunday School!!

Sunday School will begin September 8th!

Join us in the sanctuary at 8:45 am for new classes, new Bibles, music & announcements.

Sunday Mornings:

8:45 am—Sunday School Classes: (Age 3 through Adult)

PreSchool-Grade 5: Heartshaper Curriculum

Grade 6: "What the Bible Is All About"

Grades 7 & 8: Confirmation I & II

**Confirmation parent meeting Sept. 8th at 9:00 a.m. downstairs by the piano*

Grades 9-12: "Got Questions"

Adult Class: "Raising Kids with a Faith that Lasts"
(Focus on the Family)

10:00 am—Worship Service

Starting Wednesday, September 11th

LIFE TOGETHER WEDNESDAYS

5:30 pm—Family Supper

6:00 pm—Kids Blast (Ages 4-4th grade)

CREW56 (5th & 6th grade) "Own It"

CREW (7th-12th grades) "Alpha Youth"

Adult Bible Study "Alpha"



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We need more volunteers! Check sign-up central to

see where you could help around the church. Sign up today!

ALL CHURCH BONFIRE/POTLUCK

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK/BONFIRE AT PICKARD'S Saturday, Sept. 28th we will be having a potluck and bonfire at Mike & Lynn Pickard's home (615 85th St, Amery)! We'll be gathering from 4:30-7:30 pm! Bring a chair and a dish to pass!



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated supplies for Sunday School and Kids Blast! We appreciate your generosity!



MONEY FOR BIBLES

Christian Education is purchasing many Bibles for the fall season. Bibles are given to new readers, confirmation students and others who need one throughout the year. Cost per Bible is \$20. (If writing a check, write "Bibles" in the memo of your check.)

LEGO'S



Kids Blast is looking for donations of LEGO's for this year.

Please bring donations of LEGO's to the church office, or give to Lynn Pickard.

SIMULCAST



Join other ladies in the area at "Going Beyond with Priscilla Shirer" Simulcast at Alliance Church of the Valley in

St Croix Falls on Saturday, Sept. 28th. See <https://www.stcroixalliance.com/ministries/womens-ministry>

WOMEN'S POTLUCK BREAKFAST



WHAT: Ladies Potluck Breakfast
DATE: October 5, 2024
TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
WHERE: United Covenant Fellowship Hall

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Devotional, Prayer
Food to share
Chat groups
What is there just for women in this church?
A 'Save the Date' with Special Speaker

NOTE: There will be a table set with 'Thistle Farms' products. These products help Covenant Women Ministries support 'Love, Mercy Do Justice'. This is an opportunity to purchase a gift for someone or yourself! (Bring cash or check) We will have the following Thistle Farm products for sale:

Celebration Candles	\$22	Hand Lotion	\$15
Body Scrub	\$20	Body Butter	\$18
Hand Soap	\$14	Body Wash	\$14
Lip Balm	\$4		

DISCOVERY CLASS



If you are interested in learning more about United Covenant Church or are interested in exploring church membership, there will be a 2 week class starting during Sunday School on October 6th at 8:45 a.m. See Pastor Dan for more information.

WORD & SPIRIT CONFERENCE



Are you seeking a deeper understanding and experience of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but have concerns about their misuse? Do you desire to pursue and experience the power of God in a way that is faithful to the Scriptures? We believe every Christian, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can participate in the ministry of Jesus in preaching the Gospel, praying for the sick, and setting the captives free. Join us for the Word & Spirit conference this October, where we'll explore the biblical foundations of healing and deliverance ministry.

Many believers are cautious or skeptical about the more seemingly "supernatural gifts" and workings of the Holy Spirit's power, often due to past abuses and/or a lack of experience. Yet, the Scriptures clearly call us to pray for the sick (James 5:16), cast out demons (Matthew 10:1), and to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, including prophecy, & tongues (1 Corinthians 12-14). This conference is designed to equip believers to understand and pursue the power of the Holy Spirit while staying grounded in the truth of God's Word, avoiding the pitfalls of misuse and abuse.

Come with an open heart and leave equipped and sent out to continue the ministry of Jesus in your everyday life! Whether you're new to these topics or seeking to deepen your understanding, this conference will equip you to walk in a greater dependence on the power of The Holy Spirit while remaining anchored in the Word of God. We look forward to seeing you there!

