

## connection GROUPS

These are described by family stage but *if you are of this age, please join us!*

- ❖ **EMPTY NESTERS** *Progressive Supper is moved to New Year's Eve.* (Sat., Dec. 31) Sign up today!
- ❖ **YOUNG-AT-HEART (Sr. Adults)** *Christmas potluck dinner on Wed., Dec. 14th 12 noon at church.* Guest speaker: Wendy Larson sharing her life story and music!

## outreach OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ **REACH THE WORLD...TURN IN YOUR SOUP CAN BANK/or ENVELOPE OFFERING TODAY!** Goes to Covenant World Relief (the humanitarian aid ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church).
- ❖ **7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY CONCERT** *Old Time Radio Christmas!* Free admission. Fri., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at Faith Community Church in Hudson. There will also be a Market Place, Bake Sale & Silent Auction at noon. **UWEZO Freedom Ministry** is a local ministry reaching out to people struggling with addictions and also ministers to inmates at St. Croix County Jail through Bible studies and more! See the posters on the bulletin board with more information!

## financial UPDATE

**Electronic Giving:** [www.rfcov.org](http://www.rfcov.org) and click on the **Electronic Tithing** link under **Resources**.

Weekly Operational Need:	\$8,645.00
Sundays 11/27 Offering:	\$9,362.25
Average of last 4 Sundays:	\$9,122.14
Facility Expansion Fund 11/27	\$305.00
Facility Expansion Total:	\$39,891.50
Attendance on 11/27 was:	114 & 171 =285

**1374 North Main Street River Falls, WI**  
**Church Office: 715.425.2640**

Todd Ertsgaard, Lead Pastor: 715.425.6991  
Brian Majerus, Director of Christian Formation & Family Ministries: 715.426.3097  
Leah Gunderson, Director of Youth & Creative Arts: 651.226.6137

**Website: [www.rfcov.org](http://www.rfcov.org)**

## this WEEK

<b>TODAY 12/4</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services w/Communion	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
1:30 p.m.	Orientation 2 Class
<b>MONDAY 12/5</b>	
6:30 p.m.	Mann Valley 4H Meeting
<b>TUESDAY 12/6</b>	
9:15 a.m.	MOPS Mother's of Pre-Schoolers
12:00 & 5:30 p.m.	Weight Watchers
6:30 pm	Praise Team Practice
<b>WEDNESDAY 12/7</b>	
5:15 p.m.	Fellowship Supper
6:30 p.m.	Awana, Confirmation, Sr. High Youth Group, Prayer Group
<b>FRIDAY 12/9</b>	
11:00 a.m.	Mission's Project Work Time
<b>SATURDAY 12/10</b>	
7:00 a.m.	Men's breakfast @Ezekiel
4:30-7:30 p.m	Living Nativity (Drive-Thru)
<b>SUNDAY 12/11</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
8:15 & 10:45 a.m.	Worship Services
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
6:00 p.m.	InterVarsity Church Use

## thank YOU

GREETERS:	(8:15) Rich & Deb Kathan (10:45) Chris & Julie Karpovich
PRAISE TEAM:	Leah Gunderson, Brenda Gabriel, Dave Schatz, Jerry Nelson, Andy Eklund, Tyler Splittgerber
VIDEO PROJECTOR:	(8:15) Nikki Ekstrom (10:45) Maya Peterson
SOUND:	Adam Johnson
NURSERY:	(8:15) James & Marissa Mikla (10:45) James & Kaytlynn Plummer
JR. CHURCH:	(10:45) Sue Sumner & Sue Watters
USHERS:	(8:15) Terry Traynor & Dick Kruger (10:45) Dan Pearson & Keith Frank
PRAYER PARTNERS:	(8:15) Steve & Linda Johnson (10:45) Lanette Harsdorf & Dan Pearson
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:	Dan & Kristy Treichel, Laura Schatz
PRODUCE PICK UP:	Gary Sumner

# First Covenant Church

*"On the Journey: Sharing Christ, Growing Together"*

December 4, 2011

8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements

Song of Worship

*O Come Let Us Adore Him*

Lighting of the Advent Candle 8:15: Hannah Schneckenberger & Family  
(1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation Students) 10:45: Travis Spafford & Family

Song of Worship

*I Heard the Bells*

Offering  
Offertory

*Never Once*  
(10:45: Children ages 4-9 are dismissed for Junior Church.)

