

# Covenant Highlights

January 2025

Volume 46, Issue 1

## PASTORS CORNER

### Revelation 21:1-5

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

**3** I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

**5** And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

We are now beginning a new year. Perhaps your calendar for 2025 is already beginning to fill up or maybe it is a blank slate. 2025 may be one of the best years of your life or it may be very hard. I think it is God's grace that we don't know what is ahead of us in this life. But in Revelation, God gives us a glimpse into the future. What a beautiful picture it is! God will make everything new. There will be no more tears or death or mourning or crying or pain!

I hope that your 2025 will be one of the best years you have ever had. But no matter what it is like, it pales in comparison with the hope we have through Jesus Christ our Lord! Our future really is as bright as the promises of God! May you be encouraged with that truth!

Pastor Dan

## ANNUAL MEETING

**January 12<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Report information due to the church office.

**January 19<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Reports will be available to pick up at church.

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Budget Review meeting 7:30 pm

**January 26<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Meeting will be after the 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK!

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK**

Wednesday Nights are returning to our regular schedule beginning on January 8, 2025!!!

**5:30 pm**—Family Supper

**6:00 pm** Kids Blast, CREW56, CREW & Adult Bible Study

## WOMEN'S EVENT JANUARY 2025



## ALL CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT

All Church Family Game Night

Friday, January 31st

6:00-8:00 p.m.



Everyone is invited and welcome!

Fun for all ages!

Bring a dessert or snack to share!

## YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS



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).



**Acts 5:40-42** And when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council,

rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Imagine the conviction and boldness that Peter and the disciples possessed as they faced pushback from the Pharisees and the council! The Holy Spirit that they were filled with is with us today! We can also have the same confidence knowing that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and people need to be told. We do not need to fear persecution, and in fact we should rejoice also that we can be counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. As we all look at the new year upon us, let's aim to never be ashamed to speak the name of Jesus! In fact, it's worth checking out the old song from the Newsboys - Not Ashamed, give it a listen and be encouraged.

### Upcoming Event Highlights

Jan 1 - NO CREW

Jan 8 - Wednesday Nights Return! (Meal 5:30 - CREW 6:00)

Jan 10-12 - Districts Youth Conference, Green Bay, WI

Jan 25 - Youth Volunteer Day

Jan 26 - Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Feb 9 - Super Subs

Feb 12 - Worship Night @ Amery HS Auditorium featuring Stumbling Saints



The High School Sunday School class is plugging along with this year's theme of "Got Questions" by discussing topics the youth

have picked out. Parents are encouraged to discuss the topic each week with students. We have had some very exciting and sometimes challenging discussions, and through those discussions, our youth are becoming equipped to handle difficult topics. CREW stands for "Christians Ready Equipped & Willing", and this year's Sunday School has been able to focus on the "Equipping". Please continue to encourage youth to submit questions to Josh Williamson related to the Bible, Christianity and any other theological questions they might be wrestling with.



On Wednesday nights at CREW, we will be finishing the Alpha Youth Series in January! Next we will be having a Wednesday night series discussing a biblical approach to relationships, dating and marriage. We will have couples sharing testimonies with the youth, and there will be some impactful discussion for both boys and girls together and separate. This is an exciting and extremely important topic to discuss. God designed marriage and he created us to have community and relationships, and our goal as Christians is to honor him through it all.

**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**



## North Carolina Mission Trip

**Work week: March 23-28, 2025**

(Probable travel time if driving March 22nd-29th)

**Asheville, NC area**  
(exact work location TBD)

**Sleeping arrangements: Area Church**  
(showers will be available)

### Typical Work Day:

7:30 am breakfast & devotions

8:30 am leave for work site

4:00 pm finish work

6:00 pm dinner

7:00 pm debrief & worship

**Work: debris removal, tree removal, gutting out buildings etc...**

**Cost: \$499 each for ages 7+**

(ages 3-6= 1/2 price; age 2 & under free)

(not including travel or travel meals)

**\$100 deposit due January 5, 2025**

Trip through Praying Pelican Ministry

**Questions? Contact Matt Thayer 715-554-4813**

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES



**Communion** - Please consider joining our team and serving communion. You will be on a rotation of about 2x/year and

can choose to serve the 1st or 2nd service.

