

In This Issue:

Pastor's Corner

April Calendar

Church Events

News From Sunny Days

Other Events

Area News & Our Views

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. Sunday School

10:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship

10:30 A.M. Worship

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6:45 P.M. Youth Groups

& Confirmation

*Check calendar for

specific dates

7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Pastor's Corner

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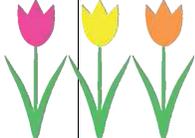
Risen

Easter Sunday Schedule

Sunrise Worship ~ 7:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast ~ 8:15 a.m.

Easter Worship ~ 9:00 a.m.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Easter Sunday 7:30 Easter Sunrise Worship 8:15 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Easter Worship Michelle Ling | 2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Serve Love INC Faith & Finance Supper </div> Leroy & Kolette Eggink | 3 7:00 Lead Team | 4 6:45 Youth Groups 7:00 Adult Bible Study Will Brandner | 5 | 6 Brian Fenske Ron Hyvari Clair Willemsen | 7 | |
| 8 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 7:00 Immerse Small Groups Ian Stewart Chad & Jeani Harms | 9 Bob Roos | 10 Nya Jack Thiat | 11 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Bible Study Doug & Marcia Anton | 12 Walter & Clarice Gehl | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;"> Love INC Furniture Moving April 13th through April 15th) </div> | | |
| 15 Sunny Days Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 7:00 Immerse Small Groups | 16 | 17 | 18 6:45 Youth Groups 7:30 Adult Bible Study | 19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Sunny Days Preschool Open House 4:00-7:00 P.M. </div> Kevin & Nancy Flynn | 20 John & Kris Stewart | 21 | |
| 22 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 7:00 Immerse Small Groups | 23 | 24 | 25 6:45 HS Youth Group 6:45 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Bible Study Phyllis Middagh | 26 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;"> Northwest Conference Annual Meeting at Buffalo, MN </div> Paul Olsen Sarah Martin | | |
| 29 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 7:00 Immerse Small Groups Jim Shows Dan Scheepstra | 30 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 20px; width: 100%;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">APRIL 2018</h1> </div> | | | |  | |

SERVING YOU IN APRIL

SCRIPTURE READERS:

1 Sam Martin
8 Tad Stewart
15
22 Jerry Luinenburg
29 Carol Christopherson

WORSHIP NURSERY:

1 Dan & Kris Fischer
8 Richard & Bethani Fellows
15 Susan Collin & Kadence Hyvari
22 Chad & Katie Kremer
29 Chad & Jeani Harms

SOUND SYSTEM:

1 Dave Bos
8 Jeff Ling
15 Jerry Luinenburg
22 Tom Ahlberg
29 Dave Bos

USHERS:

Charles & Phyllis Middagh
Jude & Mavis Gravenhof

GREETERS:

1 Dan & Kris Fischer
Tom & Sharon Klucking
8 Clarice Buntjer & Ferne Schneiderman
Colin & Gretchen O'Donnell
15 Dale & Shirley Martin
Ted & Sarah Martin
22 Doug & Marcia Anton
Arnold & Elna Sexe
29 Frank & Anne Breuker
Bud & Pauline Nickel

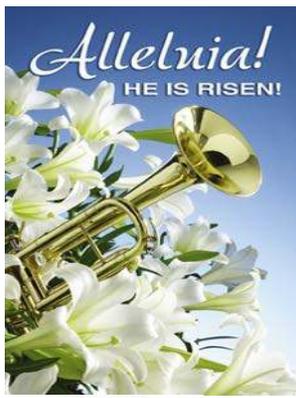
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

1 Easter—No Coffee Fellowship
8 Ted & Sarah Martin
15 Clarice Buntjer
22 Dean & Carol Christopherson
29 Doug & Marcia Anton

COMMUNION SERVERS (April 1st):

Jerry Luinenburg
Dean Christopherson
Carol Christopherson
Jude Gravenhof

**If you cannot serve on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement or call the church office at 376-5109.*



AREA NEWS AND OUR VIEWS

APRIL 2018

By Gene Foth

“why did you come to church today?”

And your survey said....

Why Church



I come to church to worship God, to sing his praises, hear God’s word expounded and fellowship with other Christians.

Church responsibilities :) teaching Sunday School and Readers theater.

