

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

- ❖ **PRAYER PARTNERS** after Sunday morning services. Contact the office for more information to be on the rotation.
- ❖ **MOPS** Adults & youth (12+) needed to care for the children of our MOPS moms on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. each month, 9:00a to 11:30a. Get paid or volunteer. For info, call Nicole Yamry 715-222-5275.
- ❖ **COMMUNITY CONNECT IN RF!** Sept. 28, 2:00-7:00p at First Congregational Church. Check the list @theHub to find out how you can volunteer to help people connect to resources within the community.

## ONLINE ENCOURAGEMENT

Stay connected and get online encouragement as you follow Christ into your week:

- ✓ **E-NEWS & ALL-CHURCH EMAIL** Stay in-touch with your church family with important info and updates. Contact Jackie to sign-up (Jackie@rfcov.org)
- ✓ **WEBSITE** Check out [www.rfcov.org](http://www.rfcov.org) for sermons, info and more.
- ✓ **FACEBOOK** For info & encouragement throughout the week. "Like" us at [Facebook.com/FirstCovenantChurch](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCovenantChurch)
- ✓ **TWITTER** Follow us at @FirstCovRF

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING:

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

Weekly Operational Need:	\$12,188.95
Regular Giving 9.17.17:	\$8,661.40
YTD FEF (2017):	\$13,339.00
Attendance on 9.17.17:	110 & 193=303
YTD applied to principal:	\$52,019.35
Mortgage balance as of 9.1.17:	\$596,568.87

## CONTACT US!

[rfcov.org](http://rfcov.org) | 715.425.2640 | [office@rfcov.org](mailto:office@rfcov.org) | [facebook.com/firstcovenantchurch](https://www.facebook.com/firstcovenantchurch) | Twitter: @FirstCovRF  
Todd Ertsgaard | Lead Pastor: 715.425.6991 or [todd@rfcov.org](mailto:todd@rfcov.org)  
Brian Majerus | Pastor of Christian Formation & Family Ministries: 715.426.3097 or [brian@rfcov.org](mailto:brian@rfcov.org)  
Neil Vance | Youth Director: 715.307.2645 or [neil@rfcov.org](mailto:neil@rfcov.org)  
Brian Smith | Director of Worship & Creative Arts: 651.399.1751 or [brian.smith@rfcov.org](mailto:brian.smith@rfcov.org)

## THANK YOU

**GREETERS** (8:15) Dan & Kay Schmalstig  
(10:45) Steve & Annette Schalla  
**WORSHIP TEAM:** Jake Jacobs, Kim Majerus, John Witt  
Dakota Walters, Keith Richardson, Jessica Mueller  
**SOUND:** Andrew Ertsgaard **VIDEO:** Micah Majerus  
**THE HUB:** (8:15) Jackie Wallace  
(10:45) Marv & Katy Call  
**NURSERY:** (8:15) Bonnie Swanson, Johanna Croes  
Kyla Kubera  
(10:45) Kay Zwald, Annette Schalla  
**JR. CHURCH:** (10:45) Candace & Hannah Plummer  
**USHERS:** (8:15) Dan Treichel, Tom Nelson  
(10:45) Dan Pearson, Steve Schalla  
**PRAYER PARTNERS:** (8:15) Bob & Deb Gilbertson  
(10:45) Dan Pearson  
**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** Sue Sumner,  
Mark & Kim Spafford  
**PRODUCE PICK UP:** Brian Halling

## THIS WEEK

**TODAY 9/24**  
8:15 & 10:45a Worship Services  
9:30a Sunday School for all ages  
**TUESDAY 9/26**  
2:00p & 5:15p Classroom use: Weight Watchers  
**WEDNESDAY 9/27**  
9:30a Precepts Class  
3:30p Confirmation (gr. 7 & 8)  
5:15p Fellowship Supper  
6:15p Awana (K-6)  
6:30p Confirmation (gr. 7 & 8),  
SOLID Youth Group (gr. 9-12), & Prayer Group  
**THURSDAY 9/28**  
8:00p Worship Team Practice  
6:30p Multi -Purpose Room use: Master Gardeners  
8:15p Iron: Men's Group  
**FRIDAY 9/29**  
9:45a Women's Bible Study Fellowship  
After the H.S. Football game: Sr. High Youth "5<sup>th</sup> Quarter"  
**SUNDAY 10/1**  
8:15a & 10:45a Worship Services w/Communion  
9:30a Sunday School for all age

# FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

*"On the Journey: Sharing Christ, Growing Together"*  
Sunday, September 24, 2017 | 8:15 & 10:45a

## OPENING SONG

## WORSHIP SONGS

## OFFERING | ANNOUNCEMENTS

10:45 Service: Children ages 5-7 can go to Rm 306 for Junior Church.  
Parents: Please walk your child to the room and pick up after the service.

