



Connection

MISSION COVENANT CHURCH

January 2025



Faithfully Forward

In pondering our theme for 2025, “Faithfully Forward,” I’ve been reading several texts that have been challenging me as we enter this new season of ministry, most recently from Romans 12:12:

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

To **be joyful in hope** means I and you believe that no matter what happens in this world, we have both the moments of “present” and “future” with the Lord. Always and eternally in his presence, we will forget every pain, and he will wipe away every tear. Our temporary trials cannot compare to the glory awaiting us.

Exercising **patience in affliction** is just tough! By nature, I am not someone who waits well. Throughout my life, God has been teaching me to wait on him. During that waiting, I could choose to doubt, fear, and move away from God, or I could choose to trust, surrender, and press into him. I confess to doing both but can say the latter was the much better option!

Paul teaches us to be **faithful in prayer**. For me, this meant asking God for daily strength and perspective. It also meant surrendering fully to Him in prayer each day and often multiple times throughout the day. I can always bring my heart to the Lord, broken or joyful, and always have an audience with Him.

As a disciple of Jesus, I am called to pick up my cross and follow Him. Jesus has walked the road before us and stands ready to lead us to victory. On that road to victory, he calls you to *“be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

Faithfully Forward!

*In Christ,
Pastor James Walsh*

Preschool Lessons

1. A VOICE IN THE NIGHT
2. ISRAEL'S FIRST KING
3. A GOOD HEART
4. DAVID AND THE BIGGEST MAN



Elementary Lessons

1. SAUL REJECTED AS KING
2. DAVID AND JONATHAN
3. DAVID BECOMES KING
4. SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

MISSION KIDZ!

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

Please be in prayer for God to work in the hearts of the kids in our church and in our community during 2025!



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with this year's Christmas Program! Almost fifty kids helped share the message that Jesus brought light to our world of darkness!

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

Yearly Goal: \$500

Offering total for 2024: \$643



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!

Financial Update

General Fund Actual Income through **Nov:** \$448,577
General Fund Budgeted Income through **Nov:** \$430,868

General Fund Actual Expenses through **Nov:** \$557,496
General Fund Budgeted Expenses through **Nov:** \$585,149

General Fund Actual Surplus through **Nov:** \$(68,919)
General Fund Budgeted Surplus through **Nov:** \$(54,281)

Missions Fund Actual Income through **Nov:** \$98,332
Missions Fund Budgeted Income through **Nov:** \$94,963

Offerings need to be received in the church or postmarked by Dec 31 to be included in your 2024 giving statement.

PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW OF POSTAL ADDRESS CHANGES & EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES.

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.

Please contact the Church Office with questions 715-364-2738 or info@missioncovenantchurch.org

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. *Resumes Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Young Adult Ministry

Our Crossroads ministry is for high school graduates to age 28. Tuesdays 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.

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.

5th - 6th 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.



Good News Club

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.

January Sermon Schedule "Faithfully Forward"

Sunday, January 5: Pastor James Walsh
"Everybody's Welcome" Matthew 9:9-13

Sunday, January 12: Pastor James Walsh
"Nobody's Perfect" Luke 18:10-14
PRAYER WEEK

Sunday, January 19: Pastor James Walsh
"Anything's Possible" Genesis 17

Sunday, January 26: Pastor James Walsh
"Good News" Luke 10:25-37
BLESS



Mission 101 Discovering Your Church

Wednesdays, January 8 & 15, 2025
at 6:30 p.m. in Pastor Darrell's
office.

Led by Pastor James

Sign up at the information table or
by calling the church office.

Prayer Week

The Week of Prayer is a time for the Covenant community to come together in healing and restoration, grounded in the love and peace of Christ. Inspired by Jesus' mission in Luke 4:18-19 and the promise of God's steadfast love in Isaiah 54:10, this resource encourages us to reflect, serve, and pray. Through quiet moments of meditation, acts of service, and mutual encouragement, we embody God's grace and light. Join us in building a community rooted in faith, love, and hope as we seek renewal and strength together. Starting Sunday, January 12-18, 2025

****BLESS will be on Sunday, January 26****



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, January 8

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us in the Mission Kidz Large Group Room.

There will be no Youth
Group or Confirmation Classes on
January 1.



The church office will be closed
on January 1.

