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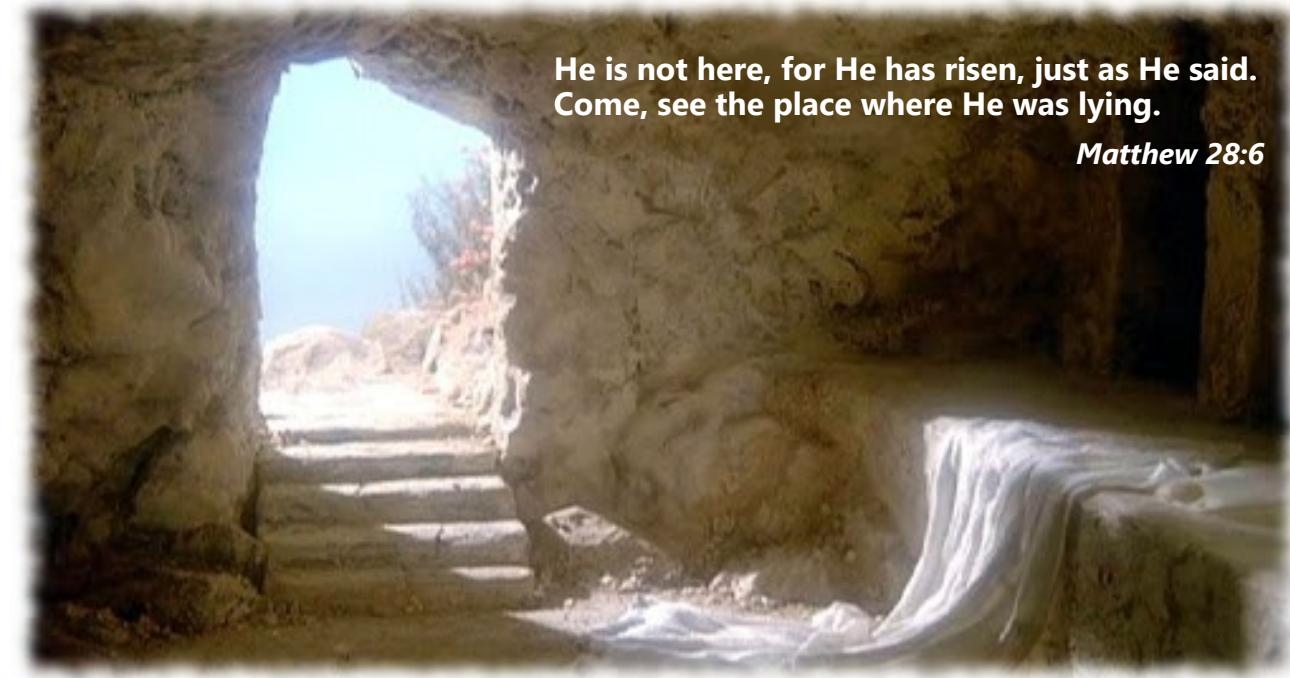
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COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

# CHRONICLES

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

March/April 2021



**He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.  
Come, see the place where He was lying.**

*Matthew 28:6*



**LAKE BEAUTY**  
BIBLE CAMP

**Family Camping Weekend  
at  
Lake Beauty Bible Camp  
June 18 - 20**

**Save  
the  
Date!**

**The Camping brochure will be in  
your church box in May.**

## **What's Inside?**

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## **Easter Services at Community**

**Sunday, March 28**  
10:15am Palm Sunday Service

**Thursday, April 1**  
7pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

**Sunday, April 4**  
8:00am Easter Sunrise Service  
10:15am Easter Worship Service

# From Pastor Steve's Desk

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## "SHORE OF BROKEN DREAMS"

It used to be called "Houses by the Seaside"—a painting I did a while back—an experiment of sorts. An artist can save money on frames by buying cheap framed pictures at a thrift store and putting his or her own work into the frames. And so, I had a white frame and a piece of glass and I decided to paint right on the glass. Usually, the glass goes over the picture, but in this experiment, it became the picture.

