



# Connection

MISSION COVENANT CHURCH

N o v e m b e r 2 0 2 4

## A Non-Anxious Presence

With each election cycle it can feel like anxiety levels continue to rise, tensions escalate, and divisions deepen in our families, communities, and nation. It's easy to get caught up in fervor or feel overwhelmed by the constant stream of news, social media debates, and the pressure to take a stand.

However, in these moments it is important that Jesus called us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We play a role in preserving and illuminating what is good about God's world. Among the many roles we as Christians can play is to show up as a non-anxious presence.

Our presence, grounded in faith and trust in God, can serve as a calming force, promoting peace and hope instead of fueling a machine that runs off fear. We can show up as a non-anxious presence during this season, anchored in prayer and guided by the teachings of Jesus.

A non-anxious presence begins with recognizing that God's presence extends beyond political outcomes.

Psalm 46:10 reminds us,

*"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth"* (NIV).

This call to be still invites us to rest in the assurance that God is at work, even when the world feels chaotic.

We can engage in political processes and discussions without the distraction of anxiety by remembering that our ultimate hope is not dependent on who wins an election but on the unchanging character of God.

The challenges facing our society will not be solved by one election, but by the faithful, steady witness of people who live out the peace of Christ in every aspect of their lives.

As Paul encourages in Colossians 3:15,

*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful"* (NIV).

May we let His peace rule in us, guiding our words and actions, so that we can reflect the love and hope of Christ in all circumstances.

In Christ,  
Pastor James Walsh

# Revenge Is Deadly

Recently I came across a Japanese proverb that says, “If you want revenge, then dig two graves. One for your enemy and one for yourself.” You don’t have to look far in this world to see that revenge is in the air. People go to great lengths scheming ways to get back at someone for their wrongs. Some people take years to put into action, others act out immediately. Even as Christians, we are susceptible to entertain thoughts of revenge. Romans 12:18-19 tells us, “Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written; ‘It is mine to avenge ; I will repay,’ says the Lord.” God also calls us to make every effort to be at peace with others (Hebrews 12:14) and to “Let the peace of Christ rule our hearts” (Colossians 3:15). If anyone had a reason to seek revenge, it would be Christ who came to save us and was rejected and killed. Yet Jesus took that pain upon himself to show us the incredible love the Father has for us! In living as Christ’s ambassadors, we too should look to live in forgiveness and not let revenge take hold of us. Here are some warning signs of revenge brewing in our hearts.

1. Neglecting to pray for those who offend us. If you are unwilling to pray for your enemies, bitterness has sunken deep into your bones.
2. Desire to BE angry. Anger is a very normal human emotion and one that all of us experience, but there is a big difference between being angry and *wanting* to be angry. The want for anger is an unquenchable flame, a burning desire that consumes a person’s life. Anger is an emotion that can come and go depending on the circumstances, but the want for anger consumes every part of a person.
3. No confessing or forgiving. Sometimes forgiveness does not set in until we verbalize it. Jesus shared in a parable about the man who was forgiven a debt so big he could never pay it back but then punished someone else for a small debt they owed him (Matt 18:21-35). The end result was not good for the unforgiving debtor.
4. Spiritual disconnect with God. Often the first thing to go when we live in bitterness is our connection with God. This is fertile ground for spiritual darkness to grow because sin separates us from God. This is also a space where we open ourselves to Satan’s spiritual attacks and lies because we are not properly clothed with the armor of God like the belt of truth which protects us against the lies of the enemy or the shield of faith which protects us from the devil’s attack. You must know that you are in a spiritual battle and if Satan can find a weakness in you, he will expose that chink in your armor.

This is easier said than done, some of you have experienced deep hurt by the actions or inactions of others. Forgiveness does not mean the other person was right in what they did to you, it simply is you putting down the shovel to stop digging your own grave. Chose the path Jesus paved for you, surrender the anger and thoughts of revenge and look to a bright future of God’s blessings of peace in your life.

# Keep Believing

Recently, a friend shared a poem-like devotion with me, and I want to share it with you.

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## Keep Believing by Greg Asimakoupoulos.

