

Community Covenant Church
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It's POTATO TIME! The Jamaica Baked Potato lunch fundraiser will be Sunday, November 19 after church. Come hungry for potatoes, all the toppings, cabbage salad, and desserts.



The Revelation Bible Study dates by Nancy King are set. February 5, 12, 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25. There will be an afternoon and evening option for the study. We will be looking at the book of Revelation through a Hebrew lens.



COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH
CHRONICLES
Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN
November/December 2023

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VIP 50+ Christmas Party
Friday, December 1 at 6pm

CW Christmas Banquet
Thursday, December 7 at 5:30pm

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 10 at 10:15am

Ignite Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00pm

CW Christmas Cookie Sale
Saturday, December 16 at 8:30-11:30am

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24 at 10:00pm

Youth New Year's Lock-in
Saturday, December 30 Time TBD

Adult New Year's Party
Saturday, December 30 Time TBD

"Prayer is Dangerous"

"Whenever there is prayer, there is danger of His own immediate action." -Screwtape

During the Second World War, in a publication known as The Guardian, a series of letters appeared, written by a senior devil, who was also the undersecretary of a department of Hell, to his nephew and understudy, Wormwood. Not everyone realized that they were a tongue-in-cheek glimpse into salvation and discipleship from the point of view of two devils charged with preventing a commitment to Jesus. C.S. Lewis, who penned "The Screwtape Letters," took some heat for the articles and the little book which resulted. Since then, however, his insights have been appreciated by many.

In Letter IV, Screwtape takes up the topic of prayer with his not-so-bright nephew and makes the comment which appears in the quote above. The danger in prayer, as far as the underworld is concerned, is that God might act, and do it right away. If you read the Gospel of Mark, you will see that God does act, and often right away. The word "immediately" shows up seventeen times in fourteen chapters.

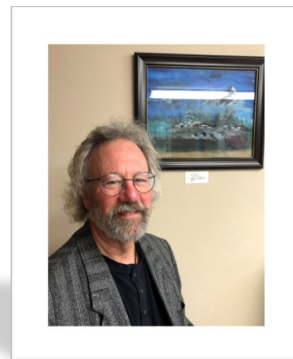
At the recent Pastor and Spouse retreat in Cohasset, I asked a colleague to pray for a pain I was experiencing. Dan has had great success in praying for the healing of others and often is told by the Holy Spirit what is wrong with someone (although the person usually needs to come forward and say, "Yes, that is me".) As Dan prayed, he asked me if I felt any better yet. I thought, "What? Already?" He expected something to happen right away, which made me realize, I could expect something right away too.

God does not always act so quickly. Sometimes other things need to happen first in us, in another person, in the circumstances. But prayer kicks it off. Every prayer kicks off something. Every prayer endangers the schemes of the devils and messes with the realm below. Which is an excellent reason to pray. With the eyes of faith, we "see" the chaos and consternation among the minions of the Adversary. Satan's strategy, then, is to distract us from praying, or dilute our praying, or steer us into the belief that we are not effective when we pray. But we are effective, as almost every Christian can attest. Right away or later, God acts in response to the prayers of His children. Every prayer is answered in some way.

One other thought from Lewis. We often think of Satan as God's rival. Lewis says that is not right. God has no rival. Satan, a created being, is more properly the counterpart of the archangel Michael. In Revelation 12 we can read how Satan loses the contest between the two of them. Remembering this may encourage us to pray more and see more "winning" answers. And in case you were wondering, Screwtape and Wormwood happily [for the Christian world] fail in their mission to prevent faith in their "patient."

Prayer is dangerous. More for the other side than for ours.