It is an oil painting with swirling white clouds in a deep blue sky. In the background are three resort cabins, with lights in the windows, suggesting the onset of dusk or early dawn. In the foreground are reeds and grass. And there was a path which led, in my imagination, to a beach on the ocean.

I say there "was" a path because the path is no more. After I hung the painting, it fell off the wall and about a third of the glass shattered. The painting was not completely destroyed, so I carefully removed some broken pieces and glued some others in place. The brown paper backing behind the glass looked like a beach. The cracks in the glass are still obvious, but there was something worth saving. I am now calling the painting "Shore of Broken Dreams."

Perhaps there is a "shore of broken dreams" in your life too. Something that "fell off the wall" and left you with "broken glass" which threatens to cut you and mar your "landscape." It might be precarious health or failing memory or a significant loss or a relationship gone sour. It might be a financial downturn, an expectation not met, or a hope deferred. It might be disappointment with God over unanswered prayer. As Christians, we are not guaranteed a life free of troubles. And so we face questions like: In the trouble that has come, will we continue to trust God? Will we wait to see what He might make of our situation?

This Spring, when the frozen ground thaws and I can collect some small stones, I will see if I can turn my "Shore of Broken Dreams" into a three-dimensional piece. I will see if I can redeem it and restore its beauty. That is what God does with our lives. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time." He does not often reveal His time frame or His process. But He is always working to do the most redemptive thing at the most redemptive time.

I may have to re-name my painting once more when I see what it becomes in the Spring. I am confident it will not always be a "Shore of Broken Dreams."

# April 2021

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service	2 9:30 AM Mom & Kid Time <b>Good Friday</b>	3
4 NO SS 8 AM Sonrise Service 10:15 AM Worship <b>Easter Sunday</b> 7 PM CLG	5 8 PM Men's Bible Study	6	7 6:15 Check-In 6:30-7:30 J Team & Adventureland 6:30 Bible Study at Parsonage 6:30 PM Ignite	8	9	10
11 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 3 PM Young Families Life Group 7 PM CLG	12 7:00 PM Properties Team Meeting	13	14 6:15 Check-In 6:30-7:30 J Team & Adventureland 6:30 Bible Study at Parsonage 6:30 PM Ignite	15 May/June Newsletter Deadline	16 9:30 AM Mom & Kid Time	17
18 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship with Communion 7 PM CLG	19 8 PM Men's Bible Study	20	21 6:15 Check-In 6:30-7:30 J Team & Adventureland 6:30 Bible Study at Parsonage 6:30 PM Ignite	22	23	24 Northwest Conference Virtual Annual Meeting
25 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 3 PM Young Families Life Group 7 PM CLG	26	27	28 6:15 Check-In 6:30-7:30 J Team & Adventureland 6:30 Bible Study at Parsonage 6:30 PM Ignite	29	30	

# March 2021

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 9:30 AM Mom & Kid Time	6
			6:15 Check-In for J Team & Advl 6:30-7:30 J Team & Adventureland 6:30 Bible Study at Parsonage 6:30 PM Ignite	10 AM Upsala Ministerium at St Mary's Church		
7 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship  7 PM Prayer & Praise Night	8 8 PM Men's Bible Study	9 7:00 PM Properties Team Meeting	10 6:15 Check-In 6:30-7:30 J Team & Adventureland 6:30 Bible Study at Parsonage 6:30 PM Ignite	11 7:30 PM Leadership Team	12  Turn your clocks ahead an hour	13
14 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship  3-5 PM Young Families Life Group 7 PM CLG	15	16	17 6:15 Check-In 6:30-7:30 J Team & Adventureland 6:30 Bible Study at Parsonage 6:30 PM Ignite 7:07 PM CW meeting	18	19 9:30 AM Mom & Kid Time	20 Confirmation Retreat at LBBC March 20-21
21 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ <b>Confirmation Service</b>  7 PM Community Life Group	22 8 PM Men's Bible Study	23	24 6:15 Check-In 6:30-7:30 J Team & Adventureland 6:30 Bible Study at Parsonage 6:30 PM Ignite	25 7 PM NWC Women's Ministries Virtual Gathering	26	27
28 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship  3 PM Young Families Life Group 7 PM CLG	29	30	31 No J Team & Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite			