Fellowship:
Hope for Spiritual recharge

Plus Holy week services are enjoyable :)

Because I need the teaching and fellowship to help me through the week.

I came to church today for two reasons. (1) the Bible tells me so in Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) *“Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

(2) It makes me feel good to study the Bible in Sunday School, hear the sermon, to sing the songs of encouragement and to visit with fellow Christians!

To meet with God. To worship God. To study and hear from God’s word., To meet with others that want to do the same. To find strength, encouragement, fellowship and direction to begin a new week and share God’s love with others. To plan with others what we can do to reach others for Christ in our community and the world. To gain a heart for missions, respond and take action.

Worship God—Demonstrate love, obedience for/to Him. Minister and be ministered to—

Fellowship,
Spiritual recharge,
because it is Sunday

I came to church today to refresh my mind and grow closer to God with fellow believers. It is something I feel passionate about—not just an obligation. I am here because I want to be!

It is what I have always done! I want to give one special day to God and use it all week! It seems wrong not to start the week with church.

Because this church family is a place where I can be recharged and learn more about God’s plan. I also am more prepared for the week to come.

Church isn’t just a place to learn and connect with God, it’s a place where family and friends come together and spend time with each other with God.

Worship and fellowship with other believers. Our God is an awesome God and I have much to be thankful for.

To start this very important week off right. To hear the story retold and be reminded of all that Jesus sacrifices for us and how much

I came to church today to hear His word and share of my God-given talents in music with others. To shine the light and share His love! *“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it”* Psalm 118:24

The joy of worshipping with others! Learning more about God, Jesus, Holy Spirit. Being encouraged and equipped to live a meaningful life. To connect with others.

Well ya see my Dad decided to be responsible today and wake me up. I planned on coming, but my dad still woke me up EARLY! But oh well it is Palm Sunday and its been a good day so ya. Still wish I could be sleeping, but oh well!

I came because I love God and I need to become closer to Him.



LEROY EGGINK d/b/a

GREAT HERITAGE HOLSTEIN FARMS INC. Sibley IA

Received the prestige **MASTER BREEDER AWARD** at the Iowa Holstein Assn's annual meeting held at Manchester, IA.



This award is given to honor someone who bred and developed good cows through out their years of being in the Holstein business...actual things done with the cows on the farm or in the show ring or had good results from selling animals that have very good success for the buyer. This **MASTER BREEDER AWARD** is for both production, and offspring type of the animal. This is sponsored by the Pagel family and his wife Linda is pictured to the right in the photo to above.

This is not the first time **Great Heritage Holsteins** has been awarded. In 1986 Leroy received the outstanding young breeder award and in 2010 he was named to the Hall of Fame.



Leroy also sat on IOWA HOLSTEIN ASSOCIATION breeder panel above at their annual meeting, discussing Holstein genetics. Holsteins are the number one cow breed when it comes to milk production.



DEAN CHRISTOPHERSON AND

JASON EDWARDS meet with area Legislatures' about farm legislation.



Photos special to The Nobles County Farm Bureau
District 22A Rep. Steve Schaefer (R-Luxemburg) is joined by MFBF Producers
President Dean Christopherson
President Dean Christopherson
Director Carolyn Olson and
Nobles County Farm Bureau
Sec/Treasurer Jason Edwards



GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

A letter received from the speaker...

Dear Pastor Stewart

It was a great blessing to be a part of your service on Sunday, March 15, 2018. The warm and gracious reception on the part of the First Covenant Church was genuinely felt and appreciated. Your message pertaining to the tree made me rethink how I look at the cross and how it fits into the sacrifice Jesus made for myself.

Your congregation's love for the Word is obvious.

The offering that was given in the amount of \$466.00 is evidence of what we consider to be a partnership between the church and The Gideons International in providing God's word to a lost world. Please know that these funds will be used in their entirety to provide scriptures in the traffic lanes of life. Certainly we can pray for searching hearts to be touched—and for souls to be saved—by way of these Scriptures.

Thank you especially for your gracious hospitality and your prayerful support of the Gideon work. We pray that you continue to enjoy God's abundant blessings for yourself, your family and your ministry in the days ahead.