Registration will be opening early in September—stay tuned for more information!

LOGO TRADING TABLE



Have some United Covenant, CREW, MUUCE or Lake Beauty Logo wear (t-shirt, sweatshirts, hats, etc...) that you aren't wearing anymore? Wish you had some to wear? Bring your good-condition, clean logo wear to trade with others! The trade table will be in the foyer beginning September 8th!



MEN & BOYS OVERNIGHT CAMPOUT



The Campout was a success—another campout will be planned in 2025!!

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Our Annual Christmas Dessert Theater will be December 6th & 7th, 2024! Planning is underway! Sign Ups for being part of the Christmas Choir will be starting in mid-September. See Leah with any questions.



SHOE DRIVE



Drop off your gently worn, used and new shoes at the church foyer through September 22nd. We will be donating the shoes to the

Turtle Lake Track Fund. The shoes they collect will be used to support micro-enterprise vendors. Micro-enterprises are small businesses in developing nations.

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 Clear Lake Park (bring a dish to share!)
- **6:30 p.m.** on Thursday Nights at church



be still and know that
I AM GOD



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

Mark your Calendars! 2024 Camp Dates:

Labor Day Family Camp: August 30th- September 2nd

Senior Adult Day: September 10th

Women's Retreat: September 27th- September 29th

Fall Youth Retreat: October 25th- October 27th

Fall Quilt & Craft Retreats: November 7th - November 11th
November 14th-November 18th

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner: December 7th

Young Adult Retreat: December 28th - December 30th

Marriage Retreat: February 14th - February 16th, 2025

WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

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

September 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th:

We are doing a study of 1st Corinthians. In this 12-part series, author and speaker Jennie Allen walks into the messy lives of the Corinthians and takes us through Paul's words to the conflicted church. We'll see how the truth of the gospel and the Spirit of God can empower us to choose to follow Jesus every day of our lives." All ladies are invited as we learn more and grow deeper in love with our Lord. We meet in the East Classroom at church

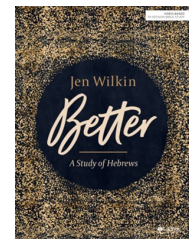


WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

"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

In September, the Women will begin the study: "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 9:15 a.m. Study books are available! **All ladies are invited and welcome to come anytime!**



MISSION STITCHERS



Mission Stitches 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 and welcomed!

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.

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!

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!



RIGHT NOW MEDIA

rightnow MEDIA. We're excited to share that our church has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! You can the QR Code to get access—or go to our website and click the RightNow Media link!



You can access United Covenant Church online in many ways:



Website: www.unitedcovchurch.org

facebook



YouTube

Church Center
Our New Church Directory

We've begun our online directory! Download "Church Center" and get started!

Email Susie unitedcovchurch@cltcomm.net to get your invite!

Upcoming Dates to Know:

- September 8th First Day of Sunday School
 - September 11th Wednesday Night Programming begins
 - September 14th Men's Breakfast at Clear Lake Park
 - September 28th Potluck Bonfire at Pickard's
 - September 29th Newcomer Lunch
 - October 5th Ladies Potluck Breakfast
 - October 6th & 13th Discovery Class
 - October 19th CREW Underground Church
 - October 25th-26th Word & Spirit Conference
 - October 25th-27th Jr/Sr High Retreat at LBBC
 - November 20th Last Night of Wednesday Night Programming until January
 - November 27th Thanksgiving Eve Service at First Lutheran
 - December 6th & 7th Christmas Dessert Theater
 - December 15th Sunday School Christmas Program
- **Dates subject to change***



LEADERSHIP MEETING

Special Congregational Meeting: Station 19 Usage Vote Minutes

Lucas Carlson, leadership team chair, called the meeting to order at 11:40 am, August 4, 2024.

Lucas recapped information provided in writing previously. Terry spoke to reference checks. There were no negative comments from references. One comment was that the architects are young so do not be shy about giving them feedback. Lucas clarified the cost of \$24K for the workshops which is split to \$16K for the first three workshops and \$8K for the fourth workshop. The travel is \$425/person/trip. Leadership is asking to spend up to \$1700 on travel, which is four in person trips. The total ask is for \$25,700.00.

