

## In This Issue:

Pastor's Corner

January Calendar

Church Events

News From Sunny Days

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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


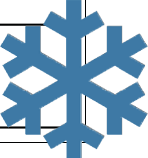
Today is the day after Christmas. As I drove around this morning doing some errands I turned on the radio. Ever since Thanksgiving I was able to dial into Christmas music on a couple of stations. Over the last week even more stations were playing Christmas songs. Today, alas, there are none.

How quickly our world rushes on to the next thing. Equally sad is how much Christmas is a consumer holiday, every season. Many of our favorite Christmas songs have been turned into advertising jingles. "Buy, Buy, Buy!" to the tune of "Jingle Bells". Even worse was a rendition of "Silent Night" touting an all night sale. And in today's news, Wall Street was ecstatic over the strong Christmas sales.

Of course, we know Christmas is so much more. It's unfortunate that the news isn't about how many people dedicated or rededicated their lives to the one born in the manger at this time of the year. And yet, things aren't much different than when Jesus was born. A census had to be taken ultimately to more efficiently tax the empire of Rome. People had to travel. Innkeepers and shepherds had to work long hours to make ends meet. Young women had to give birth to new life sometimes at the most inconvenient times. In other words, the world went ahead without giving a second thought to God.

For followers of Jesus our prayer is that we will remember God and his greatest gift. Remember the Hope of God's promises kept. Remember the Peace of trusting God even when life gets crazy. Remember the Joy of sharing the Good News. Remember the Love of our Heavenly Father who sent us to the wonder of Christmas because he sent Jesus.

Merry Christmas always and Happy New Year.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1 New Year's Day</b>  Nyanhial Reek Yoa	<b>2</b>  Gene Foth	<b>3</b>  6:00-8:00 Confirmation with supper 6:45 HS Youth Groups 7:00 Adult Bible Study  Gretchen O'Donnell	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Clarice Buntjer	<b>6</b>  De-decorating Day 9:30 A.M.
<b>7</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship with Communion	<b>8</b>  Nyjah Buarapha	<b>9</b>  7:30 Lead Team	<b>10</b> 6:45 Youth Groups 7:00 Adult Bible Study  Jacob Eggink	<b>11</b>  Shirley Martin	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship  Jenna Jans	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Ethan Hyvari	<b>17</b> 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Jon Weitgenant	<b>20</b>  Emily Buarapha
<b>21</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	<b>22</b>  Marc Gustafson	<b>23</b>  Christian Bos Bob & Lindy Roos	<b>24</b> 6:45 Youth Groups 7:00 Adult Bible Study  Gloria Frederickson	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Lean Steinman	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship Annual Meeting to follow  Carol Christopherson Haylee Untiedt	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Craig & Elizabeth Stewart	<b>31</b> 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Bible Study	<div>  <h1>JANUARY 2017</h1> </div>		

SERVING YOU IN JANUARY

**SCRIPTURE READERS:**

7 Kris Fischer  
14 Tom Ahlberg  
21 Carol Christopherson  
28 Leroy Eggink

**WORSHIP NURSERY:**

7 Dan & Kris Fischer  
14 Robert & Robin Redman  
21 Chad & Jeani Harms  
28 Colin & Gretchen O'Donnell

**SOUND SYSTEM:**

7 Dave Bos  
14 Jeff Ling  
21 Jerry Luinenburg  
28 Tom Ahlberg

**USHERS:**

Kevin & Nancy Flynn  
Jeff Ling & Howard Rachuy

**GREETERS:**

7 Ted & Sarah Martin  
Tom & Deb Martin  
14 Chad & Katie Kremer  
Charles & Phyllis Middagh  
21 Dave & Sheila Bos  
Gene & Lil Foth  
28 Dean & Carol Christopherson  
Duane & Molly Fenske

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

7 Jeff Ling  
14 Colin & Gretchen O'Donnell  
21 Joel & Deb Joens  
28 Dean & Carol Christopherson

**COMMUNION SERVERS (January 7th):**

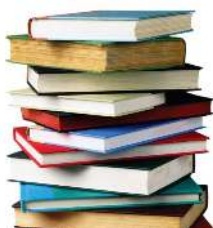
Brian Ling  
Carol Christopherson  
Lil Foth  
Jude Gravenhof

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



Scripture says, *For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come* (Heb. 13:14). It also says, *for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal* (2 Cor. 4:18). Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, **but my words will not pass away!**"

There are some things that we have grown up with but will disappear and be replaced with new, modern technology! Here are a few of those things.....