# Office Talk

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Office Hours	March Worship Servers	April Worship Servers
Monday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM Tuesday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM Wednesday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM Thursday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	<b>Ushers:</b> Leif & Suzi Johnson  <b>Scripture Readers</b> Please call the office to volunteer  <b>Nursery Workers</b> 122 S. Main Street PO Box 278 Upsala, MN 56384 320-573-2672 covenant@upsalacov.org www.upsalacov.org  Evangelical Covenant Church www.covchurch.org	<b>Ushers:</b> Mike & Mary Jo Peterson  <b>Scripture Readers</b> Please call the office to volunteer  <b>Nursery Workers</b> 7 Karen Hoffman & Anders Aleckson 14 Cheryl Warga & Aliah Warga 21 Elizabeth Vandergon & Karlee Warga 28 Laura Blonigen & Olivia Peterson

## Staying Connected

We send out a Weekly email Update, offer a bi-monthly newsletter, and print a Sunday bulletin each week. If you aren't receiving them and would like to, call or send us an email with your contact information.

## Publication Deadlines:

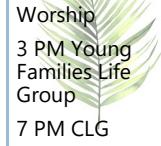
Weekly Update: 8 am Wednesday  
Sunday Bulletin: 8 am Friday  
Monthly Newsletter:  
15th of February, April, June, October, December

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 - Andrew Hoffman
- 6 - Linda Pepin
- 7 - Dakota Soltis
- 8 - Richard Blonigen, Melissa Soltis
- 11 - Elsie Jo Cluka
- 13 - Dennis & Susie Olson
- 15 - John & Marilyn Woldstad
- 18 - Bill Abeler, Deb Schneider
- 20 - Dan & Patty Groetsch
- 24 - Isabelle Klug
- 31 - Tim Peterson

## April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Mel Larson
- 5 - Dirk Fellbaum
- 6 - Isabella Warga
- 6 - Isaiah & Gillian Pundsack
- 9 - Melinda Hollenbeck
- Ken & Betty Olson
- 10 - Loren Fellbaum
- 13 - Sue Aleckson
- 16 - Emmett Warga, Greg & Jessica Wenker
- 18 - Axel Johnson
- 20 - Dan Groetsch, Tina Yorek
- 22 - Micah Hollenbeck
- 25 - Alexis Soltis, Amber Koopmeiners
- 27 - Michelle Aleckson, Dustin Hollermann
- Bill & Lisa Abeler
- 28 - Michael Pangrac, Nick Klug
- 29 - Nora Hollermann



# Youth News

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## IGNITE Student Ministry

Wednesday from 6:30—8:30pm

### Confirmation & DLT

Sundays from 9:00-10:00am

Youth Room & Classroom #5

This winter we've spent time skiing, playing broomball, and walking through the book of Romans on Wednesday nights. Disciples Learning Together (DLT) has been walking through "Habitudes" and Confirmation has been going through Judges, Psalms, and the Kingdom of Israel. We've been playing some goofy, new games at Ignite including "Living Hoop Lightning" and celebrating lots of winter birthdays together. There is a genuine enthusiasm for playing, learning, and connecting with each other that has made Ignite, DLT & Confirmation such a joy & blessing!



# Camp News

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## Lake Beauty Bible Camp

What is a community? How do we build cohesion in a time like this? Think of a mountaineer, somebody getting ready to scale Everest in the Himalayas. Do they just pack their bags and go on a whim? No! They take the time to train, get the necessary equipment, and build a team to go with them. Scaling the Summit is difficult, time consuming, and is mentally as well as physically draining. It is something that takes time and effort. Embarking on a journey like this requires others there to assist.

***Our purpose in life is to build community with one another, love others more than ourselves, and show them God.*** This summer, we will be exploring how we can better prepare ourselves to serve God in a greater capacity. We will explore what a community should look like and how we can find it. Like a climber, we prepare for the trek ahead.