Contact Erin Carlson 715-607-1359.



**MBC Ministry** - Sign up to be on teams to provide meals, clean, AND/OR babysit for our church family during a difficult time. The whole team is notified when there is a need, and it is your choice when you'd like to help out.

If interested in joining the MBC Ministry or if you hear of someone in need, contact Erin Carlson 715-607-1359.



**Nursery Ministry** - Help in the nursery during the Sunday morning Worship Service. Each Sunday we have 1-2 adults and 1 youth working with the children in the nursery. Sign up at Sign

Up Central today!

## THANK YOU!

Terry & Jennie cannot thank the congregation enough for how they have embraced Thistle Farms and the Covenant's FREE initiative.

This year we have sold Thistle Farm products for Mother's Day, the All Women's church meeting, and our most recent Christmas sale. The women of Thistle Farms have benefited directly from those sales. Additionally, all profits (\$3,000) from those sales were just donated to FREE, the Covenant's anti-human trafficking initiative.

We praise God for your generosity and faithfulness.

Until All Are FREE  
Terry & Jennie Silverberg

Thank you so much for the funds in support of my upcoming trip to Tapestries of Life in Mexico. The time has finally arrived! Since Thanksgiving, children have been arriving at the orphanage! So many of you have played a part through the years. I am excited to return there in January with a group from Minnesota. We will be the first to meet the children and help with the transition. What this trip will hold is yet unknown, but I am sure there are many needs. Your support with these funds and continuing PRAYER is greatly appreciated!  
I look forward to updating everyone when I return!  
Thank you again and God bless you all.  
Karen Schnell

## CLOTHING ORDERS

Interested in buying your own United Covenant or CREW items?

Visit:

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



or go on our website [www.unitedcovchurch.org](http://www.unitedcovchurch.org) and click the "shop now" button!  
Or see Dayna Prindle for additional options!

## MISSIONS TRIP FUNDRAISER



Help the United Covenant Church Missions Team raise money for the upcoming mission trip to North Carolina in March!

Just click <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=8415296.ba3093> and our group will benefit from your purchase. Catalogs are also available in the foyer. Thanks for your support!

## MARRIAGE RETREAT

### Marriage Retreat

February 14-16, 2025

Arrival: Friday 5:00 - 8:30 PM  
Departure: Sunday 12:00 PM

Call to reserve spot by Tuesday, February 11.  
Office: (320) 732-3218

Early Bird ends Friday, January 24.



Lake Beauty Bible Camp \* 25766 Hummingbird Trail \* Long Prairie, MN 56347

**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:

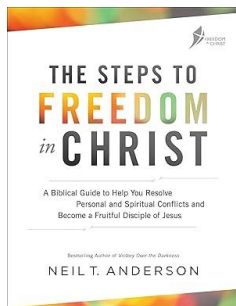
- **7:00 a.m.** on Saturday mornings at Jason Sigsworth's garage
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at **7:00 a.m.** Men's Breakfast at church (bring a dish to share!)
- **6:30 p.m.** on Thursday Nights at church



## WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

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

**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> &  
27<sup>th</sup>**



**The Steps to Freedom in Christ:** A Biblical Guide to Help You Resolve Personal and Spiritual Conflicts and Become a Fruitful Disciple of Jesus.

No matter how long or short a time you have been a Christian, or how far you are on the journey, you will find *The Steps to Freedom in Christ* a wonderfully refreshing spiritual check-up. It will help you clear away the spiritual cobwebs and connect with Jesus.