**BOOKS** By the end of this decade, digital formats for tablets and e-readers will displace physical books. Digital texts figure to yield more bang for the buck than today's textbooks. Interactive soft wear will test younger pupil's mastery of basic skills such as arithmetic and create customized lesson plans based on their responses. Older students till be able to take digital notes and even simulate chemistry experiments when brick and mortar labs aren't handy.

**The Moldboard Plow** Modern farmers have little use for it. It provides a deep tillage that turns up too much soil, encouraging erosion because the plow leaves no plant material on the surface to stop wind and rain water from carrying the soil away. It also requires a huge amount of diesel fuel to plow, compared with other tillage methods, cutting into farmers' profits. The final straw: It releases more carbon dioxide into the air than other tillage methods.



**KEYS** at least in the sense of a piece of brass cut to a specific shape, are going away. But for getting into your house (and your car), the technology that will kill off the key is your smart phone. Connecting either via Bluetooth or the Internet, your mobile device will be programmed to lock and unlock doors at home, at the office and elsewhere. A variety of "connected car" services such as Audi Connect and GM's OnStar already let you unlock and lock the car remotely and even start it with a phone app

**The traditional incandescent lightbulb** that traces its roots back to Thomas Edison is definitely on its way out. As of January 1, 2014, the manufacture and importation of 40- to 100-watt incandescent bulbs became illegal in the U.S., part of a much broader effort to get Americans to use less electricity.



**Cash, Check books, credit cards and ATMs:** Soon, you will have all your banking done through any mobile device — even your vehicle. Across the U.S., check use fell 57 percent from 2000 to 2012, according to the Federal Reserve. Ninety-four percent of consumers under 35-years-old bank online, and more than one-fifth of them have never written a physical check to pay a bill. In the more distant future, there will be no cash. No cash means no cash machines — bye, bye ATMs.



Information Courtesy of KIPLINGER.COM



# DIANE WILLEMSEN



## DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE

### NOBLES COUNTY

If you live in Nobles County Minnesota, there is no doubt that you have been helped by **DIANE WILLEMSEN** when you applied for or renewed your Driver License or ID. By recent Minnesota law she will now work with the NEW ENHANCED driver license and ID's. When you bought your vehicle you would have gone to the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer's office in the Government Center downtown Worthington for your Title ,Bill of Sale and vehicle registration and chances are Diane waited on you!

Diane's job title and description is Deputy Auditor-Treasurer. Diane started working in the Department of Motor Vehicle April 2001 and prior to that she worked for Scholtes Motors here in Worthington.



When asked what she likes best about her job she said, "I especially enjoy helping members of our church family. Seeing kids from church growing up and getting their permits and drivers license is fun." She said, "Our department was recently recognized as "employees of the month" for the county"

She was born at Pipestone and Graduated from Pipestone High School and Faribault (MN) Area Technical College.

Diane loves to go camping in the summertime with her husband Clair. Her favorite camping spot is the KOA Campground at Sioux Falls, SD. While camping here she enjoys going to rummage sales in the area!

Other hobbies include shopping on the internet, reading cookbooks and spending time with her grandchildren, Max and Amelia!



## DID YOU GET A NEW BIBLE FOR CHRISTMAS?



If you did it was most likely printed in English. Or maybe you were handed down a family heirloom Bible in Swedish, Norwegian, maybe even German or as in this issue, the Nyanhial Yoa's article..... she has a South Sudanese Bible.

**BUT DID YOU KNOW** There are currently 7,102 known languages spoken by people around the world, according to **Ethnologue**, widely considered to be the most extensive catalogue of the languages of the world. 3,866 have a developed writing system. The remaining 3,233 are likely unwritten. The Bible says.....

