

## In This Issue:

Pastor's Corner

March 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

7:30 P.M. Adult Bible Study  
(During the Lenten season)

## Pastor's Corner

By the end of the month my favorite professional sport (baseball) will have begun. (The Twins first game is in Baltimore on March 29). I'm thankful for March for both the beginning of baseball and the end of winter. I know we can get blizzards in March, and please don't remind me of the May blizzard of 2013.

This winter has been a little more of a downer than usual. Two things have made it this way: more snow and persistent virus bugs. These two factors have contributed to lower church attendance than usual compared to the last couple of years.

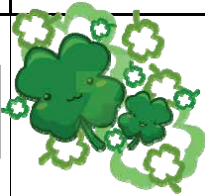
On a positive note, our lower attendance reflects the reality of the busy-ness of our younger families lives and we do have more younger families than we have had for several years.

Never the less, we want to encourage you to make every effort to be here to worship with us. As the late Billy Graham stated in a response to a question about church attendance "Baseball fans...get a kick out of the game because they 'get into it'. They know the batting averages of the players, the team standings in the league, and the pitcher's earned run averages." Get to know as much about God as possible and he will help you see the value of his church in your life. He will help you get into it.

But as author Kyle Idleman puts it, God doesn't want fans, he wants players. When you attend church you're playing on God's team and we'd certainly love a deeper bench.

Finally, let us know what kinds of things you would actively participate in at church. We know that there are many needs to deal with and desires to grow, and we are here to encourage your journey to Christ and nurture you walk with Christ. Never hesitate to share what would be helpful in those areas for you. We look forward to being a team with you.

Play Ball!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>MARCH 2018</div>				1  Lil Foth	2  Granger Collin Tom Klucking	3
<b>4 3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship with Communion  Dan Fischer	5	6  7:00 Lead Team	7 6:00 Supper 6:30 Devotions 6:45 Youth Groups 7:30 Adult Bible Study	8	9	10
<b>11 4th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship  John Martin	12  Suzy Brandner Tim & Susan Middagh	13	14 6:00 Supper 6:30 Devotions 6:45 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Bible Study	15	16	17  John Buarapha Kadie Hyvari
<b>18 5th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship  Deb Joens Alex & Jasmine Ling	19  Tom Martin	20  Tad Stewart	21 6:00 Supper 6:30 Devotions 6:45 Youth Groups 7:30 Adult Bible Study	22	23	24  Deb Martin
<b>25 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	26	27  Howard Rachuy	28 6:00 Supper 6:30 Devotions 6:45 Confirmation 7:30 Adult Bible Study Sandy Carlson	<b>29 Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00 Maunday Thursday Worship  Jackie Martin Jasmine Ling	<b>30 Good Friday</b> 7:00 Good Friday Worship at FCC with Indian Lake Baptist  Kris Fischer	31  Kevin Miller

SERVING YOU IN MARCH

**SCRIPTURE READERS:**

4 Brian Ling  
11 Ron Hyvari  
18 Jeff Ling  
25 Deb Joens

**GREETERS:**

4 Leroy & Kolette Eggink  
Marc & Judy Gustafson  
11 Kevin & Nancy Flynn  
John & Emily Buarapha  
18 Bob & Suzy Brandner  
Clair & Diane Willemssen  
25 Richard & Bethani Fellows  
Gene & Lil Foth

**WORSHIP NURSERY:**

4 Dan & Kris Fischer  
11 Robert & Robin Redman  
18 Chad & Jeani Harms  
25 Colin & Gretchen O'Donnell

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

4 Jeff Ling  
11 Walter & Clarice Gehl  
18 Gene & Lil Foth  
25 Leroy & Kolette Eggink

**SOUND SYSTEM:**

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

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

Michelle Ling  
Tom Ahlberg  
Ron Hyvari  
Sarah Martin

**USHERS:**

Dean & Carol Christopherson  
Tom & Sharon Klucking

*\*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

**MARCH 2018**

**By Gene Foth**

**MARCH 20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING**

**MARCH 11 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**



Daylight Saving  
Time begins at **2:00 a.m.** on the second Sunday in March and reverts to standard time on the first Sunday in November.

