

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITY

Be a special part!! One of the ways we express love for God and others (and are shaped by Him) is through serving others.

One opportunity to check out is:

Sunday Jr. Church Leaders

- ❖ Want the opportunity to share truths about God and experience the energy of 5-7 yr. olds? If so Jr. Church would be a great fit for you! The lesson plan and outline are provided, you would only need to lead this time during second service. Current rotation is five weeks, but our goal is to add at least enough teachers that it would mean only teaching once every two months! Let Neil know if you have any questions or are interested in helping out! neil@rfcov.org

FINANCIAL UPDATE

ELECTRONIC GIVING:

Go to www.rfcov.org and click on the *Electronic Tithing* link under Resources.

Weekly Operational need: \$12,794.00
Regular Giving 12.16.18 \$11,347.76
Mortgage balance as of 12.1.18: \$550,929.10
Attendance on 12.16.18: 143 & 202=345

CONTACT US!

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THANK YOU!

GREETERS: (8:15) Curt & Pam Yelken
(10:45) Bob & Kay Zwald
WORSHIP TEAM: Emily Gabriel, Jake Jacobs,
Aryanna Plummer, Sarah Manche
SOUND | LIGHT: Andrew Ertsgaard
VIDEO: Danielle Ertsgaard
THE HUB: (8:15) Anne Harris
(10:45) Sarah Johnson
NURSERY: (8:15) 0-4: Robert Curtis,
Julie & Kaitlyn Dicus
(10:45) 0-4: Luke, Nicole & Kylee Strehlau
JR. CHURCH: (10:45) Note: No Jr. Church today
USHERS: (8:15) Dan Wallace, Gregg Quam
(10:45) Dan Pearson, Adam Johnson
PRAYER PARTNERS: (8:15) Steve & Linda Johnson
(10:45) Dan Pearson
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Kay & Raye Schmalstig
Terri Pearson
PRODUCE PICK UP: Nathan Riess

THIS WEEK

TODAY 12/23 Advent 4
8:15 & 10:45a Worship Services
No Sunday School Classes
MONDAY 12/24
Church Office Closed
3:00 & 5:00p Christmas Eve Services
TUESDAY 12/25
Church Office Closed Merry Christmas!
SUNDAY 12/30
10:00a One Worship Service
No Sunday School Classes

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

"On the Journey: Sharing Christ, Growing Together"

Sunday, December 23, 2018 | 8:15 & 10:45a

OPENING SONG

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

First Year Confirmation Students

8:15: Mercedes and Connor Wallace & Family

10:45: Camilla Johnson & Family

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SONGS

OFFERING

No Jr. Church Today

SERMON

Displaying Joy

Pastor Todd

CLOSING SONG

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

ADVENT

Christmas

DECORATIONS

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Guests, we welcome you!

- ✓ **WELCOME PADS** help us to care and connect! Please write your contact info, pass it down the row, and then pass it back. Inside are cards for prayer requests, sign up for the weekly e-news, 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** (Infants to 4 y.o.).
 - ❖ 8:15- Nursery Room (To the right of the main entrance).
 - ❖ 10:45- Nursery Room.
 - ***Infant Room**—Hear the service too. On right as you enter Worship Center.
 - ***10:45- Junior Church**—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 AND **"Busy Bags" for kids** @theHub!
- ✓ **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:** As an expression of appreciation, pick up a gift @theHub and get to know us from the info.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

Monday, Dec. 24 | 3:00p and 5:00p

Invite your friends and neighbors to this special candlelight celebration!

Next Sunday, Dec. 30

10:00a (one service) | No Sunday School

CHURCH LIFE

- ❖ **NEXT WEEK: (Dec. 30)** Neil Vance, our Youth Director, brings the message from John 2:1-12 and responding faithfully to the message of the abundance Christ offers us.
- ❖ **THANK YOU!** The Christmas Children's Program offering came to **\$889.82** and will be used as seed money for a sandwich making event to help the homeless. What's this amount mean? *About 1,778 sandwiches!!!!!!*
- ❖ **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY:** Learn financial wisdom and even how to get out of debt. Begins Mon., Jan. 14 for nine-weeks. **Childcare available** by *RSVP-ing* your needs with the office. **Register:** fpu.com/1068634 **For a lot more info, see Luke Strehlau** (luke.strehlau@gmail.com), the office, or the weekly e-news.
- ❖ **WEDDING SHOWER:** Sat., Jan. 12 9:30a for Melanie (Gillis) & Sam Gershman who were married on Dec. 15. More info to come.