## MESSAGE

*How to Prepare for a Miracle*

Pastor Todd

## CLOSING SONG

## BENEDICTION

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

# DARING FAITH

THE KEY TO MIRACLES

# Welcome to our WORSHIP SERVICES

## Welcome Guests!

- ❖ **CHECK @theHub** for a great conversation, a gift, more info, or get questions answered. We are glad you are here!
- ❖ **WELCOME PADS** help us to care & connect! Please fill out and pass to your neighbor in the row. Inside are cards for prayer requests, comments, and more. *If you leave your address*, we will send you a Welcome Letter with next step ideas to get to know us...and no extra mailings! ☺
- ❖ **CHILDREN/FAMILIES:** (The Ushers would love to help you too!).
  - \*Nurseries (Infant to 4 y.o.).
    - ✓ Nursery Room (To the right of the main entrance).
  - \*Infant Room—Service live feed, on right as you enter Worship Center.
  - \*Junior Church—(10:45) 5-7 y.o. in Rm 303.
  - \*Children's Activity Bulletins (ages 4-7) and Jr. Sermon Notes (ages 8-12) are available on the usher's cart.
- ❖ **SERVICE LIVE FEEDS** available in Infant Room and Multipurpose Room.
- ❖ **OFFERING** is an act of worship and a privilege of our church family. We are just glad you are here to worship with us today!
- ❖ **FREE GIFT @theHub:** As an expression of appreciation, pick up a gift and get more info or questions answered there.

## Fall Series: *Daring Faith* BEGINS TODAY!

### GET THE MOST FROM THIS STUDY!

- **Adults:** We encourage everyone to join a *Daring Faith* Small Group as you discuss the same themes from the sermon in your group. Sign up (& pick up resources) at the *Daring Faith* table after the service.
- **High School & Middle School:** Come to Sunday School Classes!
- **Individuals:** 40 days of devotionals (in guide).

## TODAY & EACH WEEK...

...a **Daring Faith Scripture card** is in your bulletin for memorizing, reflection, & discussion on the week's theme.

## CHURCH LIFE

- ❖ **NEXT WEEK (Oct. 1)** Pastor Todd continues our fall series, "Daring Faith," with Hebrews 11:1-6 exploring what faith involves.
- ❖ **WED. SUPPER (9.27):** Pizza, salad, jello, apple crisp. Serving 5:15-6:00p. Sign up on Welcome Pad or call by Tuesday noon. Cost: \$3/max \$12.
- ❖ **HURRICANE RELIEF** through Covenant World Relief: Go to: <http://bit.ly/2iJcVZL>
- ❖ **NAME THAT TUNE!** Sun., Oct. 1 | 5:30p Empty Nesters and Senior Adults! Join us for a fun night of "Name That Tune" with SummerTime Quartet (our own Loren Paulson is part of the quartet). Please bring a dish to share.
- ❖ **SAVE THE DATE:** Father/Child banquet is Thurs., Oct. 19, 6:30-8:00p. Tickets on sale soon.
- ❖ **AWANA!** Pajama night this Wednesday!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

- ❖ **NEIL (Our Youth Director) & SARAH VANCE** were married yesterday, Sept. 23 in Northern MN. We will celebrate with them by hosting a reception here at FirstCov on Sun., Oct. 8 after second service.

## WEDNESDAY MINISTRIES

- ❖ 3:30-5:00p :Confirmation (7th-8th grade)
- ❖ 5:15p: Suppers (Donation requested)
- ❖ 6:15-7:45p Awana (children K-6<sup>th</sup> grade)
- ❖ 6:30-8:00p: Confirmation (7th- 8th grade) & SOLID Youth Group (9th-12th grade)
- ❖ 6:30-7:30p: Prayer Group (adults)

## WOMEN MINISTRIES

- ❖ **BABY SHOWER:** For Darlene Backes and her new baby boy, Travis, here on Tues, Oct. 3 at 6:30p. See Sarah Johnson for group gift donations. Most needed: diapers and wipes.
- ❖ **WE'RE HOSTING:** Lake Pepin District Women's Fall Gathering on Sat., Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins at 9:00a. Sign up @theHub and, if you can, help make a quiche (recipes @theHub).

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS

9:30-10:30a | Classes for 2 y.o. to Adult  
Adult Options are:

- ❖ **Ruth and Esther:** Is God really sovereign? Can individual people make a difference in His world? A young girl named Ruth and a middle-aged man named Boaz do during the violent days of Israel's judges. Over 600 years later a Jew named Mordecai and his cousin Esther save their nation by saying yes. Today these stories still inspire believers to affect the world by trusting God. Understand these books, and apply their powerful, relevant wisdom to needs and issues you are currently working through. Based on NavPress's "Life Change" series. Teachers: Chuck Samb's & Mark Kimball
- ❖ **Turning Points: What the Church-Then Can Teach the Church-Today.** Learn how to follow Christ in our *modern times* by looking at the *Christians of the past*. Explore key moments of Church & Christian history. Learn about God from His sovereign work of preserving the Church over time, the impact of world events on the Church, and Scripture. Leave each class knowing more about how to engage today as Christians in our culture and our world. And explore the significance of October 2017, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation! Based on book *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* by foremost church historian, Mark Noll. Teaching Team: Pastor Brian, Mark Wespetal, Jeff Carow.