**CHRISTIAN BOS YWAM ADVENTURE**

Prayer requests in his latest blog from Wollongong, Australia and Malaga Spain are.....

1. Healing for sickness of the outreach team (Christian is not sick)
2. That people they meet might have their necks and hearts soft
3. Boldness for the team to walk out into their calling and
4. Most importantly be praying for God's will



**LEADERSHIP TEAM 2018 ORGANIZATION**

**Molly Fenske – chairwoman**

**Dave Bos – vice chair**

**Joel Joens – financial officer**

**Ron Hyvari-secretary**

**Tom Ahlberg, Kevin Flynn, Chad Kremer and Teresa Williams complete the Leadership Team.**

In this monthly issue we have four Olympic Athlete's Christian Testimony. It is my prayer and hope that our young people (and us) can make people like this as our heroes and models in life! They are not afraid to show Christ to the world!



**HERB STROMQUIST**

Age 94, passed away at his winter home in Mesa, Arizona on February 16, 2018

Herb loved to sing in church, nursing homes and even at the intermission of the Worthington Amazing City Band concert last summer



**ETHAN HYVARI** went fishing at Devils Lake, North Dakota during the spring break.

He had a "once-in-a-life-time" experience when he got two fish on one hook!!! His group also speared the limit of Northern Pike in one day.





# SARA EGGINK

## FOLLOWS HER HEART FOR MISSIONS

**SARA EGGINK** made her third trip to serve at YWAM Antigua, Guatemala. She says, "Every trip is so different and stands out to me in different ways. This last trip was filled with growing connections with the people working full-time on base who work with Bruce Ahlberg. They are starting a new medical ministry and to meet those new on base to be involved in that, light up the base. Additionally, it was amazing to play with kids in the city square and see how their joy, despite having so little. God is so present in that location and working through Bruce and his staff. Please continue to pray for them down there as their ministry grows. There are additional stories from those who went, at the end of the trip we shared our favorite memories/experiences and I thought it would be good to get other perspectives as well." Pictured here is the group that worked at YWAM Antigua, Guatemala



**ED McNIECE, DENTIST** also went along on this trip. He said, "Other than the smiles and gratitude of the people, my highlight was coming out after Monday morning clinic hours and hearing that three people in the prayer room had given their lives to Christ"

**KAREN** said this about the trip, "When I think back about it, it was the sincere, full on hugs from anyone who gave them. We were embraced with love and acceptance. God's LOVE

and ACCEPTANCE of who we are, no matter where we are from, no matter our background. I received hugs from little children right up to elderly adults and they were given freely. Just like Jesus himself in human form."

**LON STANDAFER** also on the trip said, "I have been thinking about this since we returned and I was really surprised at the openness of the Guatemalan people. I personally like the dump day the best. It's hard to imagine how happy the kids were, considering what we saw, some of them were living in housing. I was impressed with the team that works daily with Bruce, and I was moved when he had tears during one of his prayers. He obviously has a love for the people and his work. I thank God he put the desire in my heart to go on the trip. I have never handed out tracts and approached people that way, and guess what, it was fun and encouraging, and I didn't die either!"

**ALLIE VAN TILBERG** "My first trip to a different country was amazing, to say the least. I got the amazing opportunity to work alongside an amazing team and serve the people of Guatemala. My favorite point of the whole trip was getting to know the people that we gave stoves to. I got the chance to listen to their stories and that warmed my heart. It surely won't be the last time I go down."

**ROGER JOHNSON** said, "It was an amazing trip with many moving experiences. I was particularly moved by the genuine hugs and responses by the people, especially the little children that was so spontaneous. It's so great to see the work of evangelism and discipleship moving forward in a country steeped in the old traditional ways of religion. God certainly took me out of my comfort zone and maybe that was His primary goal of my going on this trip. I was very impressed with Bruce and Suzy and the rest of the staff. Very dedicated people."