*“There were dreams in your heart, the Lord planted and grew  
But then something happened, and before long you knew  
What you prayed for and prayed would in time come to pass  
Become futile and hopeless. Your dreams became dashed.*

*How you wished that your family would walk with the Lord.  
How you planned that your business would sprout wings and soar.*

*You had hoped that you'd find just the right place to serve.  
But the Lord appeared absent. Had He thrown you a curve?*

*You had dreamed of a mission that would take you abroad.  
It seemed you were called, but alas where was God?*

*And where was that healing you prayed would be yours,  
When racked by depression and riddled with sores?*

*Sometimes it must seem like your journey's been wrong  
When your dreams are delayed, and your heart's lost its song.*

*But lest you grow jaded and give up your goals,  
Keep trusting, believing. The Lord's in control!”*



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*“May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13*

The Bible is a reservoir of HOPE. From the Old Testament's promises to the New Testament's fulfillment in Christ, the Scriptures consistently emphasize the transformative power of hope in the lives of believers. Christians are guided to anchor their hope in the loving, faithful and unchanging character of God. For,

*“We have this HOPE as an anchor for our soul, firm and secure.” Hebrews 6:19a*

Read the poem again. Read it slowly three times over. What part stands out to you? Meditate on it; highlight, circle and underline different parts that speak to you. What areas of your life is the Lord asking you to trust Him more with? Pray...and then let our God of HOPE pour His joy and peace into those places as you trust in Him.

In Christ,  
Pastor Sarah Risley

## Preschool Lessons

1. PHARAOH'S DREAMS
2. JOSEPH SAVES HIS FAMILY
3. A BABY IN A BASKET
4. THE BURNING BUSH



## Elementary Lessons

1. THE FIRST NINE PLAGUES
2. CROSSING THE RED SEA
3. GOD GIVES MOSES INSTRUCTIONS
4. MOSES GETS SECOND SET OF COMMANDMENTS; MOSES' FACE RADIANT

# MISSION KIDZ!

**Partnering with families to help children discover Jesus and learn how to live for Him**

Please be in prayer for the kids who will receive the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, that they would know and understand the love of Jesus!



We are so thankful for our marvelous Large Group Leaders!!

Bethany Gant  
Stephen Gant  
Michelle Kephart

Brady Lind  
Pastor Darrell Nelson  
Jennifer Vik



Our children are collecting an offering to support our World Vision Sponsored child from Nicaragua, Itza Jahaira Rivera Mercado.

Yearly Goal: \$500

Offering total so far for 2024: \$500

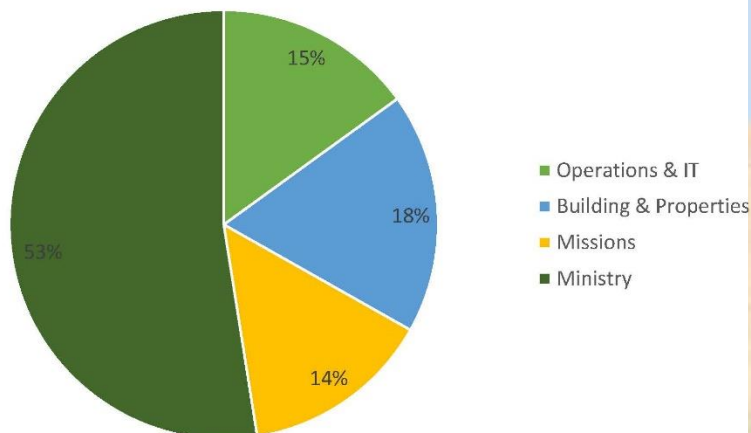


Extra money received will support Operation Christmas Child!

Mission Kidz! is a ministry for children 6 weeks through 4th grade. For parent's convenience, video of the services is livestreamed into the Mom's Room, located in a separate room in the nursery. Nursery (Ages 6 weeks-36 months), Preschool (3- & 4-year-olds), and Elementary (5-year-old through 4th Grade) children can be dropped off in Mission Kidz up to 10 minutes prior to the service time. If you have any questions or would like to serve in this important ministry, please see Cindy Nelson, Michelle Kephart, or Kris Westerlund. Check out our Facebook page!



## 2024 Budget Allocation



## November Sermon Schedule

### "A Kingdom That Lasts"

Sunday, November 3: Pastor James Walsh  
"How Not to Be Anxious" 1 Samuel 8

Sunday, November 10: Pastor James Walsh  
"The Most Important Decision Ever" Matthew 4:8-10

Sunday, November 17: Pastor James Walsh  
"How Not to Fall Apart" 1 Samuel 15

Sunday, November 24: Pastor Darrell Nelson  
"With Thanksgiving" Colossians 3:15

## **Weekly Ministry at Mission. . . Come Join Us!**

### Men's Small Group

Authentic Manhood is a men's small group meeting  
Sunday mornings in Rooms 12/13 at 10:30 a.m.

