

# Covenant Highlights

January & February 2026

Volume 47, Issue 1

## PASTORS CORNER

It's a new year! And with it come all kinds of opportunities and challenges. What will this year hold? It could be very blessed or very hard. But no matter what is ahead of us, we know that the Lord God is with us.

Moses gave some wonderful advice to Joshua when he was about to pass the mantle of leadership onto Joshua. He told him, "Be strong and courageous!" No doubt Joshua must have felt nervous about leading the nation of Israel into the land of Canaan. He also must have felt intimidated to be the next leader after Moses. Who could ever fill his shoes? Joshua had to decide whether he was going to live in fear or faith. Moses spoke a great word of faith and encouragement to Joshua:

*"Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you."*

Deuteronomy 31:8

What a wonderful word of encouragement! That same promise is for us. God loves us and he will never fail or abandon us. God is totally faithful and trustworthy. Whatever 2026 holds for us, let's remember God's promises to us and choose faith instead of fear.

Pastor Dan

## PRAYER WEEK



## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Report information due to the church office.

**January 18<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Reports will be available to pick up at church.

**January 21<sup>st</sup>** - Budget Review meeting 7:30 pm

**January 25<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Meeting will be after the 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service (12:00 pm)



## CREW (Christians Ready Equipped & Willing)

CREW is our Jr & Sr High Students (gr 7-12).

Matthew 1:20-21 *"As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. ""*



This Christmas Season, remember the reason we celebrate is because Jesus was sent to save us from our sins. We all have many blessings to be thankful for, even when in seasons of struggle and hardship. The most amazing blessing is that God loved us so much that he sent his Son to save us. That's what makes the Christmas season special. Merry Christmas!

## Winter Schedule

**JAN 7 - ALL CHURCH SKATE NIGHT**  
(ROLLER SKATE CITY IN RICE LAKE)

**JAN 9-11 - DISTRICTS YOUTH CONFERENCE**

**JAN 14 - REGULAR WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE RESUMES**

**JAN 25 - CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY**

**FEB 8 - SUPER SUBS FUNDRAISER**

**FEB 14 - YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAY**

**FEB 18 - NO CREW**  
(ASH WEDNESDAY)



The High School Sunday School class is continuing in The Story along with the other Sunday School classes and sermons. If anyone still needs a book to read at home, we have some available. On Wednesday nights, the youth are walking through challenging topics and questions Christians face in a secular world. Email communications are sent every week to parents as a notice of what topic we will be covering, and then recap emails are sent to students to have as a resource to look back on and review. If any parent or students are not receiving these emails, please contact Josh Williamson.



*Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 1 Peter 3:15*

## ALL CHURCH ROLLERSKATING NIGHT



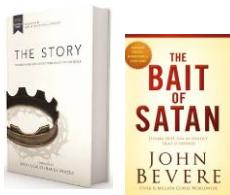
All Church family fun! See you at Skate City—SkateCity will play Christian music and the snack bar will be open! Cost \$8.00 each (includes rental)!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK!!

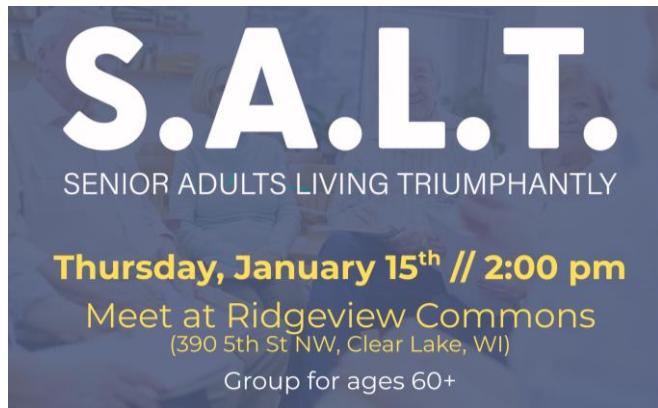
### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK

5:30 pm—Family Supper  
6:00 pm—Kids Blast, CREW56  
6:15 pm—CREW & Adult Bible Studies (Adult study classes will be “The Story” down in the fellowship hall, or “The Bait of Satan” will meet in the upstairs East Classroom)  
6:15 pm—Men’s “Life Together” Bible Study (meets in a classroom downstairs, office room across from youth room)

Wednesday Nights are returning to our regular schedule beginning on January 14, 2026!!!



## SALT "SENIOR ADULTS LIVING TRIUMPHANTLY"



## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



On December 14<sup>th</sup>, our church welcomed 5 new members! Welcome to Karen Barney, Matt & Amber Barney and Kevin & Jacki Marlett! We're glad you have joined our church family!

