

Community Covenant Church  
 122 S Main Street  
 PO Box 278  
 Upsala, MN 56384

Phone: 320-573-2672

Email: covenant@upsalacov.org  
 www.upsalacov.org

Pastor Steve Weihsmann  
 Senior Pastor  
 blackandchrome@gmail.com  
 (218) 428-8010

Zach Klein  
 Youth Ministries  
 zach@upsalacov.org  
 (763) 242-7237

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH  
**CHRONICLES**

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

**March/April 2023**

**2022  
2023** **J TEAM**



Wednesdays  
 6:00–7:35 PM  
 (6:00 Supper)

Grades K–6 at Community Covenant Church

**FEBRUARY**

**22 ASH WEDNESDAY (No J Team)**



**MARCH**

**1 CRAZY SOCKS**

Put on the craziest socks you own!



**8 INVENTION NIGHT**

Make something fun, useful or crazy!

**15 EVERYONE'S BIRTHDAY!**

Wear as many different colors as you can!



**22 MINIATURES NIGHT**

Bring a mini of something BIG!



**29 VARIETY SHOW!**

Bring a song, dance, joke, or skit to perform.  
 It's also CAMP NIGHT! Parents welcome!!

**APRIL**

**5 RESURRECTION RECESS**

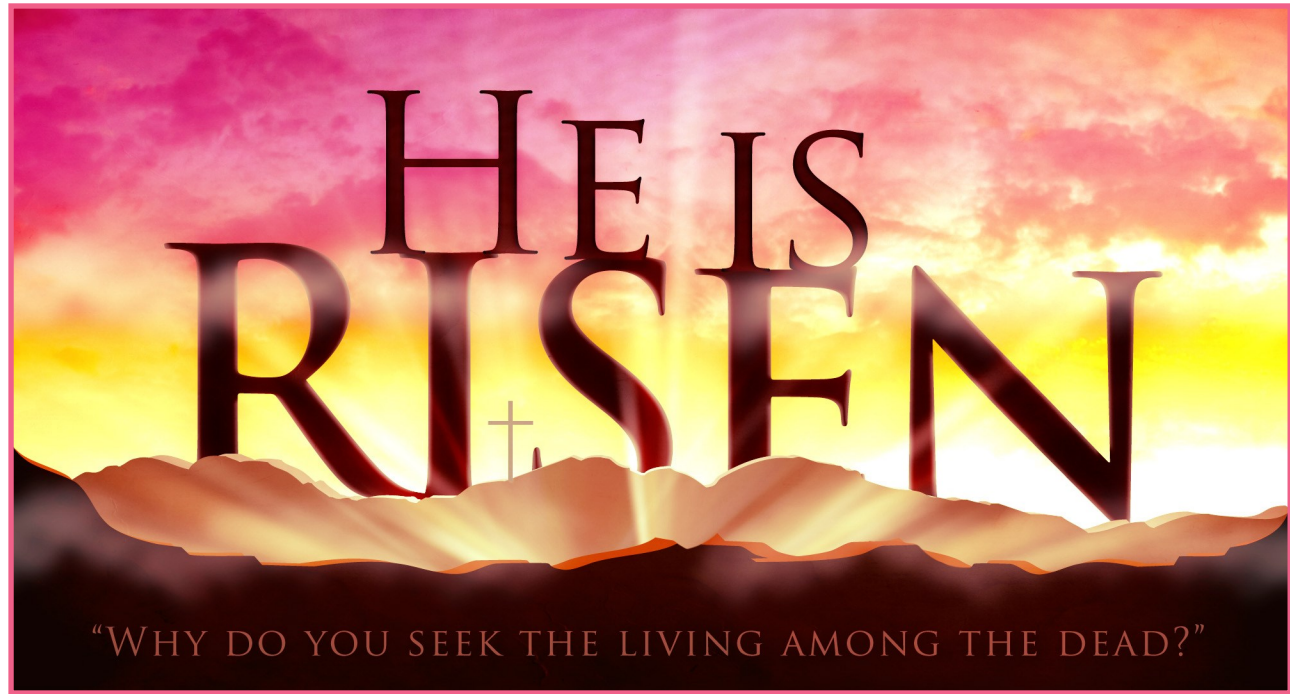
Check your church. Maundy Thursday. Good Friday. Resurrection Sunday.

