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## 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

### Celebrating the Season of Lent


Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, occurs 46 days before Easter – 40 days of fasting, minus the six Sundays, which are not days of fasting.

As we know from the stories in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent began as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter. Every Sunday is to be seen as a commemoration of the Sunday that Christ rose from the dead, therefore fasting is not necessary as each Sunday is a "feast day."

At First Covenant Church, we use ashes made from the palm branches that are used to celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Each of us, as a way of remembering the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf, are invited to receive the ashes hearing the words, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

But Ash Wednesday is more than just a ritual, and Lent is more than just giving up something we like. We celebrate Ash Wednesday, and fast during Lent as a way of remembering Jesus, his death on the cross, and the gift offered to us of living forever with him. We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas and we celebrate his victory over death on Easter Sunday, but in between, we also need to remember his sacrifice and the depth of his love for all of humanity that led him to the cross.

"You are invited, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by holy prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy world."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>FEBRUARY 2018</div>				1  Nyachoat Lia Susan Collin	2  Charles Middagh	3  Doug Anton
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship with Communion	5  Emmanuel Morales Joel & Deb Joens	6 7:00 Lead Team  Annabelle Kremer Tucker Brandner	7 6:45 Youth Groups for Kindergarten-6th #507 Youth Rally for 7th- 12th grades 7:00 Adult Bible Study	8  Leroy Eggink Pauline Nickel	9  Mak Lia Katie O'Donnell	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship  Jenna Jans	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day  6:15 Ash Wednesday Supper followed by worship	15 6:00-9:00 Lead Team & ONE Team Planning	16 <div>Middle School Youth Group Game Night 7:30-9:30 P.M.</div>	17 <div>Baby Shower for Erik Nickolas Paine 2:00 P.M.</div> Lucy O'Donnell
18 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship  Kamaria Bos Jude Gravenhof	19	20	21 6:00 Supper 6:30 Devotions 6:45 Youth Groups 7:00 Adult Bible Study  Elna Sexe	22	23  Tom Martin	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship  Blaine Collin	26	27  Bud & Pauline Nickel	28 6:00 Supper 6:30 Devotions 6:45 Youth Groups 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Bible Study			

Richard Fellows  
Caleb Fellows  
Kyla Redman

SERVING YOU IN FEBRUARY

**SCRIPTURE READERS:**

4 Sam Martin  
11 Lil Foth  
18 Kolette Eggink  
25 Marc Gustafson

**GREETERS:**

4 Brian & Michelle Ling  
Tom Ahlberg & Howard Rachuy  
11 Dan & Kris Fischer  
Tom & Sharon Klucking  
18 Colin & Gretchen O'Donnell  
Arnold & Elna Sexe  
25 Walter & Clarice Gehl  
Jude & Mavis Gravenhof

**WORSHIP NURSERY:**

4 Dan & Kris Fischer  
11 Chad & Katie Kremer  
18 Richard & Bethani Fellows  
25 Susan Collin & Kadence Hyvari

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

4 Brian & Michelle Ling  
11 Dan & Kris Fischer  
18 Tom & Sharon Klucking  
25 Duane & Molly Fenske

**SOUND SYSTEM:**

4 Dave Bos  
11 Jeff Ling  
18 Jerry Luinenburg  
25 Tom Ahlberg

**COMMUNION SERVERS (February 4th):**

Dean Christopherson  
Jeff Ling  
Ted Martin  
Clarice Gehl

**USHERS:**

Clair & Diane Willemssen  
Dave & Sheila Bos

*\*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

FEBRUARY

2018

By Gene Foth

February is known as the "Love" month! The Bible tells us that LOVE is the greatest! February 14 is all about our love for a loved one whom we shower with Roses, Candy and valentines. But February 2018 will also bring out the love we have for sports as two great events are taking place this month.



**WINTER OLYMPICS** officially known as the XXIII Olympic Winter Games will be held **February 9-25** in **PyeongChang, South Korea** (pronounced pyuhng-chahng).

The 2018 Winter Olympics will consist of 102 events in 15 different sports over the course of 18 days. An estimated 234 athletes will wear the Stars and Stripes.



CBNNEWS.COM and Sports Central posted this news.

## CASEY KEENUM, VIKING QUARTER BACK



"God is so good," Keenum said after the game Sunday, Jan 14, 2018, against the New Orleans Saints 29 to 24 victory .It's probably the third best day of my life; the day I gave my life to Jesus Christ, the day I married my wife in 2011, and probably this one," Keenum told the Pioneer Press. "You just realize that football is fickle; it's not going to be there all the time. Just getting my priorities straight and knowing the true reason I play the game, and that's to give glory to God. That's something I take pride in. It's why I do what I do.

## STEFON DIGGS, VIKING WIDE RECEIVER



"I give everything to God," Stefon Diggs told Fox Sports. He thanked his coaches and teammates for giving him the opportunity, then pointed to God. "God did the rest, He put me here. And I'm just thankful."



SUPER BOWL

is set for Feb. 4 in Minneapolis, Minn. U S Bank Stadium

## Fellowship of Christian Athletes

will be present with

**Dr. Tony Evans**, Former Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys, Pastor-Oak Cliffe Fellowship.



**Tony Dungy**, Sports Commentator and Super Bowl Winning Coach



**James Brown**

CBS Sports Commentator



The only NFL sanctioned Gospel will be held THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1st 2018 , 7 pm @ BENSON GREAT HALL | BETHEL UNIVERSITY **J. B. Brown** and **Greg Jenkins** from the **Green Bay Packers** will be speakers together with **Eric Berry** from the Kansas City Chiefs **Tim Brown** from the NFL Hall of Fame. Plus the

## NFL PLAYERS CHOIR



NFL PLAYERS CHOIR



Minnesota West Community & Technical College announced the Fall Semester 2017 Dean's List. Students with a grade point of 3.5 from our congregation are:

**Katelyn Middagh** Worthington MN

daughter of Tim and Susan Middagh....Grand daughter of Charles and Phyllis Middagh

**Alyssa Bousema** Worthington MN

(daughter of our Sunny Days Director Jen (Mike) Bousema)

**Ethan Hyvari** participated in the Mankato State Honor Band Jan 26



# CONGREGATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 28, 2018 THE PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE THE HOUSE AT 1629 SOUTH SHORE DRIVE WAS DISCUSSED. THE 'DREAM TEAM' SUGGESTED THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE HOUSE WAS FOR THE YOUTH TO USE THE BASEMENT, PERHAPS A DAY CARE OR NIGHT CARE CENTER, USE IT FOR VISITING MISSIONARIES OR PASTORS ON HOME ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR 2018



TOM AHLBERG



DAVE BOS



MOLLY FENSKE



KEVIN FLYNN



RON HYVARI



JOEL JOENS



CHAD KREMER



TERESA WILLIAMS

PASTORS JOHN & KRISTINE STEWART



CHURCH DIRECTORY CHANGE: RACHUY, HOWARD

REMOVE PHONE 507-376-9510 CHANGE CELL PHONE TO READ 507-360-4828



**TED MARTIN**, Long time friend Jack Peterson, neighbor Kelly Klingenberg and his son Aaron headed out to the Black Hills of South Dakota for their snowmobile trip on January 17th with plans to return the 22nd. Ted says, “ I have been snowmobiling in the Black Hills off and on for the past 30 years. While in Deadwood, we stayed at the Gold Country Inn. They had just received 10” of snow the weekend before we left so the conditions were excel-



lent. With the temps in the 30’ and 40’s the four days we were there the riding was very good. We usually ride at least 100 miles per day which doesn’t sound like a lot but we spend a lot of time ridding in the trees and off trail. I really enjoy the Black

Hills for the great scenery and the mild temperatures plus there is no wind! I



ride a Skidoo while Jack and Kelly ride Polaris sleds. We have stayed in several of the small towns in the Black Hills area but Deadwood is my favorite. Their history, entertainment and food make it a great place to stay.”





# DEB JOENS

THE LADY BEHIND THE MONEY AT



## WILMONT BRANCH



Deb lives with her rural mail carrier husband Joel at Wilmont MN. Is the mother of two children and four grand children. Daughter Jodi and family reside in Brookings, SD. Son Tony and family live in North Carolina.

Deb was born and raised in Fulda MN. Graduated from Fulda High School in 1975 and went on to study cosmetology at Willmar MN.

In 1977 Deb & Joel were married and moved to Virginia Beach, Virginia. Nine months later they moved back to Joel's hometown of Wilmont where they farmed for about thirteen years. Deb said, "In 1983 while waitressing in the local café, I was approached by the bank president at that time, inquiring if I was interested in a bank teller position. The rest is history!"



"My most memorable experience was in 1987 when the bank was closed by FDIC and we were bought by Farmers State Bank of Mountain Lake MN. **NOT** a fun weekend!! " (Farmers State Bank of Mountain Lake was renamed United Prairie Bank in February, 1992) She says the biggest changes in the past 30 years has been automation, all the online products and of course everyone's favorite....Government regulations!!

Deb also said, "The one thing that really has not changed and probably my favorite part of my job is the people. I've met so many people and am grateful for that."





The Lead Team will meet  
Tuesday, February 6th  
**7:00 P.M.**  
at the church

**LEAD TEAM AND  
ONE TEAM PLANNING MEETING**  
Thursday, February 15th  
6:00-9:00 P.M.  
A lasagna supper will be provided

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

6:45 P.M. Youth Groups  
for Kindergarten-6th grade  
#507 for students in 7th-12th grades  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Ash Wednesday Activities  
6:15 P.M. Supper with  
worship to follow

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

6:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Devotions  
6:45 P.M. Youth Groups—  
Kindergarten-12th grade  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

6:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Devotions  
6:45 P.M. Confirmation  
6:45 P.M. Youth Groups-  
High School Girls and Guys Groups  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14th  
Supper served at 6:15 P.M.  
followed by worship.

Everyone is invited to participate in the Ash Wednesday worship which will include a time of reflection and an opportunity to receive ashes; if younger students attend, we ask that they have a parent with them.



## Wednesday Lenten Supper & Devotions

This will be a casual, interactive time for youth through adults. Supper will begin at 6:00 P.M. followed by devotions at 6:30 P.M.; youth groups will begin at 6:45 P.M. Sign up in the narthex if you would like to host a supper.

## CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 14th  
(help with Ash Wednesday Service)  
February 28th at 6:45 P.M.

## BABY SHOWER honoring

Erik Nickolas Paine  
son of Terri & Nick Paine  
Saturday, February 17th  
2:00 P.M.  
at the church



#507 Youth Rally for students 7th-12th grades at Westminster Presbyterian Meet at the church at 6:15 P.M. to carpool to Westminster Presbyterian for supper and worship; we will return to FCC by 8:15.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP GAME NIGHT

Friday, February 16th  
7:30-9:30 P.M.

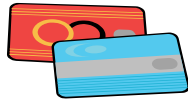
Bring a game to play, a snack to share and invite your friends.





**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](http://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](http://www.lbbc.com)



## SUNNY DAYS PRESCHOOL NEWS

Winter greetings to all. Our kids have been wearing boots, hats, warm coats and bundling up!! We have been dressing warm and practicing to do it Ourselves; many will be going to Kindergarten next fall.

We made homemade snow, we painted snow; one of the kids favorites and eating ices too.

January is a long month they say . . Practicing numbers all the way to 31 days.

Next month we will be getting Valentines ready for our loved ones.

A good Bible verse: 1 John 4:8 "Whoever does not love does not know God, God is love."

Blessings,  
Miss Jen

### GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

GriefShare is a special weekly seminary and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them.

Thursdays 7:00-8:30 P.M.  
February 9th—May 3rd  
(join any time)  
First Lutheran Church  
1200 4th Avenue, Worthington

Call Love INC to register  
507-727-7291

### RUMMAGE SALE

First United Methodist Church  
Saturday, February 17th  
9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Clothing, Small Appliances, Kitchen Items,  
Decorating Items, Small Pieces of  
Furniture, Toys & Games,  
Miscellaneous Items

Bag Sale 2:00-3:00 P.M.

Proceeds will be used for mission projects