MORNING BREAK
BIBLE STUDY



*Clothed in
Strength & Dignity*

DISCOVERING PROVERBS 31 FOR TODAY'S WOMEN

Starting Tuesday, January 21 @ 9:30 a.m.
All ages & stages of ladies are invited
Childcare Provided
Teachers: Bethany Gant & Michelle Thompson

First Impressions Ministry Needs Greeters

We could use a few more people to be part of our Greeter team. This is not a big time or talent commitment. It only takes 6 Sundays a year and a loving, welcoming smile to greet our regular attenders and visitors on Sunday mornings.

Please call Marilyn Nelson at 715-364-2274 for more information if you are willing to be a part of this important ministry in our church.
Families are welcome.

Mission Covenant Church

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday,
February 2
6:00 p.m.

To attend by Zoom please
send your request to the
Church Office by Jan. 31



GOT MINISTRY PICTURES??

Pastor Nathan is working on the 2024 slideshow. If you have ministry pictures you would like to include, please email them to the church office.

Covenant Park
BIBLE CAMP

- Junior/Senior High Deep Freeze: January 17-19, 2025
- Man Camp: January 31-Feb 2, 2025
- Summer camp registration is open!

Coupon Code for 2025 is "POP"

Thank
YOU

Many thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to Mission Covenant Church. We are appreciative of your loyal service.

Special thanks to our church members who have served on various boards and council positions, whose terms have ended in 2024:

Roger Risley – Vice Chair
Michelle Monson – Vice Secretary
Stacy Hansen – Children’s Ministry Vice Chair
Curt Puttonen – Diaconate Board
Laura Wolden – Elder Board
Vince Hursh – Finance Board
Cheri Peters – Women Ministries Chair
Marci Schulz – Women Ministries Vice Chair
Renee Spangler – Financial Review Committee
Rena Navarro – Camp Captain
Sandy Johnson – Nominating Committee

welcome

Please welcome and pray for our members who will be serving in new roles starting in January 2025:

Jennifer Kroll – Vice Secretary
Hanna Coleman – Children’s Ministry Vice Chair
Mark Hoefling – Diaconate Board
Laura Wolden – Elder Board
Shane Stees – Finance Board
Pastor Sarah Risley – Women Ministries Chair
Breanna Moyer – Women Ministries Vice Chair
Cam Diamon – Financial Review Committee
Nancy Paulson – Camp Captain
Ryan Burkart – Nominating Committee

Those serving another term:

Dan Diamon – Vice Chair
Shirley Deterling – Auxiliary Ministries Chair
Dr. Joe Richards – Elder Board
Leah Lubbers – Finance Board
Kent VanderMeiden – Men’s Ministries Vice Chair
Sylvester Hursh – Budget Committee

Northwest Conference UPCOMING EVENTS, VIST northwestconference.org

March 15, 2025

Rural Impact Leadership Conference - Alexandria Covenant Church, Alexandria, MN

Attention Ladies

February 28- March 1, 2025

NWC Annual Women Ministries, Spring Renewal - Crossview Covenant Church, North Mankato, MN