## MARRIAGE

- ❖ **TAKE YOUR MARRIAGE FROM GOOD TO GREAT!** Sat., Sept. 30 | 8:00a-8:00p. Sign up now @theHub because space is limited. At time of signup, \$20/couple required to cover cost of catered lunch and dinner which are provided. Event will be hosted at Harvest Blessing Farm (less than 10 minutes away).
- ❖ **SIX-WEEK Marriage Group:** DVD-based study on *Fight Your Way to a Better Marriage* begins Fri., Oct. 20, here, with childcare available. Sign up with James & Candace Plummer or the office.

# PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK

September 24, 2017

- ❖ For those impacted by the many recent hurricanes & the earthquake in Mexico
- ❖ For our Sept. Focus on Life: Hunger and Starvation in East Africa. Pray for creation of wells, for outpouring of food and water from governments and NCO's, for cessation of war and hostilities that are adding to the cruelty of famine
- ❖ For Neil & Sarah Vance who were married yesterday! (Note: a FirstCov reception for them will be held here on Sun., Oct. 8)
- ❖ For our Missionaries of the week: Jared & Hannah Baker
- ❖ For Healing and Help: Jean Elefson, Lana Foster, Grady Vogt, Angie Martini, Kern & Judy Steffenhagen, Jeff Pierre, Bonnye Huland, Jean Hickox, Joyce Lundberg
- ❖ For our Congregational Vitality Team Members: Pat Stevens, Jeff Carow, Melissa Falde, Tom Nelson, Chris Mueller, Krista Majerus, Steve Schalla, Robert & Lindsey Curtiso, Pastor Todd, and Pastor Brian
- ❖ For our Leadership Team: Jeff Carow, Chair; Dan Pearson, Vice Chair; Johnny Manche, Finance Officer; Pat Stevens, Administrative Officer; John Aune; Jean Wespetal; Kay Zwald; Gregg Quam; Pastor Todd
- ❖ For our church staff: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Neil Vance, Brian Smith, Jackie Wallace

*We are glad to pray for you in joy or in times of need. Needs will be listed for up to four weeks, but please let us know if you would like it longer.*

## THOSE IN THE MILITARY

For: Sam & Isaac Witt, Brent Wiersma, Roland Pomfret, Mike Findlay, Aaron Riess, Ryan Neel, Murray Stoffa, John Meier, Colin Arneson, Matthew Lundberg, Mckenzie Curtis, Max Elliott

## FIRSTCOV LEADERSHIP TEAM

*These LT members will liaison with the following Ministry Teams:*

**Adults:** Kay Zwald | **Children's:** Pat Stevens

**Youth:** Johnny Manche | **Men's:** Dan Pearson

**Women's:** Jeannie Wespetal | **Worship & Arts:** Pastor Todd & Kay Zwald

**Maintenance:** Gregg Quam | **Missions:** Jeff Carow

**Outreach:** John Aune | **Social Concerns:** Gregg Quam | **Finance:** Johnny Manche

## MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK

**Jared & Hannah Baker**, Covenant Missionaries serving in Marseille, France.

They ask for prayer in in these areas.

- Praise God for an encouraging time in the Czech Republic and for the leaders who want to see their churches be healthy and missional.
- Praise for deeper connections with Nigerian women on the streets. Pray for Ruban Blanc as we continue to explore how best to come alongside the women.
- Pastor Benjamin and I organized our 4th leadership workshop for the leaders in our church. We are grateful for the positive response to these workshops.

**Connect by e-mail:** [jared-hannah.baker@covchurch.org](mailto:jared-hannah.baker@covchurch.org)

**Read their blog:** [www.thebakersroll.blogspot.com/](http://www.thebakersroll.blogspot.com/)

# DARING FAITH

THE KEY TO MIRACLES

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR A MIRACLE | MARK 6:34-44 | PASTOR TODD

Welcome to our spiritual growth campaign, "Daring Faith!" In this series, we are going to look at what it means to have faith in God and why it is so important to our lives and to the world around us. Today, we begin by looking at how to live more fully in God's miraculous power. In the feeding of the 5000, we see it involves:

1. Realizing \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Giving \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Expecting \_\_\_\_\_.

... According to your faith let it be done to you" - Matthew 9:29 (NIV)