*And then this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, AND THEN THE END WILL COME*" Matthew 24:14 "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations." Mark 13:10

With today's modern satellites and technology, **WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS** have accelerated translating the Bible and disseminating the scriptures in a quick time frame. Their goal is to have the Word of God in every language by 2025! What used to take years for translators to learn the native language and then they had to send it to printers which was very expensive and time consuming getting the scriptures through customs. Today God has provided a way to accelerate Bible translation like never before through Tablets for National Translators (TNTs), Bible Translation Acceleration Kits (BTAK'S), Print on Demand (POD) stations, and a growing suite of Bible translation apps. Wycliffe missionaries don't evangelize, teach theology, hold Bible study or start churches. They give (preliterate people) a written language," Edwards said. "They teach them to read and write in their mother tongue." Developing leading-edge technological solutions for Bible translation is critical, especially in remote regions where travel is difficult and sometimes in high persecution areas. These technological advancements accelerate translation efforts by years—bringing God's Word to those waiting, faster than ever before.



Solar and Satellites are used in remote areas!

### (1) MOBILIZED ASSISTANCE SUPPORTING TRANSLATION (MAST)

This proven method is accelerating Bible translation efforts faster than ever before.

In 2016 it was used in 600 languages and 50 New Testaments completed.,

in 2017 it served 1,630 languages and 349 New Testaments were completed,

In 2018 it will serve 2,000 languages and 700 New Testaments completed and 50 whole Bibles completed,

in 2019 it will serve 4,000 languages and 1,500 New Testaments completed and 150 Bibles completed,

in 2020 it will serve 6,000 languages and 3,000 New Testaments completed and 500 Bibles completed,

in 2021 every language will have a New Testament with 1,500 Bibles completed.

In 2025 A BIBLE IN EVERY LANGUAGE!



(2) **BIBLE TRANSLATION ACCELERATION KIT (BTAK)** This includes a laptop computer, power supply, satellite communication terminal, solar panel and battery enabling translators to work and collaborate anywhere in the world. 544 BTAK'S have been deployed to date.

(3) **PRINT ON DEMAND (POD)** is a compact, high-speed, digital printing system that prints real copies of God's Word quickly, literally "on demand." These cost-effective units quickly print God's translated Word for distribution to those who are without it.

(4) **BIBLE TRANSLATION RECORDING KIT (BTRK)** These systems are crucial to translating God's word into languages that are only spoken. BTRKs are the best way for these oral cultures to hear God's truth.

(5) **TABLETS FOR NATIONAL TRANSLATORS (TNTs)** can be laptop computers, mobile phone apps which are loaded in multiple languages. TNT'S help translators work together faster and more securely, comparing work instantly online. 3,149 total distributed to date.







# NYANHIAL REEK YOA

## Interview and story by Anne Breuker

Nyanhial (pronounced Nan Yell) was born in the Southern part of Sudan during times of civil unrest and violence. When South Sudan declared its independence in 2011, she was already in the United States.

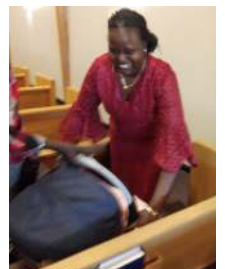
She came here with her husband in 1999 at the age of 19, living first in Maine and New Hampshire. Later they were encouraged by an uncle to move to Minnesota at Mankato and then Worthington. She is the mother of six children, the youngest, a baby girl born September 14, 2017. The baby's name is Kouthathin which means "God Loves You". Nyanhial still struggles with our language, but has found work at JBS.



Her home is decorated with colorful beadwork, shells, mementos from her home land and precious family pictures. In the picture, Nyanhial is surrounded by her family, her sister from Maine who was visiting, and a child who was with them for the afternoon. Her life style is a mixture of American and Sudanese, with food and clothing from both countries. Her lovely Sudanese dresses are made by a seamstress in Mankato and her oldest daughter does the braid work in her hair.

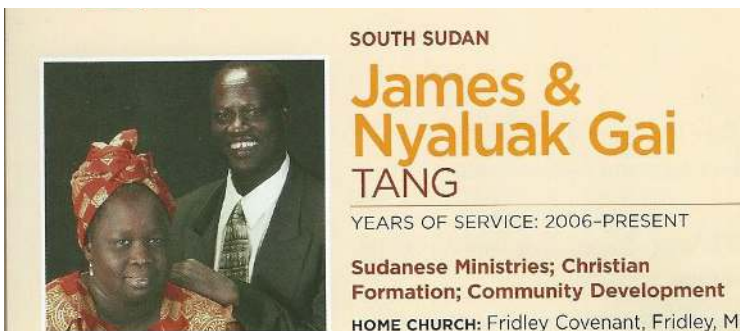
Nyanhial has been back to South Sudan to visit her mother and family there. Her mother has since moved to Kenya to escape the unrest in South Sudan. She misses her mother and wishes her mother could see her family and her children could see their grandmother. She is able to visit her mother by phone and they exchange pictures by phone as well. The church there is active, supporting widows, orphans and refugees in South Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia

Nyanhial loves to read the stories of Jesus in the Gospels and the account at Pentecost found in Acts. She uses her Sudanese Bible and the hymn book she brought with her from Sudan. "*Jesus Loves me, This I know*" is one song she loves and sings it to the same melody we do. She enjoys her video of the Sudanese choir singing in their white robes with large red crosses on the front. She has made our church home and loves our pastors' John and Kris. Nyanhial is the youngest in the family who became Christians under the teaching of a Covenant Missionary, James Tang. She attended school at the church he led. Nyanhial learned to love and trust Jesus through his teaching and her Christian parents. She loved to sing in the choir when she was only five years old, and never missed church.



## HOW GOD USED A COVENANT MISSIONARY

James Tang became a missionary in 2006 and still continues his ministry there. In the Covenant Companion ( Nov/Dec 2017 page 42-44) a story titled *GRACE IN A TIME OF BLOOD-SHED* describes how he and a fellow missionary, Matthew Jock Moses, whose family also has suffered from the violence, have led training programs called Peace Reconciliation and Healing. To date, 4,000 South Sudanese in seven refugee camps from more than twenty tribes have been trained as ambassadors of peace.



Above photo and story can be found in the 2017-2018 Serve Globally Prayer Calendar on page 64 February 22

Other photos are courtesy of Ann Breuker.



The Lead Team will meet  
Tuesday, January 9th  
7:30 P.M.  
at the church

DE-DECORATING DAY  
Saturday, January 6th at 9:30 A.M.  
Please consider helping to put away  
the Christmas decorations.  
Thank you!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD

6:45 P.M. Confirmation  
6:45 P.M. High School Youth Group  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH

6:45 P.M. Youth Groups K-12th  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH

6:45 P.M. Confirmation  
6:45 P.M. High School Youth Group  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH

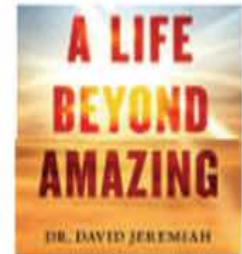
6:45 P.M. Youth Groups K-12th  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST

6:45 P.M. Confirmation  
6:45 P.M. High School Youth Group  
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study



ADULT  
BIBLE  
STUDY



Will begin on January 3, 2018 in  
the Jerusalem room at 7 PM.

In this 11 part series we will discuss the video series on  
"THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT" A life of Love, Joy, Peace,  
Endurance, Compassion, Generosity, Integrity, Humility  
and Self-Discipline. You are welcome to join this  
energetic group each Wednesday night!

## First Covenant Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28th with lunch

A free-will offering will be taken  
for the high school youth group  
who will be serving the meal.

First Covenant Church is offering the  
option of giving your offering online.

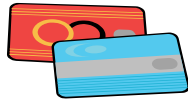
If interested, go to  
[firstcovenantworthington.org](http://firstcovenantworthington.org),  
click on the "ministries" tab and  
choose "giving" from the list of  
ministries. If you have any  
questions, please  
contact John or Kris Stewart.





**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](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**

**Greetings from Sunny Days Preschool.**

**We had a busy month in December. We learned about the birth of Jesus and what a big part he plays in our lives.**

**We also learned new letters, made Christmas presents for our parents, decorated sugar cookies and built marshmallow towers. We learned our Christmas songs for our program that was on December 15th.**

**We hope you all had a blessed holiday season and remember Jesus is the reason for the season.**

**Miss Jen**

### **Potential House Purchase Questions & Answers**

**Q. How much money is available from the Stag sale?**

**A. \$38,868**

**Q. What are the average monthly utility costs?**

**A. The current owners answered with the following email:**

**“The problem with our average utility bills is that we have it set at 55 all winter and 80 all summer because no one is there. Under that scenario, the cost is about \$150 per month (WPU and Minnesota Energy...they both combined cover gas, electric, water, sewer, garbage and recycling). With someone living there full time, of course, it would be higher, but I don’t know by how much.”**