PS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 VIP 50+ Christmas food & game night from 6-10pm	2 LBBC Lutefisk, lefse, & meatball Dinner
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	4 8 PM Men's Bible Study	5	6 6 PM Meal 6:20 J Team & Adventure Land 6:30 PM Ignite	7 CW Christmas Gathering 5:30 PM Social Time 6 Catered Meal 7 PM One Starry Night by Toni Schwabe	8	9 1 PM Kid's Christmas Program Practice
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship Children's Christmas Program	11	12 7 PM Properties Team Meeting	13 6 PM Meal 6:20 J Team & Adventure Land 6:00 Ignite Christmas Party	14	15 Jan/Feb Newsletter Deadline	16 8:00-11:30 AM Covenant Women Cookie Sale
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/Communion	18 8 PM Men's Bible Study	19	20 6 PM Meal 6:20 J Team & Adventure Land 6:30 PM Ignite	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent NO Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 10 PM Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27 No Events	28	29	30 Ignite New Year's Lock in Adult Team New Year's Eve Party
31 New Year's Eve						

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 PM Meal 6:20 J Team & Adventure Land 6:30 PM Ignite	2	3	4 
5 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	6 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	7 <i>Election Day</i>	8 10 AM Global Mission Meeting 6:00 PM Meal 6:20 J Team & Adventure Land 6:30 PM Ignite	9 6 PM CW Weaving Class	10	11
12 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 Worship with Communion 12:00 PM Youth Parent Meeting-Unite	13	14 7 PM CW Meeting 7 PM Properties Team Meeting	15 <i>Operation Christmas boxes are due</i> 6:00 PM Meal 6:20 J Team & Adventure Land 6:30 PM Ignite	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship JMT Potato Bake	20 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	21	22 No Events	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving Day</i>	24	25 10:00 AM Christmas Decorating at church
26 NO Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	27	28	29 6:00 PM Meal 6:20 J Team & Adventure Land 6:30 PM Ignite	30		

Office Talk

<p>Office Hours</p> <p>Monday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tuesday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Wednesday 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM</p> <p>122 S. Main Street PO Box 278 Upsala, MN 56384 320-573-2672 covenant@upsalacov.org www.upsalacov.org</p> <p>Evangelical Covenant Church www.covchurch.org</p>	<p>November Worship Servers</p> <p>Ushers: Ken & Molly Abrahamson</p> <p>Nursery Workers: 5 Linda Piasecki & Trygg Aleckson 12 Richard Blonigen & Matthew V. 19 Cheryl Warga & Evie Aleckson 26 Karen Hoffman & Isabella Warga</p> <p>Prayer 5 Pastor Steve 12 Sandi Soderberg 19 Steve Woller 26 Ken Olson</p> <p>Scripture Deb Schneider Lucy Aleckson Cyd Woller Sheila Brezinka</p>	<p>December Worship Servers</p> <p>Ushers: Jim & Sam Warga</p> <p>Nursery Workers: 3 Jesse Aleckson & Karen Hoffman 10 No Nursery - Christmas Program 17 Tim Peterson & Benjamin V 24 Linda Piasecki & Lucy Aleckson 31 Elizabeth & Matthew Vandergon</p> <p>Prayer 3 Pastor Steve 10 Wanda Erickson 17 Dan Voronyak 24 Anne Weihsmann 31 Leif Johnson</p> <p>Scripture Trygg Aleckson Tanya Olson Wendy V Betty Olson Suzi Johnson</p>
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Staying Connected

We send out a Sunday bulletin and Bi-Monthly Newsletter via email. If you aren't receiving them call or send us an email with your contact information. 320-573-2672, covenant@upsalacov.org

Publication Deadlines:

Sunday bulletin: 10pm Wednesday
 Monthly newsletter: 15th of February, April, June, August, October, & December

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 - Benjamin Vandergon
- 5 - Keaton Koopmeiners
- 6 - Cheryl Warga, Bob Lemonds, Delroy Pundsack
- 9 - Caleb Hollenbeck, Tirzah Van Sloten
- 11 - Hannah Hoffman
- 15 - Sara Hoffman
- 18 - Josh Knudtson
- 19 - Delroy & Susan Pundsack
- 20 - Jean Johnson
- 20 - Dan & Wendy Voronyak
- 21 - Leif & Suzi Johnson
- 22 - Betty Olson
- 22 - Tim & Jean Johnson
- 23 - Linda Piasecki
- 26 - Sharon Johnson, Jon Mellberg
- 26 - Larry & Christina Shodeen
- 27 - Quinn Guthrie, Caleb Guthrie
- 29 - Amara Van Sloten