### Ladies Bible Study

Women of all ages are invited to Morning Break Bible Study.  
A time to come together, explore God's Word, and encourage one another.  
Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:15 a.m.

### Young Adult Ministry

Our Crossroads ministry is for high school graduates to age 28.  
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. at Pastor Sam's House.

### Men's Bible Study

All men are invited to join us for an hour of Bible study and Christ-centered fellowship.  
Wednesday mornings from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade or older Confirmation Classes

Two years of Bible learning through the Old and New Testaments  
Sundays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. or Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

### Youth Group

A space where youth can build relationships with others and with God  
by studying God's Word, building community, and having crazy amounts of fun!  
Wednesdays: Elevate (Grades 6-8) @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. Vertical (Grades 9-12) @ 6:15-8:15 p.m.

### All Adults

All adults are invited to play PICKLEBALL. We have the equipment, so come join the fun and bring a friend!  
Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Multi-Ministry Center.

*Please contact the Church Office for questions 715-364-2738 or [info@missioncovenantchurch.org](mailto:info@missioncovenantchurch.org)*



## Good News Club

G.N.C. is underway. If you want your child to participate please take a permission slip from the Information Table. A second permission note is needed for the NES office and your child's teacher letting them know your child will be attending every Wednesday. Pick up is at 5 p.m.

Please contact Jennifer Vik at 218-340-9059 with any questions.

## Covenant Park's Fall Fundraiser Dinner

November 2, 2024 | 5-8PM

Salem Covenant Church, Duluth

Dinner, Silent Auction, Worship and Testimony Sharing

Partner with us for the Dining Hall renovation project!

RSVP by October 28

Learn more at [covenantpark.org/events](http://covenantpark.org/events)



# DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS



DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK

## Sunday, November 3



## Worship Ministry Team Night Nov 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Everybody associated with the worship ministry team is invited for a special dinner, devo and fellowship time. We would also like to extend an invitation to those of you who have been thinking about joining the worship team or A/V team.

RSVP with Pastor Sam Moyer.



You are part of the Mission Covenant Church family!  
Please join us for an evening of prayer!

Focus: Praying for the needs of our church family and beyond.

**Wednesday, November 13**

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us in the Mission Kidz Large Group Room.



Christmas Child shoeboxes are due **November 24**. Mission Kidz has a goal of 125 boxes collected by our church family! Every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship – transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ! Everyone is encouraged to participate!

Go to [samaritanaspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanaspurse.org/occ) for more details.





SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 24

# Bake Sale

To Support our  
Senior Adult  
Ministries



JOIN US:  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 @ 7 P.M.

# Thanksgiving Service & pie social

Grateful and Salted  
Mark 9:38-50  
Officiant: Pastor James Walsh

Bring a pie to share!



Help make our bake sale a success by bring  
your favorite baked treats!



# 27TH ANNUAL HUNTER'S EXPO

WED, NOVEMBER 20TH // 5-9PM

MISSION COVENANT CHURCH

TOO MUCH  
BBQ

TROPHY  
MOUNTS  
DISPLAY

PRIZES

VENDORS

SEMINARS

PHOTOGRAPHY  
CONTEST

FAMILY FUN

- FACE PAINTING
- ARCHERY ROOM
- COLORING CONTEST

FREE ADMISSION



LOOKING AHEAD  
TO  
DECEMBER

## Children's Christmas Program

*Twas' No Light Before Christmas*

If your child ages 3 years old-4<sup>th</sup> grade would like to participate, please sign up at the Mission Kidz Check-In Desk and pick up an information sheet.



## Christmas LUNCHEON

DECEMBER

7

11:30 AM

Speaker: Lynne Raatz

(Sandy Johnson's Daughter)

SARAH MAE'S CATERING | WORSHIP BY  
PASTOR SARAH RISLEY | TICKETS ON SALE  
NOVEMBER 3



SAVE THE DATE!