May 1-3, 2025

Delegates needed

NWC Annual Meeting Celebration – Roseville Covenant Church, Roseville, MN


January
LIBRARY LINES

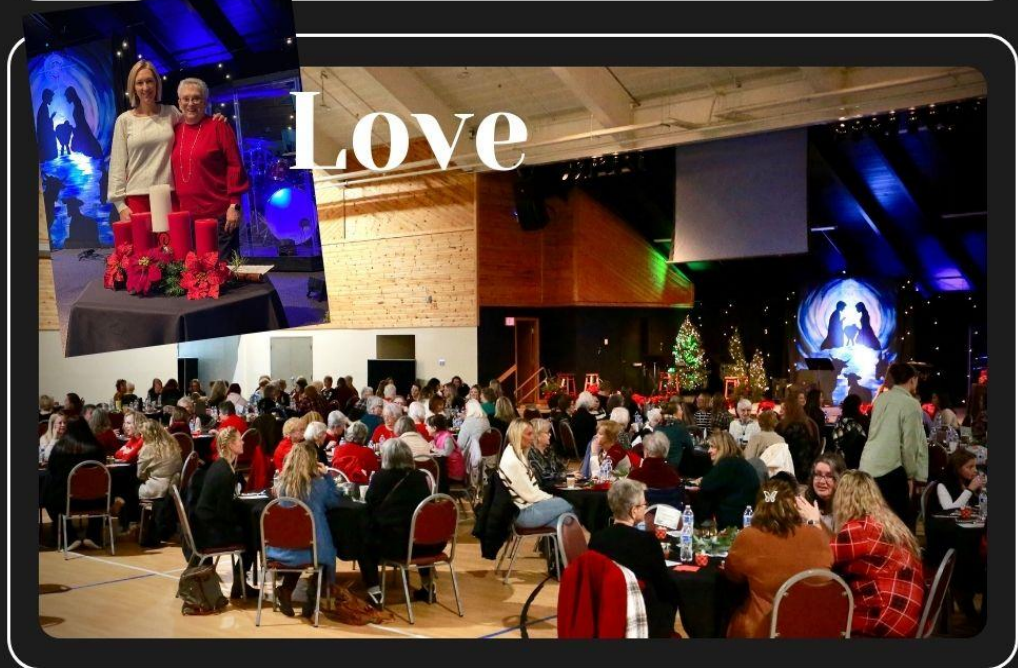


Library arrangements, Prayer and Hospitality books.

Are you looking for free books? The small bookcase by the window holds grief and end of life resources on the top, and books that are free on the shelves. Newer-to-us fiction books from recent newsletters are now on the very top shelf of adult fiction. Most of the puzzles are in the corner near the armchairs.

In January our church theme will combine prayer and the BLESS approach. Look over our display areas for books on prayer (adults and kids), and also hospitality.





2025 SPRING RENEWAL

Friday, February 28 - Saturday, March 1



TO REGISTER PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE



OR VISIT [WMNWC.ORG/ONLINE-REGISTRATION](https://www.wmnwc.org/online-registration)

Cost: \$60 (this does not include accommodation)

Location: Crossview Covenant Church: 2000 Howard Drive W, North Mankato, MN

 **WOMEN MINISTRIES**
OF THE NORTHWEST CONFERENCE





JANUARY 2025

CPBC NEWS

WHERE FRIEND MEETS FRIEND AND
BOTH MEET GOD



PRAYER REQUESTS

Campers and guests to experience and embrace the hope and salvation of Jesus during their time at camp. Camps this month: Deep Freeze & Man Camp.

Hiring of summer staff and preparation of summer programming. Strong attendance at summer camps this summer.

Vision for the coming year as well as continued wisdom for camp leadership as we seek God's leadings for continued ministry.

Continued fundraising for Dining Hall Renovation phase 1 to reach goal of \$300K by Sept.

DEEP FREEZE

For grades 7th-12th

Jan 17-19

\$150

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE.

Come enjoy broomball, sauna, polar plunge, worship and SNOW MUCH FUN!

Speaker: Pastor Steven Osborne,
Salem Covenant Church, Duluth

Registration is now available at
covenantpark.org/events

SAVE ON SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION!

Save \$50 on Trailblazer, JH, SH and Adventure camps and \$20 on Mini Camp through Feb 1.

Day Camp June 30, July 1, 2 Grades 1-3

Mini Camp June 30-July 2 Grades 2-4

Trailblazer June 22-26 | July 13-17 Grades 4-6

Junior High July 6-11 | July 20-25 Grades 6-9

Senior High June 15-20 Grades 9-GRAD

Adventure Camp August 4-7 Grades 7-GRAD

Scholarships are available.

Register at covenantpark.org/summer-camp

MAN CAMP

For all guys age 14 and up
Jan 31-Feb 2

\$160 Full Weekend

Partial weekend options available. Ages 14-22 attend half price.
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE.

Make it a multi-generational getaway, we encourage you to come along with a guy that you are investing in or that is investing into you.

Weekend will include BBQ and other amazing food, snowmobiling, ice fishing, cross country skiing, ax throwing, broomball, snowshoeing, board games, coffee, tournaments, sauna and polar plunge, campfires, worship, small groups...

Register at covenantpark.org/events.



GIVE A GIFT

Looking to give a gift to support the ministry at Covenant Park? All donations are tax deductible. You can give online with the link below or by mailing your gift to 3402 Covenant Park Rd Mahtowa, MN 55707.