Message

*The Gift of Peace*

Pastor Todd

Moment of Silent Prayer & Reflection

### Welcome to the Lord's Table

Processional Communion

*(Please come to the table to receive the bread and the cup. Gluten free available)*

Songs of Communion

*A Mighty Fortress  
Father, Let Me Dedicate*

Closing Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (use "sins")

Benediction

(Prayer Partners for your prayer needs are up front after the services.)



# The Gift List

# Welcome to our morning worship celebration!

## good to KNOW

- ❖ **FOR CHILDREN/FAMILIES** (Ask an usher if you need assistance.)
  - \***Infant/toddler nursery** (ages 6 mo.-4 yrs.)
  - \***Mothers' room** is open during both services for your use. (Down CE hallway)
  - \***Children's Activity Bulletins** (ages 4-7) and **Jr. Sermon Notes** (ages 8-12) are available on the wall by the nursery
- ❖ **TO OUR GUESTS/VISITORS** *Please do not feel obligated to give to our offering,* which is the privilege and responsibility of our church family. As an expression of appreciation, *please take a FirstCov green reusable tote* (at the Guest Center) that also has info to get to know us better.
- ❖ **WELCOME PADS** The black welcome pads are an important tool to help us care for our church family, contact visitors, and sign up for Wed. night suppers (during the school year). Please write your contact information (address and phone number) and pass it down the row. Cards for prayer requests, comments, and to request additional information are inside.
- ❖ **RECEIPTS FOR CASH GIFTS** You can get a receipt for tax purposes at the end of the year for your cash donations to the ministry of First Covenant Church by using the gray envelopes at the Guest Center. Ask an usher for assistance.
- ❖ **PRINTOUTS WITH WORDS** to the music at Guest Center or from an usher.
- ❖ **PLEASE REMEMBER** to turn off your cell phones during our worship service!

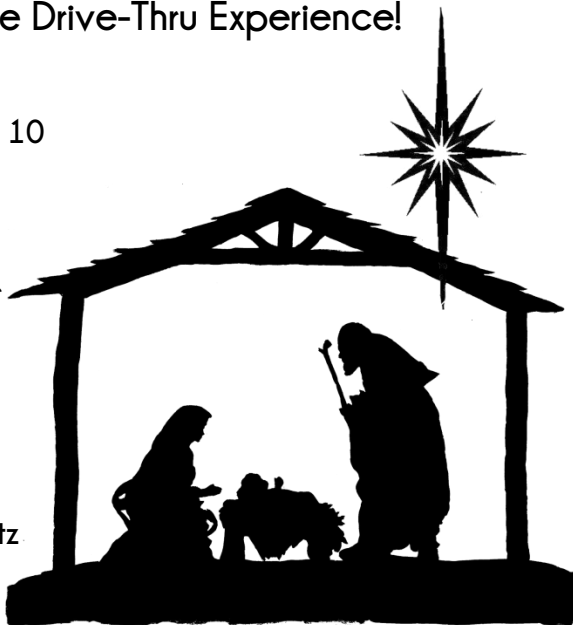
# Living Nativity

A Free Drive-Thru Experience!

Saturday, December 10  
4:30-7:30 p.m.  
FirstCov's parking lot

Grab a card on your way out today and use as an invitation to your neighbors and friends!

Contact Laura Schatz (425-5826) to find out more.



## church LIFE

- ❖ **NEXT WEEK** Brian will continue our Advent Series, *The Gift List*, looking at the Gift of Good News. Prepare by reading about John the Baptist's role in Christ's coming.
- ❖ **WEDNESDAY SUPPER** 5:15-6:00 p.m. This week: Sloppy Jo's. Cost \$2.50 and \$1.50 for children (max. family=\$10.00) Sign up on the welcome pad or call the office by Tuesday.
- ❖ **ORIENTATION 2 CLASS** Today, Dec. 4 // 1:30 PM. Come learn about FirstCov and the Evangelical Covenant denomination. Let Pastor Todd know if you'll be coming.
- ❖ **D-TERM: The Christmas Message of the Old Testament** Sundays Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30-10:25AM. With Dr. David Howard, Jr., Bethel Seminary Old Testament professor. For Middle School, High School & Adult Sunday Schools.
- ❖ **NEED A FAMILY MAKEOVER?** Stayed tuned for a great 2012 opportunity.

