

Community Covenant Church
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Community Covenant Church **CHRONICLES**

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

July/August 2023



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From the Pastor's Desk

FIRST FISH

Her name was Emily, and she was six years old. Her family was spending the weekend on retreat at a Bible camp in northern Minnesota. There was a compost pile and so there were worms. There was a fishing pole and so...

Someone put the worm on the hook for her amid lots of comments about the worm. And showed her how to push the line release with her thumb and let the release up so the hook, worm, and bobber landed in the water. She was standing on a dock and a school of sunfish was watching the proceedings with great anticipation. These particular sunfish were adept at stealing the bait.



The rest happened pretty fast. There was a splash, and instantly there was a sunfish, bigger than all the rest, swimming in all directions at once, wondering why it could not swallow the bait. Emily was holding on for dear life, wild shrieks coming out of her mouth and all her concentration centered on that fish. After a few fiercely intense moments, calm prevailed. The fish was landed, unhooked, and ceremoniously placed in a bucket of lake water.

Her father, who had been packing the motorcoach, was the first outside the immediate gathering to hear of her good fortune. "How did you do it?" he inquired. "I really don't know," she replied. She was telling the truth.

Emily returned to the Arena of Excitement a few minutes later and landed another equally wonderful sunfish. For many days after the BIG DAY, she pressed her father to take her fishing. Can you blame her?

Some folks meet God the way Emily met her fish: in an exhilarating rush of furious excitement. They don't know how it happened. But there is evidence "in the bucket" to know it is real. They want to keep meeting with God too, over and over. And He is always willing to oblige.

Pastor Steve

(taken from Backward Glances: Faith Through a Rearview Mirror)

August 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 6:00 PM Summer Youth @ Tim & Patty Peterson's | 3 1pm Cribbage | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:30 AM Worship | 7 Vacation Bible School 5:45-7:30 PM | 8 7:00 PM Properties Team | 9 | 10 1pm Cribbage | 11 MUUUCE | 12 Heritage Days Parade at 4 pm |
| 13 9:30 AM Worship | 14 6:30pm CW Time of Connection on Pine Lake 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 15 7:00 PM CW Meeting | 16 6:00 PM Summer Youth @ Arlene Warga's | 17 1pm Cribbage | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:30 AM Worship with communion | 21 | 22 7:00 PM Worship Team Meeting | 23 6:30 PM Summer Youth @ Steve & Anne Weihsmann's | 24 1pm Cribbage | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9:30 AM Worship | 28 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 29 | 30 | 31 1pm Cribbage | | |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|-----|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:30 AM Worship with Hymn Sing | 3 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 4  | 5 10am God's Girls Bible Study 6:30 PM Summer Youth @ Paul & Susie Ripplinger | 6 1pm Cribbage | 7 | 8 12pm- Conceal & Carry Class |
| 9 9:30 AM Worship | 10 | 11 7 PM Properties Team Meeting | 12 10am God's Girls Bible Study 6:30 PM Summer Youth @ Dan & Wendy Voronyak's | 13 1pm Cribbage | 14 | 15 Family Camping Weekend @ LBBC |
| 16 10:00 AM Worship @ LBBC Noon lunch at LBBC | 17 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 18 | 19 10am God's Girls Bible Study 6 PM All Women's Mixer @ Jordies 6:30 PM Summer Youth @ Tim & Patty | 20 1pm Cribbage | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:30 AM Worship with communion | 24 | 25 | 26 10am God's Girls Bible Study 6:30 PM Summer Youth @ Cedar Lake | 27 1pm Cribbage | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:30 AM Worship | 31 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | | | | | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Office Hours</p> <p>Monday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM Tuesday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM Wednesday 8:00 AM -12:00 PM Thursday 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>July Worship Servers</p> <p>Ushers: Dan & Wendy Voronyak</p> <p>Nursery Workers</p> <p>2. Jesse Aleckson & Nora Hollermann 9. Richard Blonigen & Evie Aleckson 16. Church @ LBBC (no nursery) 23. Cheryl Warga & Lucy Aleckson 30. Michelle A & Benjamin Vandergon</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>2. Wendy Voronyak 9. Paster Steve 16. Bill Krivanek 23. Anne Weihsmann 30. Dan Voronyak</p> <p>Scripture</p> <p>Robin Block Josie Hollermann Tanya Olson Tucker Hollermann Nora Hollermann</p> | <p>August Worship Servers</p> <p>Ushers: Mike & Mary Jo Peterson</p> <p>Nursery Workers</p> <p>6. Karen Hoffman & Trygg Aleckson 13. Tim Peterson & Nora Hollermann 20. Elizabeth Vandergon & Bella Warga 27. Jesse Aleckson & Evie Aleckson</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>6. Pastor Steve 13. Sandi Soderberg 20. Phil Johnson 27. Wanda Erickson</p> <p>Scripture</p> <p>Karen Hoffman Dave Pi Betty Olson Randy Pepin</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 Thursday
 Monthly Newsletter:
 15th of February, April, June, October, December