# RYAN MIDDAGH

# PLUMBER

# HVAC TECHNICIAN

**RYAN MIDDAGH** lives on a rural acreage west of Worthington on 270th street or also known as Middagh village!



He lives here with his two dogs named Lucy and Ebony. Lucy is a Brittany Spaniel and Ebony is a lab mix.

His fiancé is Sheila Thomsen who holds a Master of Social Work and a Master of Arts degree in addition. They are planning a small family wedding this fall.

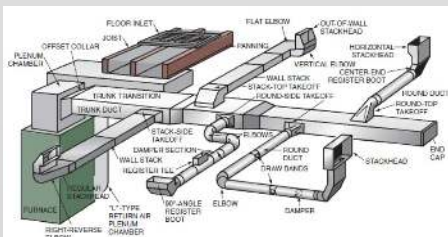
Ryan graduated from the Worthington High school and went on to study plumbing and HVAC AT Minnesota West in Pipestone. Upon graduating he worked for Spartz



Plumbing and Heating in Slayton for ten years.

He is now employed with **BTU** in Worthington.

Ryan said, "The best part about the job is the challenge of building duct-work or plumbing to meet the needs of the individual job."



Shown above is an example of how complex ductwork on a furnace installation can be.

Ryan says his favorite sport is Viking Football even though they haven't won a Super Bowl yet! His hobbies are fishing, hunting, gardening and reading.



Ryan fabricates duct work for many of the installations as shown in this photo.



# WINTER OLYMPIC TESTIMONIES



**Kelly Clark**

Snowboarder



At one tournament, Kelly overheard other snowboarders talking about God. "They said God loved everyone," she says. "But I wondered if he could really love me." Later that night, desperate and lonely, Kelly opened the Bible in her hotel room. She understood very little, so she went to the room of one of the girls she'd heard talking on the slopes. "I asked her if she could explain God and Christianity to me," Kelly says. "God really began to move in my heart."

Over the next few months Kelly began attending church while sidelined by a knee injury. Soon after, she accepted Christ. "It was the best day of my life," she says. "No trophy, no medal and no amount of money can equal what Christ did in me that day." Clark was baptized. She changed her habits when she competed on the road and she says she began living the "Genuine Life" as a Christian. (Courtesy of Christianity Today Magazine)

Kelly finished fourth at the 2018 Winter Olympics. First place winner Chloe Kim said Kelly Clark is her idol.



**ELANA MEYER**

**TAYLOR**

**& NIC TAYLOR**

4-Man Bobsled

Both are African-Americans in a sport that

doesn't have many minorities. Meyers Taylor became the first female to pilot a four-person bobsled in an international competition. Above all, both are Christians. Nic Taylor proposed to Elana on the medal podium at the 2013 World Championships! They were married last April. We know God is using our time here for a purpose," The couple knows God has blessed them during their relationship because only He could have brought them together. They train and support one another in much the same manner that they pray, were baptized, and lean on God's plan together. Nic Taylor's path to Christianity, and bobsledding, was unusual. Baptized as a baby, Nic went to church a few times during his childhood. However, it took three separate car accidents during a three-month stretch in the summer of 2005 for him to finally surrender his



**GIGI MARVIN**

Ice hockey

#19 Forward

Hometown:

Warroad Minn.

Gigi Marvin was back for her third Winter Olympics as a part of US women's hockey team. The US team won silver in Vancouver in 2010 and again in Sochi in 2014 and this year 30-year-old Marvin is pushing for gold. But it's not her success on the rink that she says defines her.

"I know my worth is not found in what I can achieve in this game," she told Fellowship of Christian Athletes Magazine. "Instead, my identity and value is only found in Christ, my Redeemer and Lord."

And while bringing home a gold medal is definitely a goal, it's not her entire mission.

"My mission is more than winning another medal or championship," she said. "It's about sharing Christ and leading others to him." Marvin is using her Olympic platform to profess her faith. Her social media reflecting heavily where her strength comes from.