1. Give towards the Dining Hall Renovation.
2. Staff Blessing Fund: We invite you to partner with us to pay our staff well and help keep camp costs low for everyone. We also believe this helps us retain quality staff.
3. Sponsor a full or partial scholarship to make camp accessible to everyone regardless of financial circumstance.
4. Check out our wish list items.

Check out details and give online at the link below.
covenantpark.org/give

SUMMER STAFF APPLICATIONS FOR 2025 NOW OPEN

Know a young adult that would enjoy working with kids, serving in a support role or developing their leadership through hands on experiences?

Open Positions:

Cabin Counselors, Worship Director, Waterfront Director and Lifeguards, Climbing Wall/Zipline Staff, Assistant Program Director, Media Specialist, Maintenance Assistant

Application is now available at
covenantpark.org/get-involved

Birthdays

Nicole Trautt	January 1	Janet Martens	January 20
Aileen Raatz	January 5	Tyra Newman	January 20
Haley Trautt	January 6	Roger Peck	January 20
Jennifer Vik	January 6	Kathy Korhonen	January 21
Jen Greatsinger	January 8	Gail Peck	January 23
Harrison Nelson	January 8	Roger Hansen	January 24
Eric Polkoski	January 8	Ben Johnson	January 25
Bailee Hildreth	January 9	Josh Coleman	January 26
Paul Raunio	January 12	Donna Gregory	January 26
Kathy Green	January 13	Travis Gergen	January 27
Eunice Laakso	January 13	Julie Van Guilder	January 27
Linda Williams	January 13	Luke Fredericks	January 28
Maura Granquist	January 14	Heidi Paulson	January 28
James Kman	January 17	Montana Schaffer	January 29
Scott Leffel	January 17	Meredith Anderson	January 30
Kevin Orme	January 17	Dennis Bloomquist	January 30
Hayden Anderson	January 18	Irene Hursh	January 30
Daniel Gant	January 18	Patricia St. Onge	January 31
Linda Soyring	January 19		



Anniversaries

Tom & Renee	Hudacek	January 1
Keith & Cheryl	Jardine	January 1
Paul & Cecelia	Zambori	January 7
Paul & Sherry	Staffrude	January 20
Kyle & Maura	Granquist	January 5



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 Happy New Year, Office Closed	2 6pm - Worship Practice MMC	3	4
5 9am - Contemporary Worship 9am - Mission Kidz 10am - Mens Small Group, 12/13 10:30am - Traditional Worship	6 9am - Pickle ball, MMC 6:30pm - Elder Board Meeting, MK	7 6:30pm - Crossroads	8 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, F. Hall 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation 3:30pm - Youth Group Elevate, 6:15pm - Youth Group Vertical, 6:30pm - Mission 101, PDN Office 6:30pm - Prayer Gathering, MK LG	9 6pm - Worship Practice MMC	10	11
12 9am - Contemporary Worship 9am - Mission Kidz 10am - Mens Small Group, 12/13 10:30am - Confirmation 10:30am - Traditional Worship	13 9am - Pickle ball, MMC 7pm - Council Meeting, CE 1/3	14 6:30pm - Crossroads	15 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, F. Hall 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation 3:30pm - Youth Group Elevate, 6:15pm - Youth Group Vertical, 6:30pm - Mission 101, PDN Office	16 6pm - Worship Practice MMC	17	18 9am - Rural Care & Share Food
19 9am - Contemporary Worship 9am - Mission Kidz 10am - Mens Small Group, 12/13 10:30am - Confirmation 10:30am - Traditional Worship	20 9am - Pickle ball, MMC 6:30pm - Elder Board Meeting, MK	21 9:30am - Morning Break Bible 6:30pm - Crossroads	22 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, F. Hall 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation 3:30pm - Youth Group Elevate, 6:15pm - Youth Group Vertical,	23 6pm - Worship Practice MMC	24	25
26 9am - Contemporary Worship 9am - Mission Kidz 10am - Mens Small Group, 12/13 10:30am - Confirmation 10:30am - Traditional Worship	27 9am - Pickle ball, MMC	28 9:30am - Morning Break Bible 6:30pm - Crossroads	29 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, F. Hall 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3:30pm - Confirmation 3:30pm - Youth Group Elevate, 6:15pm - Youth Group Vertical,	30 6pm - Worship Practice MMC	31	1