## children's MINISTRY

- ❖ **GOOD NEWS CLUB Mondays // 3:30-5 PM**, Westside School, Rm. 157. ?s, contact Trudy Jarosek.
- ❖ **AWANA** This Wednesday: Pajama night!

## youth MINISTRY

- ❖ **SR. HIGH** Get ready to party! Our Christmas party will be held on Wed., Dec. 14 from 6-9pm (note the time change!). Bring your friends, a white elephant gift, and plenty of Christmas cheer!

## college STUDENTS

- ❖ **FREE LUNCH** college/tech students! Today after second service in Room 306!
- ❖ **SIGN UP FOR A FINALS BAG!** Please sign up on the back table to receive a bag on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **NEED A RIDE?** Rides from Hathorn at 10:35 a.m. for our 10:45 service. Contact Allison Riske 715.218.5794 or Heather Aune 715.338.5192.

## women MINISTRIES

- ❖ **WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH** Sat. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> // 9:30-11:30 at Trudy Jarosek's home (Ellsworth). 9AM carpool from the church. Bring a brunch item to share. We'll also be having a Christmas sweater fashion show (ugly or nice). ?'s, contact Terri Pearson or Robin Sampson.

## christmas FELLOWSHIP

- ❖ **ADULT CHRISTMAS COFFEE** Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30-10:30. If you wish, you can bring a small plate of cookies, breads to share.

## advent SEASON

- ❖ **CELEBRATING ADVENT BROCHURE** is available at the back table. Ideas for prayer and reflection on Christ's coming as well as Christmas service and events info! *Use yourself...or give to a friend or neighbor!*
- ❖ **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> // 4 p.m. *What Does Christmas Really Mean?* Any ?'s, contact Sarah Johnson or Joy St. John.
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SERVICES** Sat., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> // 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. or Sun., Dec. 25 // 9:30 a.m. All three services will be the same.
- ❖ **NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE** 9:30 a.m.

## serving OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ **NEEDED! COLLEGE FINALS BAGS DONATIONS & HELP!** Many students do not have local family to encourage and support them through final exams' high-stress time. **Donations** can be put in a box by the missions board. **Help pack bags today** after second service. *Suggested items:* soup, other quick-to-prepare items, granola bars, other snack-type items, soda, pencils, erasers, notes of encouragement... Use your imagination! If you would like to **help pack and pray** for students receiving the bags, please contact Ailene Splittgerber (715-410-2759).

# Prayer Requests to Remember This Week!

December 4, 2011

- For the ability to live with peace in God's promises rather than in how things appear (Luke 2:21-33).
- For Advent to be a time of reflection and prayer on Christ's first coming...and His coming again!
- For *Covenant World Relief* and Dave Husby (director) for wisdom as they serve the world in Christ's love...that the gospel may go forth into all the world.
- Missionaries of the Week: UWRF Campus Ministries
- College Students of the Week: Students attending local Universities/Tech Schools
- For our shut-ins: Martha VanBeek, Irene Hilden, Marilyn Pierre, Dorothy Owen
- For Healing: Shirley Kreider, Jake Schramm, Julie Place, Hannah Manche, Jeff Blaubach
- For Julie Hansen and family on the passing of Julie's father, Roy Forehand. Funeral service this afternoon 3 p.m. at Congregational Church.
- For our church Elders: John Aune, Terry Traynor, & Jerry Hallstrom.
- For our church staff: Pastor Todd Ertsgaard, Brian Majerus, Leah Gunderson, & Jackie Wallace

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY:** Roger Anderson, Brett Fugate, Zach Zellmer, Mike Findlay, Aaron Reiss, Melissa Leitl, Ryan Neel, and for Steve Kubera, Air Force reservist, and Tyler Splittgerber, Army reservist.

**MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK:** For **UWRF Campus Ministries:** Jason Hull, Tim Prince, Michele Arndt, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship leaders at UWRF, and Charlie Hokanson, leader of The Navigators at UWRF. Please continue to pray for them in their ministry to students and for their financial support/fund raising efforts. Also be in prayer for those leading Campus Crusade at UWRF.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:** **Attending UWRF:** Heather Aune, daughter of John & Marly. Heather is a sophomore majoring in Social Studies Education. **Emily Klanderma**, daughter of Mark & Cheryl. Emily is a sophomore majoring in Elementary Education. **Kelsey Ekstrom**, daughter of Bryant & Terry; Kelsey is a sophomore with an undeclared major at this time.