Her profile picture on Facebook quotes Psalm 18:32: "It is God who arms me with strength



**Paul Schommer**

US Biathlon Team Member

While at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn. Paul Schommer's cross-country skiing coach introduced him to the biathlon, a unique sport

that combines cross country skiing and rifle shooting. In 2015, Schommer began his pursuit of qualifying for the 2018 Winter Olympics. Relying on his relationship with Christ to sustain him during training and competitions, Schommer hopes to carry his faith to the highest pedestal in the sport.

Prayer is huge, because it's constantly having that communication with God. It helps me get in the right mindset and gain a good perspective on things. For me, a lot of times I'd see it gets worse when you start praying at God instead of opening up that two-way communication and really listening to Him. The most important prayer for me is just shutting up and listening to God. God has been one of my biggest coaches.

(Courtesy of Fellowship of Christian Athletes Magazine Feb 2018)

life to Jesus. Only 18 years old at the time, Nic survived each of the three accidents relatively unscathed — even though he had to climb out of windows or get cut free by firefighters to escape the smashed vehicles.

"It shouldn't have taken three, but it took three for me to realize I'm not in control of my life," Nic said of experiencing God's grace. "There's nothing I could have done to have walked away from three completely totaled cars. It was all God's doing. He had been there with me the entire time."



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

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

### Wednesday, March 7th

6:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Devotions  
6:45 P.M. Youth Groups (K-12th)  
7:30 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### Wednesday, March 14th

6:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Devotions  
6:45 P.M. Confirmation  
7:30 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### Wednesday, March 21st

6:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Devotions  
6:45 P.M. Youth Groups (K-12th)  
7:30 P.M. Adult Bible Study

### Wednesday, March 28th

6:00 P.M. Supper  
6:30 P.M. Devotions  
6:45 P.M. Confirmation  
7:30 P.M. Adult Bible Study

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.

## Holy Week Schedule

You are encouraged to attend  
throughout the week to "live the  
Easter story!"

Palm Sunday Worship  
Sunday, March 25th at 10:30 A.M.

Maundy Thursday Worship  
March 29th at 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday Worship  
March 30th at 7:00 P.M.  
with Indian Lake Baptist at FCC

Easter Sunrise Worship  
April 1st at 7:30 A.M.

Easter Breakfast at 8:15 A.M.

Easter Worship at 9:00 A.M.

## Needed for Good Friday March 30th

Bars and cookies are needed for  
the fellowship time following the  
Good Friday worship; a sign up  
will be available in the narthex  
later in March.

## Needed for Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 1st

Egg bakes and muffins are  
needed for the Easter breakfast;  
a sign up will be available  
in the narthex later in March.

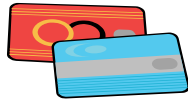


SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST



**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!

It seems like all we get is snow, snow and more snow!

We have had fun painting snow with water color paints; the kids enjoyed that very much.

We went on a very fun field trip to Pizza Ranch. The kids got to see where they make the chicken and prepare and make the pizza in the big oven. We each got to have a piece of pizza and dessert pizza and a drink. We also rode the big school bus.

A verse I've always liked even as a child is: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Blessings,  
Miss Jen

### LAKE BEAUTY BIBLE CAMP 2018

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.

GOOD FRIDAY PASSION PLAY  
Friday, March 30th  
at the Sibley-Ocheyedan High School Auditorium, Sibley, IA  
Performances at 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00 P.M.

Free tickets are available and may be reserved by calling 712-754-2945  
or by emailing [ocmapassionplay@gmail.com](mailto:ocmapassionplay@gmail.com)



SOLID ROCK ISRAEL TOUR  
PLUS PETRA, JORDAN

January 14-26, 2019  
Especially created for and hosted by:  
Pastor Scott Peterson  
Solid Rock Assembly

Everyone is welcome on this trip of a life time. For more information or to  
reserve a spot, call Solid Rock at 507-376-5770 or email: [wgtmag@iw.net](mailto:wgtmag@iw.net).



TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH



SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH