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Pastor's Corner

Last month we introduced the possibility of purchasing the house next door to the church for the expansion of our ministries. The House Dreaming Team made up of Jeff Ling, Robert Redman, Kolette Eggink & Ron Hyvari proposed several possibilities for the house's use including: Youth Annex in the downstairs den; a Christian counseling office or day care on the main floor; guest housing on the second floor. Another possibility would be housing for a pastor and family working on a ministry plant in the area.

We asked for all members and families to consider questions about this possibility and we would answer them publicly. Here were some questions we had with answers:

Q. What is the general condition of the house.

A. Here was the answer we received from the current owner. The house was built in 1958. The main floor square footage is approximately around 1,080. There is a basement and a second floor. The main floor has a kitchen, living room, bedroom, full bath and den (was used as a bedroom at one time, now has a sliding door to deck). The upstairs has two bedrooms, a full bath and walk-in cedar closet. One half of the basement has paneling but otherwise unfinished. The carpeting as been ripped up down there and the cement floors need to be sanded and perhaps could be stained. There is an oversized two car garage. The general condition of the house is good; new roof on garage and house, new aluminum siding on garage and house, new fascia and soffit and new living room windows were all put in approximately 2-3 years ago. The interior is in good condition but like many older homes would be considered dated to many. A new driveway was put in about 10 years ago.

Q. What is the current market value of the house?

A. \$193,400 according to realtor.com

Q. What is the current rental value?

A. \$1,110 according to realtor.com

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>DECEMBER 2017</div>					1 Chad Kremer	2 10:00 Christmas Program Practice 5:30 Christmas Decorating & Chili Potluck
3 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship with Communion 11:45 ONE Strategic Planning Committee Bud Nickel	4	5 7:30 Lead Team Marci Moshier	6 6:45 #507 for 7th-12 Grades at Solid Rock 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Bible Study	7 Mason Harms Dwaine Hodnefield	8	9 10:00 Christmas Program Practice Bob Seifert
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	11	12 Chad Harms	13 6:45 Youth Groups 7:00 Adult Bible Study Dave & Sheila Bos Tom & Sharon Klucking	14 Judy Gustafson	15 Dale Martin Robert Redman Dan & Kris Fischer	16 10:00 Christmas Program Practice Allen Harms Jerry Luinenburg
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 7:00 Christmas Program Clair & Diane Willemssen Sara Eggink	18 Bob & Cathy Seifert	19	20 6:45 Youth Group for High School 6:45 Confirmation Craig Stewart Ted Martin Curt Williams	21 Charles & Phyllis Middagh	22	23 Melanie Loy
24 Christmas Eve 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:00 Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27 No Wednesday night activities	28 Brian Ling	29 Ferne Schneiderman	30 Curt & Teresa Williams
31 New Year's Eve 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship Marie Anderson						

SERVING YOU IN DECEMBER

SCRIPTURE READERS:

3 Deb Joens
10 Gene Foth
17 Jeff Ling
24 Jacob Eggink
31 Sam Martin

WORSHIP NURSERY:

3 Bob & Suzy Brandner
10 Chad & Jeani Harms
17 Susan Collin & Jacob Eggink
24 Robert & Robin Redman
31 John & Emily Buarapha

SOUND SYSTEM:

3 Dave Bos
10 Jeff Ling
17 Dean Christopherson
24 Jerry Luinenburg
31 Tom Ahlberg

USHERS:

Dean & Carol Christopherson
Doug & Marcia Anton

GREETERS:

3 Tom & Deb Martin
Joel & Deb Joens
10 Clair & Diane Willemsen
Jude & Mavis Gravenhof
17 Leroy & Kolette Eggink
Marc & Judy Gustafson
24 Bob & Suzy Brandner
Tom & Sharon Klucking
31 Kevin & Nancy Flynn
Walter & Clarice Gehl

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

3 Leroy & Kolette Eggink
10 Curt & Teresa Williams
17 Duane & Molly Fenske
24 Ted & Sarah Martin
31 Dale & Shirley Martin

COMMUNION SERVERS (Dec. 3rd):

Tom Ahlberg
Howard Rachuy
Clarice Gehl
Nancy Flynn

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

Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER 2017

AREA NEWS AND OUR VIEWS

By Gene Foth

THANKFUL FOR SAFE AND BOUTIFUL HARVEST

Soybeans yielded surprisingly well and corn yields were reported between 150 to 230+ bushels per acre!



Christian Bos's YWAM Adventure



Our team of 5 with 2 leaders are headed to Newtown, Spain, and North

Africa! My Tuesday through Friday consists of getting up around 6:30-ish cleaning my-self, coffee through a French Press and my quiet time (listening, sitting down, and visiting with God). At 7:55 we have a time that everybody comes together, prays, and cleans up our "home". After clean up, we head down to the "Warehouse" where we have lectures until 1 pm (1-2 pm we have lunch). I was selected to be on the builders team which includes building things... Haha... 2-4 pm we the builders team "build" things! (**working on our ship, organizing our workshop, landscaping, etc....**) At 5:30 we all have supper. Supper is great. We do have "homework" every week. Saturday we have a youth program that runs throughout most of the day. Sunday and Mondays are free days. That mostly sums up my "schedule"! **Thank you for the prayers!!**

We have new neighbors

SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL (SMOC)

operates the local **HEAD START** program and are planning to be our new church neighbors. The facility is planned to be built along Pleasant Avenue, just south of Pleasant Park. The new facility built would be used to house 140 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in the federal tuition-free child development program HEAD START.



They have a staff of 35 and use 4 twenty seven passenger busses to transport the children.



This creates a new Children's learning triangle....Sunny Days, Prairie Elementary Pre K and now HEAD START all within sight of each other!

COVENANT TRUST

company representative Erik Carlson spoke on the services CTC has available.

- ◆ Investment portfolios
- ◆ Trust services
- ◆ IRS'S
- ◆ Retirement Investing
- ◆ Gift Planning/ wills



WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EXCITING CHRISTMAS PRESENT?



A BLUE & YELLOW
TONKA TRUCK THAT
LASTED FOR YEARS!
Tom A



TRICYCLE
Ferne S.

A TOY SEMI TRUCK
FROM MY BROTHER

Gene F

Got to play Santa for my hus-
band's family wearing the
family Santa costume
Vicky A.



A BEAUFUL DOLL
FROM MY
PARENTS
.....Lil F

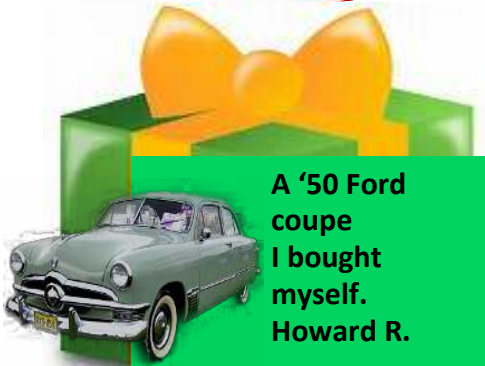


"If you then...know how to
give good gifts to your chil-
dren, how much more will
the Heavenly Father give
the Holy Spirit to those who
ask him" Luke 11:13 b

World War 1
Army Uniform
John S



Ice Skates
Arnold S.



A '50 Ford
coupe
I bought
myself.
Howard R.



Preparation for the
arrival of a baby!
(David)

Elna S

After the Sunday School
program we all got a
brown bag with peanuts,
an apple or orange. Hard
candy and one precious
chocolate drop.
Marci A and many others



A "bride" doll
from "Santa"
Carol C.



A Bible from
my Grandma
Darla V.



Opel Ring from
Grandmother
Kristine S



Lionel Train Set
from my parents.
Dean C.



I have always dreamt
Of being a fireman!



VOLUNTEER FIREMAN

JOHN BUARAPHA



As a child John always wanted to be a fireman! His dream

came true when he joined the Sibley Fire

Department in August 2015. Because his work at Demco in Boyden, IA. has him working out of town he also joined the Boyden Fire Department in October 2016. John said “One of the most dangerous fires he was in-

volved in was when they were called to a garage fire and when they got there the garage was gone and the fire had already spread to the kitchen. To get in to “kill” the fire he had to walk between two charged power lines! The utility company did come and shut off the electricity later. Another time I had to go into a burning house to get the pet cat out of the house. On another fire call they were called to a head on collision on Highway 9 where a car and a SUV collided head-on. The father and 8 year old son were killed in the car and they had to get the lady out of the SUV which was on fire. “

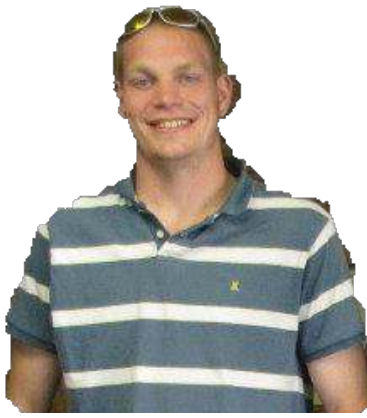
John is always on the first truck out which is the pumper truck.



John works 5 days per week at DEMCO in Boyden IA in the Maintenance Department.

John was born in Worthington and at age 13 he moved to LaCrosse WI. with his parents, brothers and sisters. He married Emily Williams on August 17, 2011 and moved to Sibley. They have a son and a daughter.

John loves to drag race his Honda CRX. He has performed at Brainerd (MN) International Raceway. Brainerd International Raceway's quarter-mile drag strip is the fastest track in the world. He has also raced at Eau Claire WI.



KYLE JANS

THE TRUCK DRIVING MAN

KYLE JANS lives on the farm at 592 280th Avenue, Dundee with this wife, Jenna and children.

His day begins at 5:30 A.M. when he drives semi grain truck for SCHMITZ GRAIN COMPANY INC. Schmitz operates out of Currie, Slayton and Lake Wilson. Kyle has worked in the trucking industry for seven years. He obtained his CDL license while studying at Minnesota West Community & Technical college. His CDL license also includes a tanker endorsement!

Kyle said "I like my job because I get to see a lot of scenery each day. If it is hot outside I have an air conditioned cab, if it is cold outside I have a heater...so I have a climate controlled environment! Ninety percent of my driving is done for the elevator however we do farm loads as well. Once loaded my destination is to one of several ethanol plants located at Marshall, Welcome, Fairmont, Heron Lake, or POET at Bingham Lake, MN or I may go to Ashton, Iowa or it could be to Aurora, South Dakota. Each day's assignment is different. Truck driving is a full time job as you have a heavy load and a long vehicle to manipulate around corners and other obstacles that may be on the road. Trucks can not stop as quickly as a small car because of the added weight pushing the truck forward. We always have to be aware of our weight restrictions, proper driver logs, air brakes in working order, etc."

When asked is hobbies he spare time I spend it with ing on a farm to do outdoors. in my shop



he had any said, "Any have I like to my family. Live we have a lot I like to work too!"



The Lead Team will meet
Tuesday, December 5th
7:30 P.M.
at the church

ONE Strategic Planning
Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 3rd
at 11:45 A.M.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEUDLE

Wednesday, December 6th
#507 for students in 7th-12th grades
Meet at church at 6:20 P.M. to carpool
to Solid Rock, students will return to
First Covenant by 8:15 P.M.

Wednesday, December 13th
Kindergarten-12th grades 6:45 P.M.

Wednesday, December 20th
High School students at 6:45 P.M.

Wednesday, December 27th
NO YOUTH GROUPS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will not be Sunday School on
December 24th or 31st.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24th at 11:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING & CHILI POTLUCK

Saturday, December 2nd-
Supper at 5:30 P.M. with
decorating to follow.



All are welcome and encouraged to
help make the church ready for the
Christmas season.

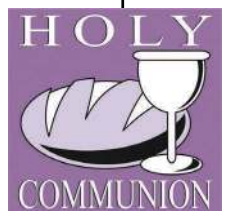
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Save the Date -
Practices for Christmas
program will be
Saturday, December 2nd, 9th & 16th
at 10:00 A.M.

The program will be held on Sunday,
December 17th at 7:00 P.M. with
cookies and coffee to follow.

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Communion is set up by
individuals/couples who are on a
rotation throughout the year. If you
are interested in being a part of the
communion prep ministry, please
talk with Mavis Gravenhof.



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

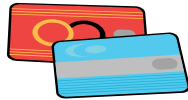
Wednesday, December 6th & 20th
at 6:45 P.M.

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.

**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

November is almost gone. Harvest is complete—it was a busy month with teaching, para job then farmer's wife. I made it!

We are adjusting being inside since it is cold outside. The kids learned about pilgrims, turkeys and manners in November. We have even started on Christmas songs! Our Christmas program is December 15th at 10:00 A.M.

Thanks for your prayers for Sunny Days. Can you believe it has been 30 years! Praise God for his continuous mercy for the program.

Miss Jen

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are ordering poinsettias to make the church beautiful during the Christmas season. If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the order blank that will be in the bulletin on Sundays, December 3rd & 10th and return to the church office by Monday, December 11th. You can also stop in the office or call the office to put in your order.

**You have your choice of red, pink, white or marble white with red).
The cost will be \$9.00 each.**