Lucas announced that the leadership team set 2/3rd majority as the passing mark for the vote. A member of the congregation stated they had used similar companies for projects and the cost is worth it. Mike Pickard made a motion that if anyone provided an absentee ballot they should be accepted. Aaron Spurrell seconded. Motion carried with no objections. There were three absentee ballots submitted to the Leadership Chair. An inquiry was made as to who Station 19 would be working. Lucas clarified that the workshops would be with ministry leaders not just the leadership team. In addition, there would be three general teams: building, finance, and interior design to partner with Station 19 as needed. It was also clarified that the vote is related only to the use of Station 19 and not to building in general. There was a request to include the design team as part of initial workshops. It was agreed that the team would be formed prior to the workshops.

Ballots were distributed to members to vote. Ballots were collected and counted by Terry Silverberg, Cindee McBride and Emily Johnson (all members of the leadership team). Lucas announced the results which were sixty-three "yes" and sixteen "no." As fifty-three is a two-thirds of 79, the motion passed.

Mike Pickard motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Jim Mohrland seconded. Motion carried.

Lucas closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindee McBride, Secretary

Leadership Teams Minutes August 12, 2024

Present: Terry Silverberg, Pastor Dan Pearson, Brenda Cogbill, Lucas Carlson, Jacob Peterson, Josh Williamson, Susie Thayer, Burt Beebe and Cindee McBride.

The meeting was called to order by Lucas. Cindee led devotions and prayed.

The agenda and last month's meeting minutes were motioned to be accepted by Terry, seconded by Burt. Motion passed with no objections.

The financial report for July was reviewed. Motion by Cindee to accept. Seconded by Jacob. Motion passed with no objections.

Old Business. Food Trailer usage. Amery FFA states that it would be hauled by either Dave Clausen, Keith Anderson or Craig Scholz and needed 4 to 5 times per year. A small usage fee was suggested. Brenda motioned to allow 4 to 5 times per year usage by the Amery FFA as long as there is always an adult present and continued use be contingent upon condition in which the trailer is returned. Terry seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection. Lucas to check if trailer needs to be licensed. Usage is also contingent upon that. Life Groups: Discussed launching Alpha Groups on Wednesday nights as a possible first step toward launching Life Groups. Two Services planning: the meeting with ministry leaders was productive. Setting up a two-service lead team was suggested. Leadership agreed that is a good idea to help with the coordination with ministry leadership and the implementation of two services. There may be some changes to the order of service to help with the transition to two services with Sunday School in between. This will be a slow transition. Word and Spirit Conference in October: leadership team approved the use of Planning Center for registration. Building Update. Lucas notified Station 19 that the congregation approved usage by a 2/3rd majority vote. Forming of three teams: Finance, building and design was discussed. There will be two representatives from the Leadership Team on each team/committee.

New Business: Fair Parking: a recommendation was made to the leadership team that the church only support ticketing next year. Burt motioned to approve said recommendation. Jacob seconded. Motion carried with no objections. Budget inquiry was made regarding the \$10,000 from this year's fair and the approximate \$2000.00 from Clear Lake Days Pie Stand. Motion was made by Terry to tithe on the funds with the balance going toward the building fund. Brenda seconded the motion. Motion carried with no objections. Bathroom Renovations will be put on hold until Station 19 evaluation/recommendation is completed. A request was made to authorize maintenance liaison to spend up to \$500.00 without leadership team approval. Motion was made to accept the recommendation by Cindee. Burt seconded the motion. Motion carried with no objections.

Youth report: Leadership team thanked Josh for his great work with the youth. Josh reported that summer is going well. The mission trip to Chicago was awesome seeing youth get out of their comfort zone. Seeing the youth help people in need was good. We wrapped up summer camps. We had nineteen people at OneFest. We have a couple of hangouts scheduled before the end of summer. Kids are excited for Wednesday nights to start. Josh asked that there be consideration to the church purchasing its own trailer for next summer. There was also a mention that the van is getting old.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9th at 6 pm. Brenda will lead devotions and prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cindee McBride, Secretary