## LETTER TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH



Our church is committed to engaging culture to bring Jesus' freedom to lives across all our areas

of influence. To that end, we will be holding a special event **January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at church**, built around a screening of Letter To The American Church (book published September 2022, movie produced in February 2024).

Letter To The American Church is produced by Eric Metaxes in collaboration with Charlie Kirk and others. It is meant to call the modern church to action, raise awareness of parallels between where Germany stood in Hitler's ramp up and where we currently stand in America. Drawing extensively from the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, you will see how it's up to us in this unique moment in time. If the German church had mobilized beyond the 1/6<sup>th</sup> of churches that spoke out, Hitler's power & destruction never could have come to pass.

We will be inviting other churches to join us for this 1-hour film and holding discussion groups immediately following. We will also hear from a variety of fellow parishioners who will be sharing examples of how they have engaged their spheres of influence, from prayer to joining school boards, to simply being in relationship. Not meant to pressure beyond capacity, we can all contribute from whatever is our current circumstance.

Please attend for education, awareness, and inspiration. We are grateful our church leadership is not afraid to call us to engage with culture as Christ's hands & feet, a call to sacrifice.

Two important notes:

- First, this is not meant for kids. You can show the movie at home as you see fit, but it contains sensitive topics and graphic images from recent marches and gatherings.
- Second, this is not about our current President. At all. The film was made prior to the Trump administration and is focused on current culture. Important to note in light of language and accusations currently out in the media and various pockets of society

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

# Wedding Shower

Church family and friends are invited to celebrate  
Jordan Anderson & Addison Thayer

Saturday January 17th, 3pm  
United Covenant Church

Family & friends (men, women, and children) please come shower Jordan & Addison with love as they prepare to get married in early February!

They are registered:

<https://www.pamperedchef.com/wl/U9K16s>

and

<https://www.amazon.com/wedding/share/jordanaddison>



## 2026 Calendar of Events

### February

Marriage Retreat Feb 13-15  
**April**  
Spring Quilt #1 Apr 9-13 Thurs-Mon  
Spring Quilt #2 Apr 16-20 Thurs-Mon  
**Early Bird Discount Deadline** April 28 Tuesday  
(for all 2025 Youth Camps)

**May**  
Spring Work Day May 2 Saturday  
Memorial Day Family Camp May 22-25 Fri-Mon

**June**  
Summer Staff Training May 26-June 6  
Junior High #1 June 7-12  
Leaders in Training (LIT) #1 June 7-18  
Trailblazer #1 June 14-18  
Trailblazer #2 June 21-25

**July**  
4th of July Family Camp July 3-6 Fri-Mon  
Frontier Kids-All Districts July 8-10 Wed-Fri  
Summer Family Weekend 1 July 10-12 Fri-Sun  
Junior High #2 July 12-17  
Leaders in Training (LIT) #2 July 12-23  
Summer Family Weekend 2 July 17-19 Fri-Sun  
Trailblazer #3 July 19-23  
Senior High July 26-31

### August

Pastors & Ministry Staff Aug 16-19 Sun-Wed

### September

Labor Day Family Camp Sept 4-7 Fri-Mon  
Senior Adult Day Sept 15 Tuesday  
Women's Retreat Sept 25-27

### October

Fall Youth Retreat Oct 16-18

### November

Fall Quilt Retreat #1 Oct 29-Nov 2 Thurs-Mon  
Fall Quilt Retreat #2 Nov 5-9 Thurs-Mon  
Fall Quilt Retreat #3 Nov 12-16 Thurs-Mon

### December

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner Dec 5 Saturday  
Young Adult Retreat Dec 30-Jan 1 Wed-Fri

*LBBC 64th Annual Meeting TBD*

### Schedule as of 10-30-2025

*Additions and improvements may be added.*

## CLOTHING ORDERS

Interested in buying your own  
United Covenant or CREW items?

Visit:

<https://www.twomomsimagewear.com/general-6>



or go on our website [www.unitedcovchurch.org](http://www.unitedcovchurch.org)  
and click the "shop now" button!  
Or see Dayna Prindle for additional options!

## TAPESTRIES OF LIFE – THANK YOU



God gave me a dream to share skills with the Princesses and Princes living at the House of Gems, skills they can claim and use to enrich their lives. Here's how God works....

He touches your heart...you share.... with generosity, we give. He opens doors and makes connections....and Blesses His children. Thank you for letting Him touch your heart. Thank you church family for your generosity in giving. Through Mission Stitchers' donations, help, and connections we've collected a carload of supplies for sewing, weaving, crocheting, quilting and knitting.