**Attending CVTC:** **Tyler Splittgerber**, son of Steve & Ailene. Tyler is in the National Guards and is also taking classes for the law enforcement program. **Brittani Kruger**, daughter of Kent & Char. Brittani is in the nursing program. **Sarah Roth** is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the nursing program.

**Attending Century College:** **Lindy Peterson**, daughter of Ellen Peterson. Lindy received her undergrad degree from UW-RF in Bio-Med. She is currently in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Century in the Orthotics and prosthetic practioners program. It is a 4 year program and a year of residency.

**Attending St. Catherine's:** **James Plummer**, in his 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of the Physical Therapy Doctorate Program.

**PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER TEAM UPDATE:** Pray for safety for our military men and women, the Embassy workers and NGOs involved in the Afghanistan war. Pray about decisions being made by the Federal Reserve, President Obama and Congress that impacts the economy.

Pastor Todd

Advent – The Gift List

December 4, 2011

## *The Gift of Peace*

Luke 2:21-33

Discouragement, the lack of peace and contentment, can be a part of our life regardless of our circumstances. It not only robs us of the joy of living but it can destroy our lives. How do we prevent that from happening? I believe we can find some answers from the life of Simeon in the Christmas story. In this passage, Simeon shows us the importance of being receptive to the gift of peace and fulfillment God has for us in Christ by understanding and practicing the following:

1. By being receptive to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. By being receptive to \_\_\_\_\_.

3. By being receptive to \_\_\_\_\_.

"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."

- Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)

**I HEARD THE BELLS**

I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom had rolled along th'unbroken song, of peace on earth, good will to men.

**Bridge: I can hear them. 4x**

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor does he sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

**Bridge: I can hear you 3x I can still hear You. repeat**

**O COME LET US ADORE HIM**

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

We'll praise His name forever....

We'll give Him all the glory....

For You alone are worthy....  
For You alone are worthy, Christ the Lord.

**NEVER ONCE**

Standing on this mountain top, looking just how far we've come,  
knowing that for every step, You were with us  
Kneeling on this battleground, seeing just how much You've done;  
knowing every victory was Your power in us.

Scars and struggles on the way, but with joy our hearts can say, Yes, our hearts can say

Never once did we ever walk alone, never once did You leave us on our own.  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful

Kneeling on this battleground, seeing just how much You've done;  
knowing every victory was Your power in us

Scars and struggles on the way, but with joy our hearts can say, Yes, our hearts can say

Never once did we ever walk alone, never once did You leave us on our own.  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful

Scars and struggles on the way, but with joy our hearts can say:  
never once did we ever walk alone  
Carried by Your constant grace, held within Your perfect peace,  
never once, no we never walked alone

Never once did we ever walk alone,  
Never once did You leave us on our own  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful  
Every step we are breathing in Your grace,  
Evermore we'll be breathing out Your praise

You are faithful, God, You are faithful  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful 2x

**A MIGHTY FORTRESS**

1. Our God is a consuming fire, a burning holy flame with glory and freedom. Our God is the only righteous judge, ruling over us with kindness and wisdom. And we will keep our eyes on You, we will keep our eyes on You.

Chorus: A mighty fortress is our God, a sacred refuge is Your name. Your kingdom is unshakeable, and with You forever we will reign.

2. Our God is jealous for His own. None could comprehend His love and His mercy. Our God is exalted on His throne, High above the heavens, forever He is worthy.

And we will keep our eyes on You, we will keep our eyes on You. Chorus.

We will keep our eyes on You. We will keep our eyes on You. So we can set our hearts on You. Lord, we can set our hearts on You. Chorus 2x

With You forever we will reign. With You forever we will reign.

Our God is a consuming fire. A burning holy flame with glory and freedom.

**FATHER, LET ME DEDICATE**

1) Father let me dedicate All this life to Thee  
In whatever worldly state Thou wilt have me be  
Not from sorrow pain or care Freedom dare I claim  
This alone shall be my pray'r Glorify Thy name

**Chorus:** Be glorified in me be glorified in me. Be glorified in me. . be glorified

2) Can a child presume to choose Where or how to live  
Can a Father's love refuse All the best to give. Let my glad heart while it sings Thee  
in all proclaim. And whate'er the future brings - Glorify Thy name ***Chorus***