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** when you register **online before May 3**

### **June**

Summer Staff Training June 1-12  
Junior High #1 June 13-18  
Summer Families #1 June 13-20  
Leaders in Training (LIT) #1 June 13-24  
Trailblazer #1 June 20-24  
Summer Families #2 June 20-27  
Trailblazer #2 June 27-July 1

### **July**

4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Camp July 2-5 Fr-M  
Summer Families #3 July 11-18  
Frontier Kids #1 July 11-13 Su-Tu  
Frontier Kids #2 July 13-15 Tu-Th  
Junior High #2 July 18-23  
Summer Families #4 July 18-25  
Leaders in Training (LIT) #2 July 18-29  
Trailblazer #3 July 25-29  
Summer Families #5 July 25-Aug 1

### **August**

Senior High Aug 1-6  
Summer Families #6 Aug 1-8  
Summer Families #7 Aug 8-13  
Pastors & Ministry Staff Aug 23-26  
Solid Rock Orientation Aug 23-25  
Solid Rock BWCA Trip Aug 26-Sep 2



## KIDS LOVE CAMP.

From fresh-faced kindergarten graduates to pumped up high school students, young people across Minnesota and beyond discover and enjoy Camp's amazing array of experiences. Camp Lebanon's upbeat and fun Christian environment is designed to give kids and teens the time of their lives while helping them grow and develop physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Our team is committed to providing a complete youth summer camp experience.

## KIDS NEED CAMP.

More than ever, children and teens need a place like Camp Lebanon, with its beautiful lakeside setting and super fun programming. For one thing, **kids need to play** in God's great outdoors and away from their screens. Youth also need to **interact** in person with other kids their age as well as with caring leaders. And even more, **kids need to discover God's truths** about life, love, and true happiness.

## Theme for this summer

### "A Mighty Savior"

June 13-17 – **Super Kids 1 (3-6)**

June 20-25 – **Junior High 1 (7-9)**

July 6-8 – **Adventurers (1-3)**

July 11-16 – **Junior High 2 (7-9)**

July 18-22 – **Super Kids 2 (3-6)**

July 25-30 – **Senior High (10-grads)**

August 1-5 – **Super Kids 3 (3-6)**

August 8-13 – **Junior High 3 (7-9)**

August 15-19 – **Super Kids 4 (3-6)**

# Missionary Update

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## Cru is a community - passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ.

Our purpose is helping to fulfill the Great Commission in the power of the Holy Spirit by winning people to faith in Jesus Christ, building them in their faith and sending them to win and build others.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cru is a ministry reaching out to college students around the country. Two of the young missionaries Community Covenant supports are serving with Cru.

Jenny Johnson spent her middle school and high school years attending community covenant church, she was actively involved in confirmation classes, church plays and was nurtured by our church family. She went off to college, fell in love, married and went into ministry with Cru. Ok, that is the short version, but we want to give you an update for how she is serving now.

**Adam & Jenny Roub**, career missionaries, are now working full time with college students in northern Minnesota including Duluth, Superior and Vermillion Community College in Ely.

They work with volunteers to recruit students on campus, provide resources for ministry, offer retreats, lead small and large group activities and offer a wide range of opportunities for students to grow in their faith. They are also there to meet with individuals to teach them more about Christ and His deep love for them. Adam has recently been able to re-launch EPIC at UMD, this is an Asian –American focused ministry of Cru, seeking to help Asian-Americans reach the world for Christ.

They ask for prayer for:

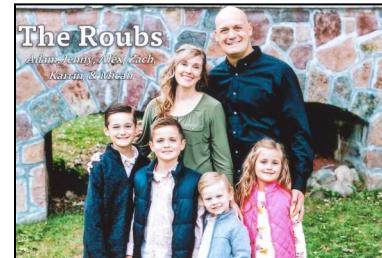
- the students and faculty of the many campuses up north that are leading and reaching out to young people on campus.
- The ministry as it navigates the challenges of Covid
- The Roub children's spiritual growth. Karrin, Micha, Zach & Alex

**Aaron Peterson** – short term missionary

Aaron Peterson was born and raised in Upsala, attended Sunday School and stayed involved through youth group. He went away to North Dakota State University and became involved in Cru through invitations from his cousin (Haley, also from CCC). Aaron is now working with Cru to help encourage other college students at NDSU and Concordia. The ministry has evolved more around small group and personal interactions as they've faced the restrictions of Covid on campus. His greatest joy in 2020 was, "seeing young men come to understand the depth of the love of Christ for them and to realize the calling He has placed on their lives as they run this with their eyes set on the cross."