J TEAM will be cancelled if there is no school or if school closes early due to weather.



**Family Camping Weekend  
 at  
 Lake Beauty Bible Camp  
 July 13-16**

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



**What's Inside?**

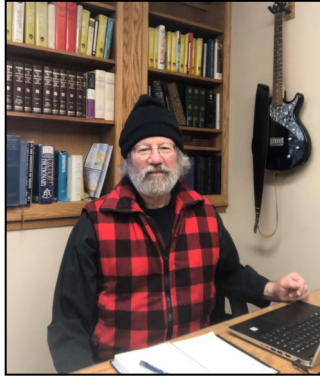
- 2..... From Pastor Steve's Desk
- 3..... Office Talk
- 3..... Worship Server Schedule
- 3..... Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4-5.... Youth News
- 6-7.... Missionary Update
- 8..... News to know
- 9..... Camp News
- 10..... .March Calendar
- 11..... April Calendar
- 12..... J Team & Family Camp info

**Easter Services at Community**

**Sunday, April 2**  
 10:15am Palm Sunday Service

**Thursday, April 6**  
 7pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

**Sunday, April 9**  
 8:30am Easter Sunrise Service  
 9:00am Easter Breakfast  
 10:15am Easter Worship Service



## "MISCONCEPTIONS"

As most of you know by now, I cleaned out the chute to my snowblower awhile back and did a wonderful job of injuring my finger. God has been kind to me. The finger is intact, though the bone in the tip was fractured and smashed. I will only need to do that once.

It happened because of some misconceptions under which I was laboring:

1. When you let go of the controls at the handle, everything stops. Actually, the auger and the spinning thing which throws the snow up the chute keep going due to Newton's Second Law of Motion...a body in motion stays in motion until acted upon by an outside force (in this case friction). The spinning thing was still

going like crazy when I tried to clear snow.

2. The spinning thing is too far down in the machine to contact your hand. Actually, it is right near the top of the chute. It contacts your hand very easily.

3. Shutting off the machine and using a poke stick is unnecessary and real men do not do it. Actually, it is very necessary and while real men may frown on it, smart men do it.

4. If you are in a hurry, it is fine to take shortcuts. Actually, you save a lot of time later and have fewer trips to the doctor if you take time in the moment to be safe.


It was Delores Hoffman, coming out of church one Sunday and seeing my finger all wrapped up, who asked, "What is it with men?!" Well, that would take too long to answer in a newsletter article, but an approximate summation would be: "We do not always apprehend the true nature of our circumstances." Or shorter, "We labor under misconceptions." Or even shorter, "We are foolish." This, of course, does not take into account all the technical explanations and data tables which can be produced in support of the statements.

The Book of Proverbs bypasses technical explanations and data tables, but it is devoted to helping foolish people become wise. What is written there is common sense. It pays to listen to it. The "fool" in Hebrews thought is the person who refuses to learn, either from counsel or mistakes. Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel." I don't know if anyone ever counseled me about snowblowers, but experience certainly has. I now have put to rest the misconceptions about them and can enjoy new found wisdom. I hope we can all do the same in our Christian lives, and so stay spiritually safe. Search the Scriptures if you are unsure of something you propose to do, or seek out mature Christian friends for counsel. Avoid the embarrassment of costly mistakes.

If you look at the photo in this month's article, you will see that, in my embarrassment, my injured hand is hidden under my desk...

PS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 6 PM CLG	3 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	4	5	6 7 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service	7 <i>Good Friday</i> Good Friday service at Community Country Church	8
9 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:30 AM Sunrise Service 9 AM Easter Breakfast NO SS 10:15 AM Worship	10 8 PM Men's Bible Study	11 7:00 PM Properties Team Meeting	12 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	13 May/June Newsletter Deadline	14	15 10am Brunch @ Tutti Fruitti
16 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 11:45 AM CW Lunch & Craft 6 PM CLG	17	18	19 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	20 7:30 pm Leadership Team meeting	21 6:00 PM Family Game Night	22 Lake Beauty Clean up Day
23 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	24 8 PM Men's Bible Study	25	26 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	27	28	29 Northwest Conference At Bemidji Covenant
30 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	2  7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	3	4
5  9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Jamaica Potato Bake 6 PM CLG	6  7 PM Women's Bible Study	7  7 PM Worship Team	8  6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	9  6:30 PM Congregational Care Team Meeting	10	11  Remember to Turn Your Clocks Forward tonight 
12  9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship  6 PM CLG	13  7 PM Women's Bible Study  8 PM Men's Bible Study	14  7 PM Properties Team Meeting	15  6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	16	17  Confirmation Retreat at LBBC  6:00 PM Family Game Night	18  Rural Ministry Conference in Alexandria
19  return 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 6 PM CLG	20  7 PM Women's Bible Study	21	22  6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	23  7 PM CW meeting	24  NWC Women Ministries Renewal at Riverwood Covenant-Rockford	25
26  9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 6 PM CLG	27  7 PM Women's Bible Study  8 PM Men's Bible Study	28	29  6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	30	31	

<p><b>Office Hours</b></p> <p>Monday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM          Tuesday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM          Wednesday 8:00 AM -12:00 PM          Thursday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM          Friday 8:00 AM -12:00 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><b>March Worship Servers</b></p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Leif &amp; Suzi Johnson</p> <p><b>Nursery Workers</b></p> <p>5. Cheryl Warga &amp; Lucy Aleckson          12. Jesse Aleckson &amp; Benjamin V          19. Richard Blonigen &amp; Trygg Aleckson          26. Elizabeth V. &amp; Evie Aleckson</p> <p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>5. Rudy King          12. Pastor Steve          19. Ken Olson          26. Leif Johnson</p> <p><b>Scripture</b></p> <p>Michelle Aleckson          Anders Aleckson          Betty Olson          Suzi Johnson</p>	<p><b>April Worship Servers</b></p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Ken &amp; Molly Abrahamson</p> <p><b>Nursery Workers</b></p> <p>2. Michelle Aleckson &amp; Bella Warga          9. Karen Hoffman &amp; Nora Hollermann          16. Tim Peterson &amp; Evie Aleckson          23. Laura Blonigen &amp; Lucy Aleckson          30. Elizabeth V &amp; Benjamin V</p> <p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>2. Pastor Steve          9. Anne Weihsmann          16. Sandi Soderberg          23. Jonah Anderson          30. Wanda Erickson</p> <p><b>Scripture</b></p> <p>Robin Block          Sheila Brezinka          Tina Yorek          Hannah Haas          Lucy Aleckson</p>
--	---	--

**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
- 8 - Richard Blonigen
- 13 - Dennis & Susie Olson
- 15 - John & Marilyn Woldstad
- 17 - Josie Phillippi
- 18 - Bill Abeler, Deb Schneider
- 20 - Dan & Patty Groetsch
- 23 - Nora Eichers
- 24 - Isabelle Klug
- 31 - Tim Peterson

**April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 3 - Natalee Hoffman, Peg Peter
- 6 - Isabella Warga
- 6 - *Isaiah & Gillian Pundsack*
- 9 - Melinda Hollenbeck  
*Ken & Betty Olson*
- 13 - Sue Aleckson, Harrison Van Sloten
- 16 - Emmett Warga
- 18 - Axel Johnson
- 20 - Dan Groetsch, Tina Yorek
- 22 - Micah Hollenbeck
- 25 - Amber Koopmeiners
- 27 - Michelle Aleckson, Dustin Hollermann  
*Bill & Lisa Abeler*
- 28 - Michael Pangrac, Nick Klug
- 29 - Nora Hollermann





Hello Everyone!

I have been thinking about the church a lot recently. Not just our specific church here, but the church as a whole. I start to think about what the church is supposed to be and it's purpose. What I come to the conclusion of is that the church's main purpose is to be a place for people with all types of gifts and abilities, to come together in need of a savior. We come together as a body of believers to support each other, fellowship with each other, and worship together, knowing that we can't and are not supposed to do the Christian life alone, but in community. This is something we are going to be discussing further in Ignite in the spring.

- Pastor Zach



### IGNITE Student Ministry

Wednesday from 6:30—8:30pm

### Confirmation & Sr. High Sunday School

Sundays from 9:00-10:00am

Youth Room & Prayer Room

This has been a very busy time in the life of Ignite Youth. We have been doing a lot of very fun events and just created time and spaces for students to be together.

We had 2 nights of doing The After Half, which is a hang out time for the students after basketball games. One of the nights we played laser tag, provided by Lake Beauty, and we also had a glow in the dark diaper wars. These were very fun and will continue next year.

The Super Bowl just happened and it was really fun to have a bunch of our students and the Solid Rock School of Discipleship students together to watch the Super Bowl in the Youth Room. Congratulations to everyone for participating in the predictions contest, but this year it was ultimately won by me (Zach) who only got 2 predictions wrong out of 12.



If we are to answer the question, "Who Am I?" it should begin with the fact that we are God's precious beings, almost like a photo to be cherished.

This summer, we are embarking on a passage within 1 Peter describing how we live transformed lives. We are to be confident that we shall be holy because God himself is holy. We are to grow in our walk, our sanctification, and his holiness. As we grow closer and closer to God, we grow more and more sanctified, or set apart, but it is not something we can do alone. Our story and identity should revolve around God, and if that's the case, we will be able to see snippets of his transformational work.

**Early Bird Discount** when you register **online before April 4**

[Call the office for more information on Camp Scholarships— available for either camp](#)



### **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.



### **June**

Summer Staff Training	May 30-Jun 10
Junior High #1	June 11-16
Leaders in Training (LIT) #1	June 11-22
Trailblazer #1	June 18-22
Trailblazer #2	June 25-29

### **July**

4 <sup>th</sup> of July Family Camp	Jun 30-July 3 Fr-M
Frontier Kids-All Districts	July 5-7 Wed-Fri
Junior High #2	July 9-14
Summer Family Weekend 1	July 13-16 Th-Su
Leaders in Training (LIT) #2	July 9-20
Trailblazer #3	July 16-20
Summer Family Weekend 2	July 20-23 Th-Su

### **August**

Senior High	Jul 30-Aug 4
Pastors & Ministry Staff	Aug 17-19 Thu-Sat
Solid Rock Orientation	Aug 26-Sep 1



- June 11-15 - **Super Kids 1 (3-6)**
- June 18-23 - **Junior High 1 (7-9)**
- June 25-27 - **Adventurers (1-3)**
- July 9-14 - **Junior High 2 (7-9)**
- July 16-20 - **Super Kids 2 (3-6)**
- July 23-28 - **Senior High (10-grads)**
- July 30-August 3 - **Super Kids 3 (3-6)**
- August 6-11 - **Junior High 3 (7-9)**
- August 13-17 - **Super Kids 4 (3-6)**
- October 13-15 - **Fall Fire!**

## March is food shelf Month: Hunger Facts in Minnesota

\*Impacted by Covid-19, data from 2021 is either unavailable or still being evaluated. In 2021, the projected food insecurity rate was 8.6% in Minnesota, up from 7.7% in 2019.

1. 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.
2. 3.7 million visits were made to food shelves during 2021 in Minnesota.
3. Minnesota ranks 39th in the nation in SNAP access and 90% of SNAP recipients still experience food insecurity.
4. 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 a active, healthy life."



## CW Time of Connection Spring Renewal Conference



The Women Ministries of the Northwest Conference is having a spring conference at Riverwood Covenant Church, Rockford, on March 24 and 25. The theme is Empowered & Equipped. The quest speakers are Rev. Kara Stromberg & Dr. Donna Harris. Registrations are due by March 13 and you can register online at [WMNWC.ORG/SPRING-RENEWAL](http://WMNWC.ORG/SPRING-RENEWAL). Please contact Karen Hoffman if you want more information about this event. A sign up sheet

will be at the Information Center.

## Community Covenant Women's Spring Craft Opportunity

Sunday, April 16, after the church service, the craft project will begin after lunch (provided by CW). Debbie Schneider will host with Peggy Peter assisting. A home décor item using a 5 X 7 picture frame will be created and includes interchangeable monthly decorations. It is a small compact project suitable to be placed anywhere and adds a fun way to display each holiday in your home. The class will be limited to 25 participants to ensure enough supplies will be purchased and prepared. Cost : \$15.00. If the Sunday class does not fill up, an additional night class (no meal provided) will be added to include additional crafters up to a maximum of 25 between both classes. Signup will begin starting March 12.

## Jamaica Potato Bake

Come join us to raise funds for our Jamaica Ministries. Sunday, March 5 there will be a Baked Potato Fundraiser Luncheon.



On Wednesday nights during Ignite we have been going through a series called "Known," which focuses on where our Identity really is, which is in Christ. Emma Sagle one of our student leaders from Solid Rock School of Discipleship has been leading these teaching times and has been doing a fantastic job at pointing our students towards a relationship with and identity in Christ.



The Upsala Youth Center has been going on Thursdays after school. At this point we really only have a couple of students who come, but when they are here we have a good time and I have enjoyed getting to connect with these students a little better. We will continue to have this here at church and only on Thursdays.



### Confirmation Weekend

March 17 –19 will be our annual Confirmation Retreat at Lake Beauty Bible Camp. We'll head out Friday at 4pm, and return to church before the Sunday Church Service. More information will be coming soon!

## 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](mailto:zach@upsalacov.org)**



## Jenny & Adam Roub



This past fall we had an emphasis on our students embracing their identity as “sent ones.” They were encouraged to forego fear and the approval of others so that they could more faithfully live out God’s call and commission to “go” wherever he would send them. We have wanted to mobilize as many students as possible to take the opportunity to go to the world and experience missions for the first time. Seven practical locations were offered to go to this coming year. Students have responded.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the students who attended Fall Getaway to remember what God revealed to them at the retreat. That they would “Go” if God calls them, and that their community with others will continue to expand and that they would challenge each other to follow Christ.
- Pray for our team as we seek to establish discipleship groups for our involved students. That they would catch the vision of reaching their peers, and that God would establish their faith through these groups.
- Jenny and I agreed to lead a mission trip to Guatemala over Spring Break in partnership with an organization called Filter of Hope. We are bringing the kids, and hopefully 14 other students.
- For our family as we seek to balance ministry and home life. We long to live on mission together, while also being sure to establish and grow our kids well.

### Praise to the Lord:

- Our campus Bible studies - many are thriving and growing. Students are bringing friends.
- Thank you for helping students find a Christian family on campus to belong to.

## Operation Christmas Child Update

God did incredible things through Operation Christmas Child this past year. Over 9.3 million shoebox gifts were collected in the U.S. during National Collection Week—the most ever! Our worldwide total was over 10.5 million boxes, which included the 200 millionth shoebox packed since the project began in 1993. That special gift was lovingly placed in the hands of an 8-year-old orphan girl in Ukraine. This remarkable year wouldn't have been possible without partners like you who packed the shoeboxes. Thank you for your generosity, faithfulness, and especially for your prayers.



## PERU PROJECT AWAJUN CHURCH



Isaias Dati Family

The Awajun are a language group of 50-60,000 living in northern Peru on the border with Ecuador. The New Testament translation in Awajun was printed and distributed in 1976. Just after this an Awajun pastor, Tomas Dati, started a Bible School to train Awajun pastors. His comment was: “You (Wycliffe) have brought us God’s Word. Now it is our job to tell our people the Good News.” Tomas was a missionary to his people, traveling from village to village and organizing churches. In 1985 he founded the Association of Aguaruna Evangelical Churches. Several years after the NT publication, it was determined that a revision was necessary due to changes in the language and culture.

Tomas’ son, Isaias, was becoming active in the church by this time and was one of the committee members who worked on revision of the New Testament. Currently, Isaias is the president of the Awajun church organization and Director of the translation program.

Following is a typical list of topics covered in a pastoral workshop: 1) History of Salvation, 2) Language, 3) Orthography, 4) Acts, 5) Intro to NT, 6) Methods of Bible Study, 7) Sunday School, 8) First Aid. Isaias is also part of a music group that is very popular. The group travels in the area doing music programs.



Recording New Hymns

The translation team has translated various hymns as well as written many of their own. For the past year Isaias has been overseeing the construction of a center where Church leaders and pastors can meet regularly to conduct workshops and share problems and ideas. The vision of Tomas and now that of Isaias is to serve all of the evangelical churches and not just those of the formal Awajun church. The choruses, hymns, and Sunday School materials they develop are available to all who want to use them.



Workshop Session