



MISSION COVENANT CHURCH

# CONNECTION

JANUARY 2019

## *“God’s Faithfulness Lives On”*

This is our theme at Mission Covenant church for our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which occurs on May 8, 2019. It is based upon Psalm 100:5 which says, “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.”

As part of our festivities for this year’s celebration we will designate May 5, 2019 worship services to commemorating our church’s pending anniversary on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Our special weekend that is dedicated to our anniversary will be July 27-28, 2019 where we will have a banquet Saturday evening with Dr. John Wenrich, President of the Evangelical Covenant Church speaking, a delicious meal, and lots of special music including some in Swedish as well as plenty of memorabilia present. On Sunday morning we will have two worship services in the Multi-Ministry Center with a fellowship hour at the 9:45 time slot. Reverend Mark Stromberg, the Superintendent of the Northwest Conference will be our keynote speaker. Following the morning worship services, we will be having a pot-blessing meal in the Multi-Ministry Center.

Be sure to set these weekends asisde on your calendar and invite family, friends, former members, those that have moved away, etc. to join us for those weekends. More information will be forthcoming regarding the cost of the banquet as well as RSVP dates.

At Swedish Mission Congregation’s organizational meeting on May 8, 1894 in Poplar, WI they concluded with the following prayer: “May now the Almighty God’s blessing and His great grace and love rest on those that shall join with us. That is our deep prayer to our Heavenly Father, Amen.”

God’s Faithfulness Lives On!

In Christ’s Love, Pastor Darrell L. Nelson

# How to Have the Joy of the Lord

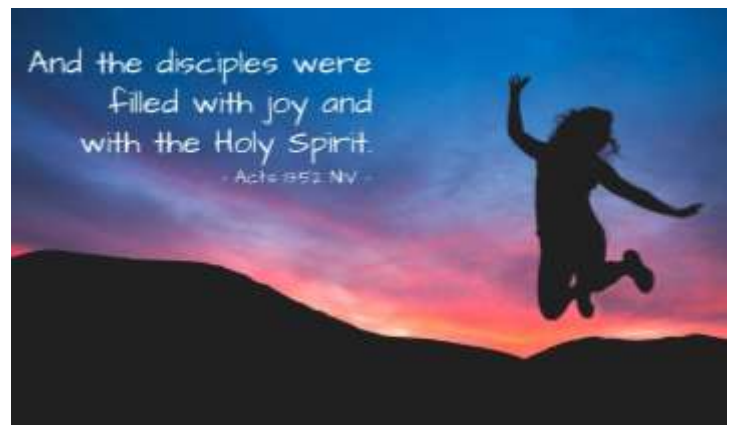
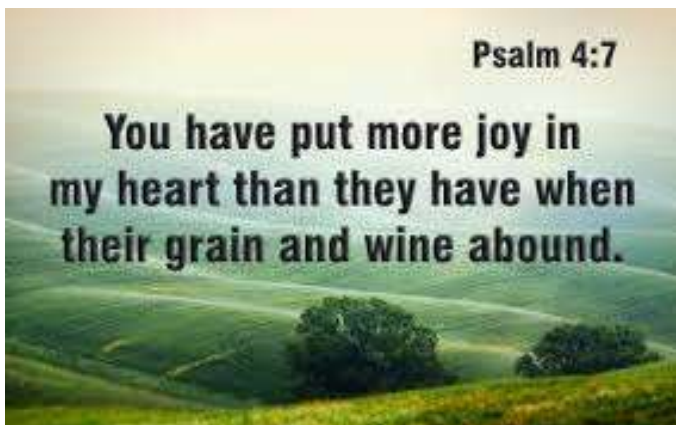
Joy characterizes the life of a believer, in fact, God takes it a step further and requires that joy be in the life of a believer! On the flip side, joy is an emotion or a good feeling and we all know how our feelings and emotions can get crazy...so how could God expect and even command us to have joy? Is that realistic or even fair of Him to require this emotion in us? Stay tuned to hear the answers to these questions!

Circumstances do not regulate joy in the life of a believer. When a believer is diagnosed with cancer or family hardships arrive, disappointment and fear will be present but despite that there will be an unexplainable joy. Those outside the faith are dumbfounded because joy makes no sense when a person has every reason to be depressed and dismayed. But joy is the natural response of believers because joy is not dependent on circumstances, it simply is there no matter what! In fact, James 1:2 talks about how believers should consider trials pure joy!! What in tarnation?!? How is that possible? Two reasons; the first reason is that verses 3-4 state that the trial is producing the godly character of perseverance and maturity of faith. So, a believer can have joy knowing that God is producing something spectacular within them. The second reason is because joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, in other words, the Holy Spirit produces within a believer an emotion of joy. It is not even something we create within ourselves, it is something God ingrains in the DNA of a believer. Joy then becomes a natural response to the goodness of God and what He is producing in us!

So, this leads all back to the questions that I presented in the beginning of this article. How can God require us to have joy? Is that realistic or fair of Him to do that? The answer is yes, but not in your own strength or abilities. God will supply us with joy as we remain connected to him as stated in John 15:10-11, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." The key to having God's continual joy happens when a believer abides in Jesus, in other words, as you stay connected to Jesus in your relationship with him and follow his commands you will be filled with joy and not just merely filled...but full of his joy! Doesn't that sound amazing? So, what are you waiting for? Get reconnected with Jesus, follow his commands and let him overflow your life with his joy!

Psalm 4:7 - You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.  
Acts 13:52 - And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,  
Pastor Nathan Nelson





## Staffing Needs:

1 adult small group leader for the 9:45 service (1x/month)  
1 adult small group leader for the 11:00 service (1x/month)  
Come and join our team! You will be blessed by being a part of all that God is doing in the lives of our children!  
Contact Cindy Nelson at 715-364-2770 or [cindymissionkidz@gmail.com](mailto:cindymissionkidz@gmail.com) for more details.

## Mission Statement:

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

For more details, go to [missioncovenantchurch.org](http://missioncovenantchurch.org)  
(Mission Kidz! webpage)

## Mission Kidz!

Is a ministry for children  
6 weeks through 4th grade.

Children through 4 years old may be checked into Mission Kidz! prior to the service.  
Children through the 4th grade will be dismissed from the service.

## January Bible Lessons

Exodus –

“My Help Comes from the Lord”

Moses Is Born to  
Israelite Slaves

Moses Is Called to  
Free the Israelites

Moses Gives Instructions for  
the First Passover

God Uses Moses to  
Defeat the Amalekites



## Prayer Requests:

Praise God for a new year to love, live for, and serve our Heavenly Father!! His mercies are new each day!



## Mission Project

In 2019, our children will once again be collecting an offering to support Deyling.

Deyling Lisbeth – Nicaragua

Yearly Goal: \$550

Offering total so far for 2018: \$637

These monies are used to assist World Vision, a global Christian humanitarian organization. They partner with children (including Deyling), their families, and communities to help them reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Jesus' love is always at the center of their mission. With our extra 2018 missions monies we will partner with World Vision to provide for families in need.



**montana schaffer, your love of preschoolers and passion to teach them is a gift to our ministry. Thank you!!!**



# SMALL GROUPS

## What Is a Small Group?

A Small Group is a group of 12 to 20 people who meet in homes or other locations to connect with each other and grow in their relationship with God.

Besides our weekend worship gatherings, Small Groups are integral to how we promote growth in our community.

## What Happens at a Small Group?

Typically, Small Groups begin with social time to allow members to get to know each other followed by a time of prayer and Bible study. Many of our group's studies coordinate with our weekend messages. Additionally, many groups also engage in mission in our church and local communities.

## Why Should I Join?

To connect with other believers, deepen your relationship with God, and impact the world around you.

## How Do I Get in a Small Group?

1. Start One. It is as easy as making a snack, fresh coffee and inviting some friends over. We provide the Study materials.
2. Join One. To join an existing group, contact Pastor James Walsh at 715-364-2738 or by email at [james@missioncovenantchurch.org](mailto:james@missioncovenantchurch.org).

## Financial Update

General Fund Actual Income through Nov: \$418,932  
 General Fund Budgeted Income through Nov: \$447,772

General Fund Actual Expenses through Nov: \$433,251  
 General Fund Budgeted Expenses through Nov: \$448,230

General Fund Actual Surplus through Nov: -\$14,319  
 General Fund Budgeted Surplus through Nov: -\$458

Missions Fund Actual Income through Nov: \$97,353  
 Missions Fund Budgeted Income through Nov: \$103,336

## Mission Kidz! Mom's Room!

Mission Kidz! has a "Mom's Room" located within the infant nursery, complete with rocking chairs, pack n' play, changing table, and live streaming of all three services. Come check it out!



## Student Confirmation Classes and Youth Group

### Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays – 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Sundays – 9:45 a.m.

### Youth Group

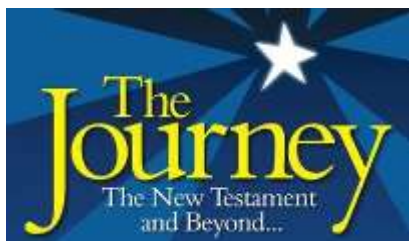
Jr. High – 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Sr. High – 6:30-8:30 p.m.



This adult class meets on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in MMC 10/11.

Facilitated by Brian Gant.

Everyone is welcome to attend!



### **Journey Adult Confirmation and Quest Adult Bible Class**

These two classes meet at the church on alternate Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. See Pastor James for more information.



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



### **Every other Thursday from 9-11 a.m.**

Meet up with other local moms for coffee and snacks while kids run off their energy in the open gym. For additional information go to the "Maple Moms Group" Facebook page or contact Tina VanAernum at 651-235-3338. Feel free to bring toys (ones that won't scratch up the floor.)

### **New Playground Coming Soon!!! Keep watching for updates!!**



### **Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to:**



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and log in using the same log in information as your amazon account. After signing in, underneath the Search box place your cursor over the word **Supporting**: and then to the right of the default charitable organization click on the word **change**. Click in the search bar below the spotlight charities box where it says, "Or pick your own charitable organization", type Mission Covenant Church in the box, click on the search button to the right, then select Mission Covenant Church Poplar WI. You are done! Amazon Smile will make a donation to MCC every time you shop! (Be sure you ALWAYS log in to Smile.Amazon.com for this donation to occur.) Feel free to contact the church office or stop in and we will be happy to help you set this up!



## Congratulations

To Nick and Lisa Gant on the arrival of Micaiah Nicholas on November 4, 2018 at 9:00 p.m. Micaiah weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces

## Congratulations

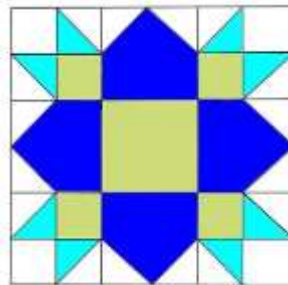
To Chad and Misty Hildreth on the arrival of Eliana Mae on November 23 at 8:23 a.m. Eliana weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces



## Women's Craft Day

Saturday, January 5,  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bring your crafts, knitting, scrapbooking, etc. to work on while spending time with other women. Bring your own sack lunch and a snack to share! This is an open-house style event; come and go as you can throughout the day. Please RSVP to the church office at 715-364-2738.



## Quilters Gathering

Join us for fellowship as we work on individual projects; beginners are welcome. We will meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in MMC 12/13. Bring a snack to share and a sack lunch. We also have a devotional time and prayer. Contact Jayne Baumgardner for more information.



## Mission 101 Discovering Your Church

Wednesdays, January 9 and 23, 6:30 p.m.

Led by Pastor Darrell

Please sign up at the  
Welcome Center



## Art for Fun and Friendship

We are a group that meets to share a skill, learn a skill, or just chat over a cup of coffee. Bring projects you are working on or make something new. We will be meeting again on Monday, January 14 from 10 a.m. – noon in MMC 10/11. Check out our Facebook page at Art for Fun and Friendship. For more information, contact Sis Zambori at [czambori@hotmail.com](mailto:czambori@hotmail.com).

# PRAYER WEEK

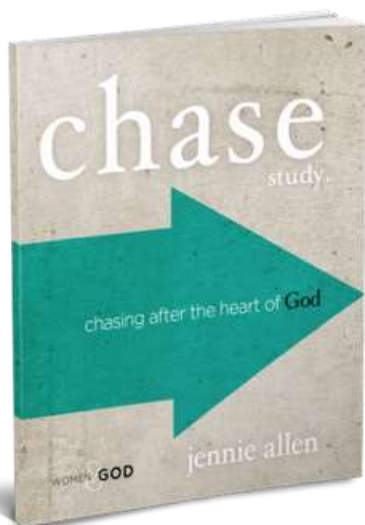
January 13-19, 2019



## Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2019

6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



### Mission Covenant Church Women's Bible Study What are you *chasing*?

We will be studying in 1 and 2 Samuel and looking at the life of King David who *chased* after the heart of God.

This winter session we will be incorporating the Chase study by Jennie Allen.

Plan to join us for this heartfelt study.

**Morning Break begins January 22, 9:30-11:14 a.m.**

Child care is provided

**Evening Edition begins January 22, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall and grab your book on January 13 and 20 after all services.

**\$5.00 (for materials) | 7-week study | For women of all ages**



There were nearly 300 women who attended our Women's Christmas Dinner on December 7. The decorations were magnificent, the food was wonderful, and the music and the speaker were excellent. Many helped to make this a very special event. Ladies worked over several weeks to help June Gant prepare the decorations. A very special thank you to June, and to Kerry Anderson who coordinated the twenty men who served the ladies. Thank you to everyone else who helped in any way! The Women Ministries' leadership team greatly appreciates all of you!



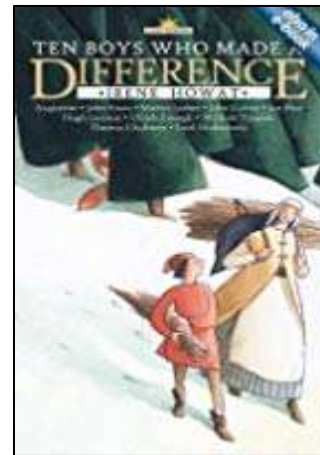
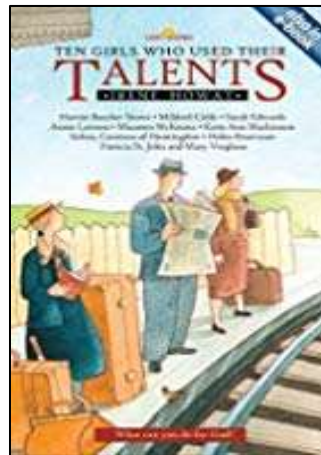
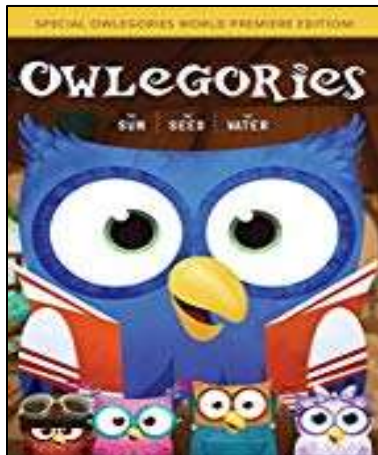
### Angel Tree Prison Ministries

Thank you for another successful Angel Tree season. I hope you will continue to pray for your angel; their lives are often in turmoil. The incarcerated person needs to meet several requirements with the prison chapel program before they can put their children's names on a list for the angel tree program. As I prayed to find these families because many of them are in transit, I also prayed for the incarcerated person coming home to an unstable home life. Your generosity hopefully will plant a seed of God's love in these angels and your prayers will water that seed. Thanks again, Marion Bradley.

# New Books and Movies for the New Year!

Recently Mission Kidz! blessed our church library with many new items. Please come in and check out some of the new DVD series, Owlegories.

Look over some of the excellent new picture books, and some mini life stories volumes.



You can also find a new unconventional detective series on the shelves: The Bug Man series by Tim Downs. It has a little CSI feel to it, with a very human main character.

Remember to look over the different audiobooks. Where the Wind Leads is the story of a Vietnamese family fleeing Communist Vietnam and their struggle to reach and adjust to the United States. It is such a contrast to our comfortable lives. On the lighter side, nearly all of the Chronicles of Narnia are available as audiobooks. If you haven't traveled to Narnia yet with C. S. Lewis, it is a journey you can enjoy in print or audio, on your own or with friends and family.







# COVENANT TRUST COMPANY®

## **Financial Goals for the New Year**

Are you planning on including financial goals in your New Year's resolutions? Here are some ideas if you don't have any yet.

## **Plan and Save for Retirement**

The sooner you start saving and investing for retirement, the more time you give your investment to grow before you retire. If you aren't already saving for retirement, make it a financial goal to do so in 2019.

If you are already retired do you have a financial plan? Not only do you need to budget for retirement, but you should also make a withdrawal plan for your retirement accounts. Consider withdrawal requirements and tax benefits when choosing when to withdraw money and from which account.

## **Get a Will**

If you have a will, great! You're ahead of the pack. According to a 2017 survey from caring.com, 60% of U.S. adults don't have a will. If you're one of them, make a will a priority this year. Why? With a will you create a plan for your assets (bank accounts, real estate, personal belongings and other assets) and final wishes after you pass. Without one, the laws of the state where you reside make those determinations. No matter your age, we believe anyone with children under age 18 should have a will.

## **Create a Charitable Giving Plan**

There's no one right way to give money to a favorite charity or Covenant Ministry. No matter the amount, your gifts are always appreciated! However, with a proper plan and through charitable vehicles like Charitable Gift Annuities and Endowments, you may find a more effective way to give to Covenant Ministries while also generating income for yourself and taking advantage of tax benefits.

## **Get Your Finances in Order**

Maybe throughout life, you've simply made and spent money without budgeting, tracking, or saving. Perhaps this has worked for you, yet you don't feel secure in your financial situation. The new year is a perfect time to change that.

Monitor your cash flow; calculate your net worth; budget; save and invest. Covenant Trust Company can help you do all these things and help you create a plan to reach your financial goals. Also, keep in mind how you can pass good saving and financial skills to your family members. For help, call one of the Northwest Conference Financial Services Representatives to discuss the best plans for your finances in 2019 and beyond.

Steve Allison  
Financial Services Rep  
218-297-7701  
[srallison@covenanttrust.com](mailto:srallison@covenanttrust.com)

Erik Carlson  
Financial Services Rep  
763-253-6311  
[ewcarlson@covenanttrust.com](mailto:ewcarlson@covenanttrust.com)

Karlene Crabtree  
Client Services Rep  
612-252-8599  
[kmcrabtree@covenanttrust.com](mailto:kmcrabtree@covenanttrust.com)