Sincerely Yours in Christ, Al Van Grouw



GRETCHEN O'DONNELL

EGG & EGGCUP COLLECTION

Story & Pictures by Gretchen O'Donnell

I have collected various other things over the years but nothing with as much passion as my eggcups. The first eggcup in my collection came from Harrods department store in London. I went there on a school trip my Junior year in high school. We didn't have more than just a few minutes to run into the famous store and give it a quick look. The door we entered led us straight into the housewares department and right in front of the door was a beautiful set of china. There was only one thing I could afford in the display and I fell in love with the red flowered eggcup.



I don't know exactly why I began collecting them after that, but I have taken great joy in adding eggcups from places I've visited, from friends and family who have given them as gifts, from various antique shops and yes, even a few on-line visits to EBay over the years.

And of course, what's an eggcup without an egg? So I've started collecting eggs too, though most of mine are just blown ones I've saved from year to year which are both inexpensive and fun to dye and decorate. Some of the eggs were made by my kids or felted by my sister, and several, I admit, aren't eggs at all but dried tiny gourds or even egg-shaped rocks. Two are egg-shaped maracas I swiped from my son about 18 years ago, and two others are plastic dinosaurs inside clear plastic eggs. I kind of love those silly dinosaur eggs.



I'd love someday to have a wooden darning egg, but I haven't been able to find one. Part of the fun of collecting is the hunt, yes?



Whenever Lent rolls around it's time to pull out the eggs and their cups. I put away the winter-themed decorations and set up the eggs – all 80 plus of them. Not all of them are “real” eggcups; quite a few are repurposed. I have “borrowed” my daughter's mini Ikea plastic goblets, multi-purposed a tiny teacup, used a couple toothpick holders, and I'm pretty sure that one or two are vintage optometrist eye wash cups. My eggcups and their nested eggs make rather a hodgepodge of Easter decorations. They're a collection of memories, of travels, of gifts, of crafts, of laughter, of creativity.

KRISTINE STEWART

MULTI TALENTED



We all know Kristine as co-pastor of our church but did you know how multi-talented a woman she is? Kris was born in Carroll, Iowa and lived in New Hampton and Fort Dodge, Iowa as well, before moving to New Richland at the age of 11. Kris was involved in band and choir as well as being a cheerleader. Kris said "I was very privileged to grow up at Vista Covenant Church with Chuck Johnson as my pastor. I attended St Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where I majored in Music Education." During college Kris spent two summers working as a youth intern through the Northwest Conference at Bethany Covenant Church. Kris went on to say, "I felt called to the ministry and after graduating from college I attended North Park Seminary, Chicago, ILL. and received a Master of Divinity degree."

While in seminary, Kris worked part time at the Covenant Offices and met John, who was her supervisor in the mailroom. Kris and John were married in 1991 and have three children (Ian, Paige and Tad).

Kris says she enjoys being involved in **Worthington Amazing City Band**

which performs every Wednesday evening at 7:30 in Chautauqua Park during the summer months. She also enjoys playing in the Worthington Symphony Orchestra



.....and accompanying the high school musicals and students in the choir and band programs. She also works part time at Lit'l Wizards. She is also using her God given

musical talents by organizing the church Praise Team in worship.

Kris says she is very happy to call First Covenant Church and Worthington home!



The Lead Team will meet
 Tuesday, April 3rd
 7:00 P.M.
 at the church

**NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
 ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, April 27th and
 Saturday, April 28th
 at Buffalo, Minnesota

First Covenant Church has openings
 left for two delegates; please see
 John or Kris if you are interested in
 attending this uplifting time of
 worship and discussion.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE
 FOR APRIL:**

Wednesday, April 4th
 6:45 P.M. Youth Groups (K-12th)
 7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, April 11th
 6:45 P.M. Confirmation
 7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, April 18th
 6:45 P.M. Youth Groups (K-12th)
 7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, April 25th
 6:45 P.M. Confirmation
 6:45 P.M. High School Youth Groups
 Separate guys & girls groups
 7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Love INC Faith & Finance Supper

FCC is serving supper for the
 Love INC Faith & Finance supper
 on Monday, April 2nd.
 Please sign up if you are interested
 in helping to serve the meal.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study will begin
 meeting again at 7:00 P.M.
 starting on Wednesday, April 4th.

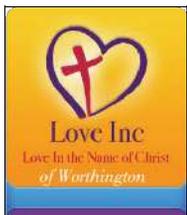
SUNNY DAYS SUNDAY
 Sunday, April 15th

Plan to attend and support
 our preschool ministry.

LOVE INC FURNITURE MOVING

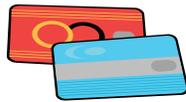
It is First Covenant's turn to
 move furniture for
 Love INC clients
 on Friday, April 13th,
 Saturday, April 14th
 and Sunday, April 15th.

Watch for details and sign up
 to help with this ministry.



**FAREWAY & HY-VEE
GROCERY CARDS
AVAILABLE!!!**

Don't forget to pick yours up on Sunday mornings, contact Howard Rachuy or Dean Christopherson or stop in the office during the week.



CHURCH'S WEBSITE

Check out the website at www.firstcovenantworthington.org
You will find the bulletin, newsletter, Sunny Days calendars and much more there.

FACEBOOK

Did you know that First Covenant Church has a Facebook page?

Like us on Facebook and follow all the news!

FYI

Any money that is still being donated to the Building Fund will go toward building up the Contingency Fund.



DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Copies of Covenant Home Altar are available.

Pick up a copy on the table in the narthex.



TRIP

(Tuition Reduced Incentive Program)
Support Sunny Days Preschool with your purchase of TRIP. Slips listing the participating businesses are available in the office or at Main Street Kids.

Soles4Souls

Village Northwest is collecting new and gently used shoes providing work opportunities for 180 people with a disability. Shoes will be shipped for distribution domestically and internationally to individuals that do not have proper footwear.

Bring your shoes and place them in the collection box in the narthex.



CURRENT NEEDS FOR LOVE INC

Watch the bulletin boards by the office and by the Jerusalem Room for their current needs.

"Pray Worthington"

Tuesdays at noon at the Love INC office



Check out the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall for posters with announcements of things that are happening around the area.



Check out the brochures on the table in the narthex about upcoming events. Also check out their website at: www.lbbc.com



SUNNY DAYS PRESCHOOL NEWS

Can you believe that we are almost through March? Well, I can't. We have been busy with getting through the alphabet. We are getting close to the end.

We are done with spring conferences. We will be having an open house on Thursday, April 19th from 4:00-7:00 P.M. Sunday, April 15th will be Sunny Days Sunday. The kids will be singing in church.

I can't believe the year is almost over. Thank you for all your prayers for our classes and the care packages left outside our door.

A fun thing this month with our dads is called Donuts with Dad. Dads will come and eat a donut and do a craft with their child—something fun and new for our kids.

Train a child in the way he should go even when he's old he will never depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Miss Jen

SUNNY DAYS PRESCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, April 19th
4:00-7:00 P.M.



Camp brochures have or will be sent to individuals that have previously attended Lake Beauty Bible Camp (LBBC). If you, a friend or relative have not received this information and are interested in attending LBBC this year stop in the church office or contact Deb Olsen at 360-4548. You must register online by Monday, April 9th to qualify for the early registration discount (church pays half of early registration fee). Once again this year the camper needs to be registered online to qualify for early discount, you will need to use the appropriate code (see below) to enter the church's portion (all camps use a different code this year). There is \$50 non-refundable deposit due when you register your camper. Following is the camp schedule for the Trimont (home) district:

| | | |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| Senior High (completed 9, 10, 11, or 12 grade) | June 29-August 3 | 18WORTHSH |
| Junior High (completed 6, 7, 8 grade) | June 10-15 | 18WORTHJH |
| Trailblazers #2 (complete 3, 4 or 5 grade) | June 24-28 | 18WORTHTB |
| Frontier Kids #2 (completed 1, 2 or 3 grade) | July 5-7 | 18WORTHFK |

If you need to go to camp at a different time/District please contact Deb Olsen as she will need to provide you with a different group code. If there are any other questions, please contact Deb Olsen.

"A Day for Women"

KJLY presents their 9th annual "A Day for Women" on Saturday, May 5th at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. This year's special guest is Sheila Walsh, powerful Bible teacher, former co-host of "The 700 Club", author and clinical depression victor. Local humorist and speaker, Tina Haroldson will also join us. There will be music, ministry, lunch, testimonies, and mini-sessions. Space is limited so call 507-526-3233 or go online to KinshipRadio.org to register.

First Covenant Church is offering the option of giving your offering online. If interested, go to firstcovenantworthington.org, click on the "ministries" tab and choose "giving" from the list of ministries.

If you have any questions, please contact John or Kris Stewart.