Please pray for renewed mind for the leaders Aaron works with, and open minds for the students they are reaching out to.

For more detailed updates and financial support opportunities please see the bulletin board just outside the church kitchen door.



To all the students, both past and present, and their parents,

It has been a privilege to be your youth pastor! I have loved being a part of your lives, and it has been my honor to work hard at pointing you all to Christ! I pray that through this change you will learn to rely on God even more, and that you can really trust that God loves you more than any person ever will. It has been such a joy to see you grow in faith, take a stand for the name of Jesus, make commitments to follow Christ, be baptized, win and lose ball games, give it your all at track meets, overcome obstacles in life, and come through some of life's hardest struggles. I have so many fond memories of side-splitting laughter, long bus rides, cold van rides to AC, hot van rides home from MUUCE, lots of games, hanging out at the beach, meals shared together, and so many great conversations! As I look back at these past six and a half years, there are too many memories to fit into this newsletter—even if I used every page!

If I could make sure you all learned one thing from me it would be that God loved you enough to send his one and only son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life. As we've been learning in Romans lately, another act of God's love was to preserve the Bible for us to know what He desires for our lives. He knows us better than we can ever know ourselves, and he has given us his laws and commands so we can learn of his character and because he knows our deepest struggles. His commands are not a burden, but a blessing. You can trust God, even when life is hard.

All things on this earth come to an end, but we have a hope that extends beyond this life! While the number of days I have left here in Upsala are limited, I get to look forward to spending eternity with all of you who have trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior! I'm sure I'll see some of you

Your brother in Christ,

*Joshua Hodgson*

### Confirmation Weekend

The weekend of March 20 will be our annual Confirmation Retreat at Lake Beauty Bible Camp. We'll head out Saturday morning, stay overnight at camp, and return to church before the Sunday Worship Service.

We will then hold Confirmation Sunday that morning during the service.



# March is Food Shelf Month

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## Hunger Facts MINNESOTA

\*Impacted by Covid-19, data from 2020 is still being evaluated. The following information is compiled from the most complete data and projections collected and available at the time of publication.

After years of steadily declining **food insecurity** rates, it was projected that **food insecurity** in Minnesota in 2020, impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, could rise to 13%.

9% of Minnesotans had incomes below the poverty line (\$25,926 for a family of four) in 2020. This included 11% of Minnesota's children.

A record over 3.8 Million visits were made to food shelves during 2020.

More than 400,000 Minnesotans receive nutrition benefits via SNAP each month.

71% of those served by SNAP are children, seniors and people with disabilities.

Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated this, making it critical to focus on creating a more **just and equitable food system** that meets the needs of all Minnesotans.

**Food security** is "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life."

**Food insecurity** means access to adequate food is inconsistent and limited by a lack of money and other resources throughout the year. Food insecure households report their diets to be of reduced quality, variety, or desirability and/or experience disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

**Equitable access to food** means all individuals have "a voice in and access to a nourishing food system, "regardless of race, socioeconomic class, location, gender, and other social identities.

**Food justice** is the concept that communities have the right to grow, sell, and eat healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food whose production supports the well-being of the land, workers, and animals. "Food justice is based on the idea that "access to nourishing food is a basic human right.



# Children's News

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Invite your friends and neighbors!

J TEAM &  
Adventure Land  
are back in action

Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> Kick off!

Grades K-6 J Team  
Toddlers to Pre-School age Adventure Land  
at Community Covenant Church

Wednesdays 6:15 Check-in  
6:30-7:30 PM Activities

Things will look a little different this year  
with Bobber Bill not leading but  
we are looking forward to having your kids  
join us for a night of lesson, music & games!

We ask that your child wears a mask

Pastor Steve invites all adults that would like to join in a Bible Study at the Parsonage during our Wednesday night activities.