Senior Adult Ministry Presents

## No Room at the Inn



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 10:00 A.M.  
MINNESUING ACRES



\$25 Tickets On Sale Sunday, November 3





November

# LIBRARY LINES



Scan the QR Code for the Mission Covenant Church digital library catalog. This takes you to <https://librarycat.org/lib/MissionCov.Library> which is the home of TinyCat. From there you can search the riches of our library.

**Thanksgiving approaches! Of course, we think about giving thanks to God and others for our blessings. Also, though, so many of us extend or receive hospitality. Below are some books about home-based hospitality, kind of a lost art today. Pinterest has not helped, we don't actually have to have perfectly decorated homes or gourmet meals!**

A Meal with Jesus takes us through six meals Jesus had with others in the gospel of Luke, and how he shared faith, salvation and grace.



Select some kids or adult books of thankfulness and contentment!



Just a little aside, your librarian writes as a learner about these traits, not a master!  
On the lighter side, new-to-us fiction books have been donated.





**Thank you Mission Covenant church,  
Nathan, Bethany, Michelle K., Sam,  
Brianna, Dan and Dan for all your help  
with the recent Fields of Faith event!  
We had a super evening and we are so  
grateful for all your support.**

**The NHS FCA Huddle**

## Ministry Moments

## Fields of Faith



**Our Women's Ministry Leadership Team would like to express our sincere gratitude for supporting our recent Bake Sale. We saw the Lord's blessings that morning in so many ways...blessings to the people who gave, blessings to those of us who served, and blessings to those who received. Thanks to all of you and your amazing generosity, we raised \$2624 which will be used to help fund the cost of the Women's Christmas Luncheon on December 7.**



## Women Ministries Bake Sale





# Birthdays and Anniversaries Nov 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Gergen, Brenda	2
3 Westerlund, Lillian	4 Sutherland, Aimee Wolden, Micaiah	5 Hursh, Pat	6 McCarson, Kathleen Williams, Pastor Larry	7 Greene, Rosa Landwehr, Hudson Richards, Dr Joe	8 Johnson, Robert & Andrene	9
10 Ahlberg, Isaiah Monson, Todd & Michelle Moyer, Breanna Trebilcock, Senia Trebilcock, Talia	11 Nollet, Gunnar 	12 Anderson, Carolyn	13 Bukovitz, Justin & Caitlin Orme, Kaia Risley, Gabriella Swanstrom, Pearl	14 Greatsinger, Jack	15 	16 Petzold, Terry
17 Gill, Bryan Martens, Morgan	18 Raunio, Toini Thompson, Carmyn	19 Crozier, Ruth Lubbers, Rick	20	21 Risley, Auron Smith, Nancy	22 Newman, Ernest	23 Hildreth, Eliana Risley, Sam
24 Golly, Peggy	25 Glonek, Jorde	26 Johnson, John Risley, Mary Stauty, Wendy	27	28 Koepp, Bonnie Kroll, Jennifer Thompson, Caleb	29	30 Tenney, James

# Ministry Calendar Nov 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Contemporary Worship 9am - Mission Kidz 10am - Mens Small Group, 10:30am - Confirmation 10:30am - Traditional 5:30pm - Worship Team	9am - Pickle ball, MMC 6:30pm - Elder Board	9:30am - Morning Break, RM 6:30pm - Crossroads	7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation 3:30pm - Youth Group 6:15pm - Youth Group	6pm - Worship Practice MMC		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am - Contemporary Worship 9am - Mission Kidz 10am - Mens Small Group, 10:30am - Confirmation 10:30am - Traditional	9am - Pickle ball, MMC 7pm - Council Meeting, CE	9:30am - Morning Break, RM 6:30pm - Crossroads	7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation 3:30pm - Youth Group 6:15pm - Youth Group 6:30pm - Prayer Gathering,	6pm - Worship Practice MMC		9am - Rural Care & Share
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9am - Contemporary Worship 9am - Mission Kidz 10am - Mens Small Group, 10:30am - Confirmation 10:30am - Traditional	9am - Pickle ball, MMC 6:30pm - Elder Board	9:30am - Morning Break, RM 6:30pm - Crossroads	7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 5pm - Hunters Expo	6pm - Worship Practice MMC		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>S.A.M. Ministry Bake Sale</b> 9am - Contemporary Worship 9am - Mission Kidz 10am - Mens Small Group, 10:30am - Traditional	9am - Pickle ball, MMC	7pm - Thanksgiving Service, 8pm - Pie Social	7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC	<b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> 6pm - Worship Practice MMC		