-Four sewing machines, fabric for at least 15 pairs of pj pants or shorts, patterns, fleece for 22 blankets, t shirts and strips for making rugs, cushions, and jump ropes, quilt pieces, yarn, hooks, needles, thread, trim, hats, and ALL THE TOOLS necessary for turning supplies into clothing and projects.

Then Connections.. God put them all in place..from all of us to Lori, whose sister, Julie loaded her car with our stash to deliver to Iowa. There her friend and neighbor, Rick will transfer it to his vehicle and drive it down to Mexico. My friend, Bonnie and I will meet Rick and the rest of the team there...MORE than excited to put this dream into action!

We will work alongside the kids, helping them to develop skills and enjoy creating with independence!

We covet your PRAYERS above all for safety, communication, and that God's love and favor will bless each step of the way. I'm not sure of our numbers, but guessing 15+ team members, about 45-50 kids, and the staff of Tapestries along with Pastor Steve.

We leave on January 10 and will keep you posted as to the rest of the story.

Thank you for your part!

Karen Schnell



### COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEAS FOR YOUTH:

If you are aware of any needs that the youth could help out with, we are looking to plan ahead for possible upcoming service project ideas. This is a great opportunity to show the love of Jesus with our neighbors and our community, and it blesses the youth to serve and for them to see the amazing impact they are able to have on others. Please talk to Josh Williamson with any suggestions you have.

## LEADERSHIP MEETING

### December 16, 2025: Leadership Team Notes

#### Call to Order by Lucas

Present: Pastor Dan Pearson, Lucas Carlson, Jacob Peterson, Matt Thayer, Cary Eastvold, Cindee McBride, Susie Thayer, Doug Lemons, Brenda Cogbill and Emily Johnson.

Devotion and Prayer (led by Jacob). What reward are you looking for based on Hebrews 12:2. The prophets were imperfect and witness to what is coming in Christ. Being a faithful servant doesn't mean being flawless. Look to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith—not the outcomes but focus on Him as He will carry you through. He will keep every promise.

Agenda and last month's meeting minutes and Semi-annual meeting. Jacob motioned to approve and Emily seconded for those that as written.

Youth Report. Provided via email from Josh. Reproduced here:

*We are in the middle of the "Christmas Break" on Wednesday nights, but we are making the most of it. We've added a new event to our calendar this year by having a game night after the Christmas Caroling which the students that attended are begging we do again next year! Tomorrow night is our CREW Christmas party which the youth very much look forward to each year. We will be resuming our normal Wednesday nights on Jan 14th as we continue to cover challenging questions Christians face. Please continue to keep this in prayer as just in the last month I've had some ground-breaking conversations with students who are struggling with tough situations themselves, or they have shared what their friends are battling and have asked for guidance in helping their friends. The impact the Holy Spirit is making through these conversations is amazing to be a part of.*

*Coming up, our plans are coming together with the Districts Youth Conference in January. We have 36 students and 6 adults attending this year. This is an event through the Evangelical Free Church and we've joined with East Lincoln Alliance and Apple River Community Church and as a group we are taking down 28 adults and 100 youth!*

*It's continued to be a challenge coordinating transportation with large groups attending youth events and Bible camp in the summer and with the Fall Youth Retreat. We had 17 students and 3 adults attend the Fall Youth*

*Retreat. (Summer camp had 23 high schoolers). Previous discussion has been had about purchasing another van, but for the amount it would be used, we've started to look at the costs of simply renting when necessary. Would the leadership team approve the renting of 2-15 passenger vans for the Districts Youth Conference, which would allow all of our group to fit into 3 vehicles? Otherwise, Lucas did find an*

*Escalade stretch limo available for purchase that could possibly work too! :)*

Request to rent two, 15 passenger vans. Emily motions to rent Matt seconds. Motion passed unanimously. Current estimate is \$350 per vehicle.

Finance Report. Discussion that if we remove the line for additional staff and/or future building then the financial recovery should be okay. Jacob motioned to accept; Emily seconded. Motion passed with no objections.

#### Old Business

- Ridgeview Board Meeting (Brenda provided update): Request for prayer overall.
- Facility Update (Lucas provided update): Parsonage. Pastor has moved in but there are still a few things that need to be finished—garage door, some siding, etc.....
- Mission Update (Matt provided update): Met with Kyle Montgomery who is a Missionary in Lebanon. Pastor and Matt met with Emma and Jayden Crim (Slovakia). Hellerstedt family that serves in Cambodia was also recommended. Pastor also recommended Seth and Sam Jordan. It was mentioned that it would be nice to sponsor those connected with The Covenant. Matt stated he is still thinking about a mission trip in 2027. Matt prayed.
- Security Update (Doug provided update): Looking for feedback. There are 3 internal. Dan and Susie state that the internal cameras are meeting needs. Recommend locks and physical security and procedure updates next rather than external cameras. We have a Ring subscription.
- Property Ideas—we should wait.

#### New Business

- Budget Meeting Prep—next meeting
  - No need to advertise all summer in Lake Addition
  - Include Right Now Media in Curriculum
  - Jan 25 will be the annual meeting
  - Budget review meeting Jan 21
- Nominating and auditor needed.
- Facility Cal—there is one for leadership in "The Planning Center" online. Susie will make the private event on the calendar visible as "room booked" to balance need of information with privacy.

#### Pastor Dan Items

- None for this month

The next Leadership Team meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Cindee to share a devotion.

Adjournment: Emily moved to adjourn. Cary seconded. Lucas closed in prayer

# Weekly Events & Bible Studies ~ January 2026

## SUNDAY

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School (ages 2 - adult)  
10:45 am Worship Service  
Holy Communion is served the first Sunday each month

## MONDAY

### WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Monday Night Women's Bible Study will meet each Monday in January. Meeting time 6:00-8:00/8:30 p.m.

**"Passover Study":** Join us in our upcoming study of the Passover as we explore its meaning and how God's order in Exodus (Ex. 13:3) extends into the New Testament, and then again into our everyday life as we battle the war that was started in the Garden.

We will explore God's will in protecting us, sacrifice and atonement, redemption, and The Day of the Lord and how they relate to the Passover. Ladies, please join us for these dates and times when you are available. Keep your eyes on the service bulletins or emails for schedule changes.

## TUESDAY

### PRAYER TIME



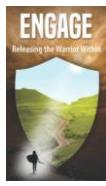
**Prayer Time – Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. at church**  
Everyone is invited and welcome to come. Prayer cards are prayed over during these meetings. Please write your prayers (with or without your name) on the prayer cards provided in the chairs. Place them in the offering box in the sanctuary.

### WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Study: Engage: Releasing the Warrior Within!

This study will provide you with an understanding of the spiritual war itself, the enemy's tactics, God's armament, and how to engage through prayer.

This Bible study meets in the upstairs, east classroom at church each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. **All ladies are invited and welcome to come anytime!**



## WEDNESDAY

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

#### LIFE TOGETHER WEDNESDAYS BEGIN JAN. 14<sup>th</sup>!

**5:30 pm**—Family Supper  
**6:00 pm**—Kids Blast (Ages 4-4<sup>th</sup> grade)  
CREW56 (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders)  
**6:15 pm**—CREW (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) "Got Questions"  
Adult Bible Studies:  
- "The Story" - Discipleship/Digging Deeper  
- "The Bait of Satan" – Freedom in Christ  
**6:15 pm**—Men's "Life Together" Bible Study



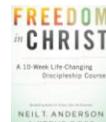
## THURSDAY

### MISSION STITCHERS

*Mission Stitchers will be meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays in January at church at 9:00 am. (January 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>). Join us to cut, sew, match up fabrics or just for fellowship!*  
T-Shirts & Fabric donations are always needed & welcomed!



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



Men's Bible Study group meets at 6:30pm on Thursday Nights at church! The group is studying "Freedom in Christ" a discipleship course by Neil Anderson & Steve Goss.

### REBUILDERS: MOVING FORWARD FROM LOSS



This fellowship support group is created for those seeking God's grace and healing following a loss. The group meets at church Thursdays from 1:00-2:30 pm. We will be using the Griefshare curriculum. See Donna Peterson or Karen Schnell for more information!

## FRIDAY

### HOMESCHOOL CLUB

#### HOMESCHOOL CLUB

Open to all homeschool families - kids of all ages. Meets at United Covenant the first and third Friday during the school year; 9:30-11:00am.

This unstructured homeschool group is a time for moms that homeschool to be encouraged, have homeschool related discussions with other moms, pray for each other, share resources and material. For the students, make new friends, play games, share learning experiences.

## SATURDAY

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

**\*\*7:00 a.m.** on Saturday mornings at Jason Sigsworth's garage



**\*\*2<sup>nd</sup>** Saturday of the month at **7:00 a.m.** Men's Breakfast at church. Bring a dish to share!