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



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!**

## 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!



## MISSION STITCHERS



*Mission Stitchers meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

### Upcoming Dates to Know:

January 4<sup>th</sup>: Women's Breakfast Gathering  
January 8<sup>th</sup>: Regular Wednesday Schedule returns  
January 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: CREW at Districts, Green Bay  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Budget Review Meeting  
January 26<sup>th</sup>: Annual Meeting  
January 31<sup>st</sup>: All Family Game Night  
February 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>: Marriage Retreat at LBBC  
March 9<sup>th</sup>: Lake Beauty Promo Sunday & Lasagna Dinner  
March 12<sup>th</sup>: All Church Roller Skating at Skate City  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: Mission Trip to North Carolina  
April 9<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Night Pinewood Derby

*\*\*Dates/times subject to change\*\**



For more information or to register go to [www.lbbc.com](http://www.lbbc.com)

### Mark your Calendars! 2025 Camp Dates:

**Marriage Retreat:** February 14<sup>th</sup> - February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Memorial Day Family Camp:** May 23<sup>rd</sup>- May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Jr. High Camp:** June 8<sup>th</sup>- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Trailblazer Camp:** June 22<sup>nd</sup>- June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Frontier Kids:** June 29<sup>th</sup>- July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
**4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Camp:** July 3<sup>rd</sup>- July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Senior High Camp:** July 27<sup>th</sup>- August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
**Labor Day Family Camp:** August 29<sup>th</sup>- September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
**Women's Retreat:** September 26<sup>th</sup>- September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Fall Youth Retreat:** Dates TBD  
**LBBC Annual Meeting:** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
**Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner:** December 6<sup>th</sup>, 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*

## LEADERSHIP MEETING

### **December 10, 2024: Leadership Team Notes**

Present: Pastor Dan Pearson, Terry Silverberg, Brenda Cogbill, Lucas Carlson, Susie Thayer, Tim Jurisch, and Cindee McBride.

**Call to Order, Devotions and Prayer.** Lucas called the meeting to order. Lucas shared a devotion focused on Christmas is the kickoff of God's great rescue mission. As we balance the joy of Christmas with the ache of this world, we must focus on Christ and trust in Him. Lucas prayed.

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

**Finance Report** was reviewed. No questions. Tim motioned to accept. Terry seconded. Motion passed.

**Youth Report.** The report was submitted to the Leadership Team via email by Youth Pastor Josh Williamson.

**Youth report** from Josh via email:

*Good evening, everyone! Many great things to report with our youth! The attendance on Wednesday nights continues to grow and has been close to 60 kids each week with new faces coming each week! With so many kids, we are in need of more adults to help. Tam Elsmore has committed to joining regularly on Wednesday nights, and I am in conversations with others as well.*

*For the Districts Youth Conference in January, we have 28 students, and 5 adults signed up to attend and we will be joining East Lincoln Alliance Church and Apple River Community Church with a total of 117 students and adults heading down together. Our youth are very excited to go, and we are looking forward to the speakers and seminars that the students will get to experience!*

*Our CREW Christmas party is next week, and we will be wrapping up the Alpha Youth Series in January. After Alpha has concluded, we are preparing to have a series focused on God honoring relationships, dating, and marriage. This is something I've looked forward to discussing with our youth as they are needing biblical teaching and direction in this area, and God has a lot to say about this topic!*

*Please be in prayers for that series and continue to keep our Sunday School topics that the youth are choosing to discuss in your prayers as well. We've been*

*able to have great conversations recently about topics like "How should Christians approach politics?", and "What does the Bible say living together before marriage?", and next week we are discussing what the Bible has to say about alcohol. Parents have been offering great feedback, and I look forward to the rest of the Sunday School year continuing this experience answering the youth's questions from a biblical perspective.*

*God bless,  
Josh*

Cindee motioned to accept the youth report. Brenda seconded. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

- Ridgeview Board Meeting: there is a utility tractor for sale. Things are going well.
- Station 19 Progress: Meeting January 6 at 6 pm with United Covenant Properties. Praying for God's clear guidance and to exercise wisdom in the next step

### **New Business**

- Budget Preparation: most of the meeting was spent drafting the 2025 budget to present to the congregation at the annual meeting. Discussion will continue at the next LT meeting in January. Susie and Pastor left before the salary discussion. A congregational review time was proposed for January 22.

The next Leadership Team meeting is January 13 at 6 pm.

**Adjournment:** Brenda motioned to adjourn. Cindee seconded. Motion carried.