2019: NEW YEAR'S NOTES

- ❖ **Wednesday, Jan. 2**
 - No ministries *but Confirmation Parent Conferences will be held.*
- ❖ **Sunday, Jan. 6**
 - Covenant missionaries, Jared & Hannah Baker (France) will bring the message from John 1:1-4,14, "Dwell Among: Food, Friends, Fêtes (Fun), & Funerals".
 - All welcome to meet with the Bakers at China Moon after second service.
 - ALL (2 y.o. to Adult) Sunday School classes resume
- ❖ **Wednesday, Jan. 9** All Wednesday Ministries resume

DREAM AGAIN WORKSHOP!

- ❖ **DISCERNING Our Priorities for the Coming Year!** Sat., Jan. 19 from 9:00a-2:00p (lunch provided). Learn much more in the Wednesday E-news and RSVP through the E-news link or @theHub.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL FOCUS

The Gospel Project

Starting Sun., Jan. 6, 2019!!

Study the same Bible passages across ages!!

The Opportunity

- Study the whole Bible & join anytime!
- See the Old Testament point to Jesus.
- Our generations, including families, studying the same things we can have deeper discussions across ages.

Where Can I Find It?

- **Children:** Sunday School
- **Middle School:** Sunday School
- **High School:** Sunday School (at times)
- **Adults:** Sunday School

How May You Gain?

- **Study the whole Bible** with others.
- **Be equipped to engage your family or other generations** who are studying the same passages.
- **Have Jesus glorified to you in new ways.**
- **Use the resources** given to the children and youth as a teaching time with your child.

MEN!

- ❖ **MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be held at FirstCov on Sat., Jan.12 at 8:00a. FirstCov'er Brian Aust shares his faith journey and his role as Evangelism Coordinator for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for the Twin City Metropolitan area. Sign up through E-news or @theHub.
- ❖ **NO REGRETS** Men's Conference simulcast tickets are on sale through our website. No Regrets is a special time for guys to seek Christ and get inspired! Sat., Feb. 2, 2019. For info, see Vern Larson or the office.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK

December 23, 2018

- ❖ For our December Focus on Life: Starvation/Hunger
- ❖ For our Missionary of the Week: Randy Bevis
- ❖ For our College Students of the week: Kylie & Morgan Larson
- ❖ For Healing and Help: Jean Elefson, Angie Martini, Juanita Amundson, Lila Hilden, David Petersen, Barry Hophan, Nora Munson, Monica Lucht, Joan Bystrom, Brenda Pomfret
- ❖ As we move forward from our Vitality, continue to pray for our next phase called Strategic Ministry Planning and for these team members: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Melissa Falde, Jason Hull, Evan Carstedt, Kathi Nelson, Krista Majerus, and Pat Stevens
- ❖ For our Ministry Team Leaders (see below)
- ❖ For our church staff: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Neil Vance, 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, John Meier, Colin Arneson, Mckenzie Curtis, Max Elliott

OUR FIRSTCOV MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

ADULT: Art Wellnitz; **BLAST (Childrens):** Bob & Debbie Gilbertson; **YOUTH:** Laura Schatz; **MEN:** Vern Larson, Rich Kathan; **WOMEN:** Wendi Blaubach, Wendy Larson; **WORSHIP & ARTS:** Dave Schatz; **MAINTENANCE:** Rob Stevens; **MISSIONS:** Jim Harsdorf; **OUTREACH:** Dean Benoy; **CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS:** Chuck Sambus; **FINANCE:** Johnny Manche

COLLEGE STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Kylie & Morgan Larson, daughters of Brent & Lisa Larson. **Kylie** attends University of MN, and **Morgan** attends Minnesota State University Mankato.
Keep them both in prayer this year.

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Randy Bevis serves as a Covenant Special Assignment missionary and is director of **In-Seine, "Full Nets, Changed Lives"** ministry. He shares his knowledge of **"aquaculture" or fish farming in many countries**. After taking off a bit of time from travel during the summer Randy has a busy fall schedule of travel to DR Congo, Haiti and Thailand. Randy's mailing address is: In-Seine, PO Box 163, New London, MN 56273
E-mail: Randy@in-seine.org



DISPLAYING JOY | LUKE 2:21-33 | PASTOR TODD

Today, we conclude our Advent series, "*Christmas Decorations*," by learning from Simeon the joy of living a life of meaning and success in God's eyes. Simeon teaches us the need to pursue God's joy by:

1. Trusting _____.

2. Keeping _____.

3. Living _____.

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
- Matthew 6:33 (NIV)*