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Matt & Deb Schneider
- 4 - Lori Sutton
- 5 - Samantha Warga, Steve & Cyd Woller
- 6 - Bill Krivanek
- 7 - Shane Hollenbeck
- 8 - Brooklyn Pangrac
- 10 - Lucy Aleckson
- 11 - Trent & Elizabeth Vandergon
- 12 - Cody VanSloten, Anne Weihsmann
- 12 - Scott & Tammie Taylor
- 13 - Joyce Larson
- 14 - Marlene Soltis
- 16 - Mike Peterson
- 18 - Rudy King, Noah Pundsack
- 20 - Isaiah Eichten-Folsum
- 20 - Ken & Molly Abrahamson
- 21 - Aaron Peterson, Isaac Hoffman
- 21 - Pastor Rudy & Nancy King
- 23 - Anna Eichers
- 26 - Tyler Wolbeck
- 31 - Richard & Laura Blonigen

IGNITE had a great summer, meeting most Wednesday nights at different peoples' houses. It was a great time of fun and fellowship for our students. We kicked off the new school year with a really fun night of mini golf around the entire church.



During our Wednesday night lesson times we started by learning what it meant to be Christians who were ready, equipped, and willing to go out and share our faith, based on 1 Peter 3:15. We then moved on to a series on "How God Speaks To Us." This has been a good series for our students to understand that God really does to this day communicate with us.



We also had 11 students participate in the national day of student prayer called "See You At The Pole." It was great to see the students stepping out in their faith to pray for their school.

As always I highly encourage anyone with a student in IGNITE to join our Remind text chain



Want to stay updated on IGNITE announcements?

For Texts

Enter this number
81010 ?

Text this message
@igniteccc ?

For Emails

Send an email to
zach@upsalacov.org



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are due by November 15. Please bring your boxes to church and leave them on the table in the entry area. Empty shoe boxes for you to fill and brochures are on that table as well. Please note: Dozens of new Beanie Babies are available at the table too.

Operation Christmas Child delivered its 200 millionth box last Christmas!!!

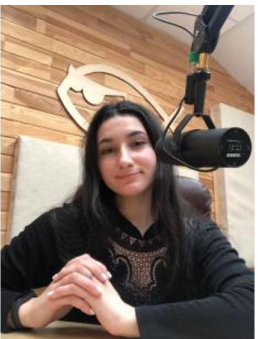
Decide on a boy or girl and an age for your box and put the label on the lid of the box. Fill it with non-perishable and non-liquid items. School supplies, toys, balls, stuffed animals, etc. are great gifts. The brochure has some ideas for gifts. Remember that these go to children for whom this could be the only gift they have ever gotten. They are also most of the time from third world countries. Along with receiving the box of gifts the children will have opportunity to hear about how much Jesus loves them. There are many stories of how this one box changed their life forever because of their following Jesus from then on.

Last year we sent 58 boxes! We hope to send at least that many again this year.

If you have questions, or need boxes contact Nancy King. If you can't fill a box yourself but would like to donate a few items for a box, just bring those items to church and place them in the box on the Operation Christmas Child table in the entry. If you would like to just donate money to be used to fill boxes you can write a check to Community Covenant Church and mark Operation Christmas Child in the Memo.



Thank you to everyone who donated towards the KICY and New Life Radio stations in September & October. We collected \$871.00. It will be divided between the two stations. KICY is a lifeline for Alaska as well as for Russia with the Word of God. New Life Radio is a lifeline for many countries including Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Europe, Slavic countries, and basically anywhere in the world! Pray for safety for everyone, especially for the staff and New Life Radio located in Ukraine.



Colin Welch, our missionary to France

Colin started French language school in September. Please pray for him as he learns the language and makes connections with artists and churches in Paris. They have a new group of six that will be part of the team. Pray for good bonding between them.

A note from Colin: The French church is hungry for growth, revival, and change. Jesus is often associated with religion and religion is seen as taboo. There is a great cultural faux pas in speaking of religion due to the history, laws, and current spiritual climate. Yet, that has not stopped the people of God in France. The French Christians I have met here are some of the most zealous and eager followers of Christ. Though their numbers are small, with only 1.2% of the population claiming to be evangelical, they are fervently praying for a spiritual revival in this land, and are working tirelessly to pursue the Father and His leading.

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Before I arrived, I was told that France has been nicknamed “the graveyard for missions.” As I continue to dive deeper into the culture, meet new people, and further invest in life and ministry, I am struck with the reality of this statement. There are not many people who have come to share the good news. In fact, there are even fewer people here to specifically minister to the French, often seeing more fruit when ministering to expats and immigrant people groups. This has left a huge void in ministry to the French, and I continually meet local pastors who are desperate to find more people willing to work alongside them.

Ben & Jeanette Gerth, our missionaries to Tanzania

Please pray for Ben & Jeanette and their family. Ben continues to do translation work with two language teams in Tanzania: the Ngoreme and the Isenye. Pray for continued success in translating the New Testament in these languages.

- Over MEA Weekend we took 10 students to Bluewater Bible Camp to connect with 9 other Covenant church youth groups for a fall retreat. It was a great time to be with other teenagers who all want to grow deeper in their faith.
- This winter we will be having a few times of The After Half which is a hang out time after a home basketball game. Dates and times will come out soon.
- This winter (Feb. 16-19) we will be going on a retreat up to Adventurous Christians Camp for a weekend in God’s nature to connect with Him. More information to follow.
- UNITE (fka CHIC) is BACK! This upcoming summer we have the opportunity to go to the UNITE Conference that is put on by the Covenant Denomination. The dates for this will be July 15-19, 2024. It will be for any student currently in 8th–12th grade. Our Northwest Conference will be going to Bowling Green University in Ohio. I am hoping to have a parent meeting in November to start the process of registration and fundraising.





One Starry Night by Toni Schwabe

Thursday, December 7

Social Time: 5:30 pm

Meal: 6 - 6:45 pm

Choice of Chicken Breast

or BBQ Ribs

Green Beans

Baby Red Potatoes

Cole Slaw

Dinner roll

Decadent Desserts

Concert at 7:00 pm

Community Covenant Church

122 Main Street Upsala, MN

ALL ladies of Community Covenant Church and their guests are cordially invited to the 29th annual Christmas Banquet - One Starry Night. The banquet is traditionally held the first Thursday of December as Thursday was the day Covenant Women held their monthly meeting in the early years. This year we will gather on Thursday, December 7. Gathering time begins at 5:30 p.m. with supper at 6 p.m. Our program will begin at 7 p.m.

D'Lish from Freeport will cater a delicious meal. CW Team will provide a decadent dessert. The meal is FREE with donation envelopes at each table; we just need registration with meat choice. Sign up will start Sunday Nov. 12.

Our program will begin with a traditional carol sing and a message brought by Toni Schwabe. Toni says, "I have been part of women's lives for 40 years. Until I was called into seminary in 2007 I was happy hanging with and teaching women. But then life changed abruptly and soon I was graduating, being ordained in the Covenant Church and being pastor to a lovely church in Lino Lakes, MN. My heart is still there for women. I am also a mom, a grandma and a friend. My hobbies are limited to walking, some biking but mostly grandma duty with a busy kindergartner and 16 year old. And I love every minute of it!"



15th annual Christmas Cookies By The Pound

Join Covenant Women in presenting one of the most anticipated events of our year - the Christmas cookie sale! The sale will be Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 8:00-11:30 a.m. Cookies are \$11 per pound. Specialty items - lefsa, spritz, and prepackaged trays - are available for preorder by calling church at 320.573.2672.

Fresh warm caramel rolls and coffee will also be available for eating in or taking out. Prepackaged trays perfect for gift giving will be available, also. Bring a friend to enjoy this wonderful morning.



Community Covenant Women: please consider cookies, candies, or breads that you can donate for sale that day. Your batch of cookies, seemingly a small thing, will help in a BIG way! This sale raises funds that bless our church missionaries with a Christmas present! A sign up will be available the first Sunday in November.



Individual cookies & bars will be \$11/pound.

Prepackaged trays perfect for gift giving will be available.

Thanks to Thrivent and to ElmDale Creamery for their generous donations in support of this event. Funds raised will support CW missions including youth, local and International missions.

For more information about Covenant Women or any of the events they sponsor, please contact Karen Hoffman, Wanda Erickson, Nancy King, Tanya Olson, Linda Pepin, Chris Shodeen or Cyd Woller.