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 - Finn Knudtson
- 6 - Roger Johnson
- 8 - Lana Bartells, Trent Vandergon, Tucker Hollermann
- 10 - Steve Johnson, Christina Shodeen
- 11 - Suzette Guthrie, Cameron Van Sloten
- 12 - Leif Johnson, Jesse Aleckson
- 15 - Pam Lemonds, Larry Shodeen
- 16 - Angela Hollermann
- 17 - Roger Aleckson
- 18 - Cody & Tirzah Van Sloten
- 19 - Brooke Knudtson
- 21 - Mary Jo Peterson
- 22 - Connor Hoffman
- 24 - Pete Edin
- 25 - Eldon Soderberg
- 26 - Tanya Olson
- 28 - Dwayne Pundsack
- 29 - Dave Holmen
- 31- Ron & Annette Guthrie

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Ginny Koopmeiners, Dave & Linda Piasecki
- 5 - Mike & Mary Jo Peterson
- 6 - Shirley Holmen, Dean & Jeanne Peterson
- 7 - Wanda Erickson
- 8 - Ryan & Sarah Thomas, Kirt & Tanya Olson
- 12 - Owen Klug, Jackson Weihsmann
- 13 - Ryan Thomas
- 14 - Paulie Panek
- 15 - Ruby Klug
- 16 - Conner Koopmeiners
- 17 - Diane Brezinka
- 18 - Sharen Gaebel
- 21 - Eleanor Johnson
- 23 - Susan Pundsack, Isaac & Sara Hoffman
- 27 - Isaiah Pundsack, Andrew Vandergon

- 28 - Paul Ripplinger Sr., Abigail Hoffman
- 29 - Natasha Crowe
- 30- Randy & Linda Pepin



Hello Everyone!

Summer is here and we are off and running. It has been great to still be getting together with our Ignite students throughout the summer to maintain the momentum we have created during the school year.

Speaking of the school year we finished off this year strong with the 1st ever IGNITE OLYMPICS! This was a great night filled with fun and silly events that students competed together in their small groups. In the end the high school girls small group, who wanted to represent the country of Chad, took home the gold medals.

To start our summer we had the second annual WifflePalooza, where we got together with the Country Church from Holdingford and the Avon Community Church in Avon. After several games our youth came away with the win and now will hold the trophy for the next year and try to defend it next year. It was a great time.

This summer we have a nice full schedule of weekly get togethers in different locations, which will be a lot of fun and you can see that schedule on the other page.

*One staple event every summer for Jr. High Students is MUUUCE, which will be happening August 10-12th. MUUUCE stands for the Most Unbelievable, Ultimate, Urban(ish) Camping Experience. This incredible event is designed specifically with Northwest Conference middle schoolers in mind. It's three days of crazy middle school fun, woven with worship experiences, challenging talks, and small group conversations! It's a great way to kick off the fall ministry season. MUUUCE is a ministry of the Northwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. The cost is \$130 per student and registration forms are in the Youth Room to be filled out by July 26th. This is open to all students going into 7th-9th grades.

Looking forward to the rest of a really great summer!

- Pastor Zach



On the other channel from their studio in Odessa, Olga hosts a mid-afternoon air shift on the Ukrainian station.

NLR has to tread carefully in how they advertise, due to continuing Ukrainian government laws that restrict Russian language media. It is a difficult time to be a broadcaster offering two languages in this wartime environment.

Their HOTBIRD satellite channel covers Europe to Western Siberia, giving them signal coverage in tens of thousands of communities that governments can't stop! Any free to air receiver can listen in 24/7!

NLR started its ministry in Russia as that nation's first Christian FM radio station in 1996. Today, 98% of cities in Russia have no local evangelical Christian radio station. Satellite and Internet give them the means to penetrate Russia in 2023. 97% of settlements in Ukraine have no local Christian FM station.

When bombing by Russian forces create power outages, NLR uses an emergency generator to power the studios. Odessa automatically switches over the network control to their remote studio in Austria.

Please pray for KICY and New Life Radio as they continue to spread God's word and encouragement to so many people across a vast area of the world!



Missionary Updates

KICY the Covenant radio station in Alaska & Christian Radio for Russia



This is an image showing the rough approximation of our signal into the Russian Far East. The Pastor in Provideniya receives many calls about the positive impact KICY is having on their lives. God's Word prevails.

Since KICY first signed-on Easter Sunday, April 17 of 1960, KICY has continued to broadcast the good news of Jesus Christ throughout Western Alaska and the Russian Far East. They have increased their power to 50,000 watts, 24 hours a day which allows KICY AM 850 the opportunity to send the gospel into some places where other forms of media are not readily available. They operate two distinct radio stations, KICY AM-850 & ICY 100.3 FM. While the AM station broadcasts at 50,000 watts and can be heard throughout the entire region, their FM station is programmed for and serves the City of Nome and surrounding communities.

KICY is located in Nome, Alaska. One of the highlights from their last newsletter was the Iditarod 51 that finished in Nome. It began in Willow with 34 teams taking the trail. Ryan Redington crossed under the burlwood arch in Nome first, bringing the trophy bearing the image of his grandfather, one of the original organizers of the race, home to the Redington family for the first time.

KICY's coverage of the race was extensive. They set up their scaffold at the arch in front of the Covenant Church welcoming in each finisher. They hosted post-race interviews with several mushers, including the top three. Because of some glitches with other major radio stations, KICY was the only live coverage of "The Last Great Race" that had a reach beyond Nome. KICY has covered each Iditarod Nome finish since the very first one!

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Christian Radio for Russia and Ukraine

New Life Radio is now operating in two languages. The station manager Ivan Zhurakovski hosts the daily music request and greeting hour which serves to bridge listeners in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. He reminds them to send in their requests. One request came from Mariupol, a bombed out city, another from a man on his way to Bakhmut to deliver supplies to needy residents and asking for prayer as he puts his life on the line.

It's a mix and match of Christian unity expressed by music; reaffirming their loyalty to the Lord despite diverse geographic and national identities; and reminders from the Scriptures on how to live the Christian life on a daily basis.

Summer Youth Schedule

2023 IGNITE SUMMER CALENDAR

ALL WEDNESDAY NIGHT EVENTS RUN FROM 6-9PM. RIDES WILL BE PROVIDED FROM CHURCH.

JULY

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

- JULY 5TH - @ PAUL AND SUSIE RIFPLINGER'S
- JULY 12TH - @ VORONYAK'S
- JULY 19TH - @ TIM AND PATTY PETERSON'S
- JULY 26TH - @ CEDAR LAKE PARK

AUGUST

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

- AUGUST 2ND - @ DEAN & JEANNE PETERSON'S
- AUGUST 6-9 - VBS
- AUGUST 10-12 - MUUUCE FOR JR. HIGHERS
- AUGUST 16TH - @ ARLENE WARGA'S
- AUGUST 23RD - @ PASTOR STEVE'S

Want to stay updated on IGNITE announcements?

For Texts
Enter this number
81010 ?

For Emails
Send an email to
zach@upsalacov.org

Text this message
@igniteccc ?



News to Know

Mark your calendar!!!

Make a difference!!!

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, September 8 between 10 - 4pm

at Community Covenant Church.

Consider saving a life by donating blood!



American Red Cross

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation.

Concealed Carry Class

On July 8, 2023, in the prayer room, there will be a concealed carry class starting at noon. Please contact Matt Hoffman at 320-815-8350 if you are interested.

Women's Night Out At Pine Lake

On Monday, August 14 we will gather on the shore of Pine Lake (4311 Apple Road, Burtrum) from 6:30-8:30. Campfire, snacks, talking for those who want to stay on land. Kayaks will be available for the adventurous and those who want to learn. Sign up on the back counter. Hope to see you there! Questions? ask Linda Pi @ 573.2381

Upsala Heritage Days 2023

Heritage Days is Set for **August 12**

This year's Theme is ,
"Let Freedom Ring"
Parade starts at 4pm



Continued...

PLACE:
COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

SAVE THE DATES:
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 -
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

TIME:
5:45PM - 7:30PM

JESUS, MY SAVIOR AND FRIEND

Our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. Romans 5:11

This year we will be inviting CEF to come and lead VBS. Please talk to Elizabeth Vandergon, or Leeanna Lunn if you would like to help volunteer or sign your kids up!

Community Covenant Church Family Camping Weekend



Join us at Lake Beauty Bible Camp July 13-16 for our church Family Camping Weekend. On Sunday, July 16 at 10:00 AM, we will be having our worship service at Lake Beauty Bible Camp instead of at the church. Remember to sign up if you plan to eat lunch with us at camp that Sunday. Mark your calendars!

All City Womens Mixer

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 @ 6:00 PM

In the Gardens

Jordies Trail Side Cafe, Bowlus
Chicken Buffet Style Meal

Broasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Vegetable and Salads (around \$15) - OR you order off of the menu (cash is appreciated)

RSVP BY JULY 9

SIGN -UP AT LOCAL CHURCHES OR CALL
238 Catholic Churches # 573-2132 | Community Covenant Church # 573-2672
Gethsemane Lutheran Church # 573-2001 | Word of Life Church # 573-4450