

SPRING 2018



First Covenant Church of Saint Paul

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144TH BIRTHDAY

April 22, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Choral Gathering Time

Vettern College Choir from Sweden

Passing of the Peace

Choral Call to Worship

Vettern College Choir

Invitation to Worship

If you are a visitor, have a prayer request or have a change of address, please note this on a Connect Card found in the pew pockets. Place it in the offering plate.

*Opening Hymn 512

Come, Celebrate the Presence of the Lord

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Acts 4:32-37, Yliana DeLeon

Ministry Highlight

Jason and Lisa Como, missionaries to Honduras

The Mission Continues

Kathy Johnson, chair of Generous Giving and Living Team

Prayer of the People

*Song

I Need You to Survive (Hezekiah Walker)
Gospel Choir

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

Vettern College Choir

Children in grades pre-k through 2nd grade are invited to continue worshipping in Children's Church. After the offertory, please meet the teachers in the back of the Sanctuary.

Message

Better Together: Generosity Thrives in Community
Pastor Anne Vining

*Closing Hymn 657

Thanks to God for My Redeemer

Recognition of Pastor Anne's 15 years at First Covenant Church

Postlude

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise (arr. M. Burkhard)

Prayer time for health and wholeness is offered in the Prayer Chapel following Worship.

If you temporarily leave the sanctuary during a Worship service, please return to your seats using the rear sanctuary doors. This will minimize disruptions. Thank you for understanding.

TODAY

Welcome to Worship at First Covenant Church! *Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we are glad you are here! Please join us for a cup of coffee and a treat during the Fellowship Time.*

This morning The Vettern College Choir from Jönköping, Sweden are our guests!
The Vettern Choir of the Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola (SVF) is a private school in Jönköping, Sweden. It is one of 150 schools for adult education known as "folkhögskola." This is a form of adult education, called "folkbildning," that is typical in Scandinavia. The mission of schools like SVF is to offer education in numerous subjects, in formal or non-formal studies, based on students' needs. The music program at SVF is an extensive music academy, preparing students in a variety of genres of choral performance, from sacred to show tunes, and folk music to pop. SVF is owned by the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden and enjoys a friendly relationship with the Evangelical Covenant Church in the United States. We thank the choir and their director Ove Gotting, for being with us in Worship today.

We're blessed to have Jason and Lisa Como and their family here to share with us today. As missionaries sent from our own FCC congregation, the Como family currently serves with the Christian Health Service Corp at the Loma de Luz Hospital in Balfate, Honduras. Jason works as a physician of family medicine at the hospital, caring for the various medical needs of the surrounding communities, and Lisa works as an administrator at the hospital and the Loma de Luz Bilingual Elementary School, where their daughter, Ana Sophia, attends. Ana's brothers Solomon and Joshua are homeschooled, and highly involved in the ongoing activities of the Loma de Luz community and mission (as is the entire family).

9:30am

Worship

Nursery Care, (birth through age 3), Rooms 105 & 106

Children's Church, children pre-k through 2nd grade are dismissed with leaders during Worship and will return with leaders during the closing hymn, *Room 104*.

10:45-11:00am

Pastor Anne's 15th Anniversary of ministry at FCC

Everyone is invited to join us for a brief celebration as we celebrate Pastor Anne during Fellowship Time and directly before the enlightening Congregational Forum.

11:00am-12:00pm

Better Together Congregational Forum, Upper Fellowship Hall

Hear about goals realized from last year, priorities discerned by ministry and lay leaders at the Leadership Retreat back in February, share feedback, and participate in decisions for the year to come. Youth in 9-12th grades are invited to join the forum.

Nursery Care (birth through age 3), *Room 105*

Children's Sunday School, *(all start in Room 104 together)*

Please pick up your children at 12:00pm in the following rooms:

Pre-K - K, *Room 106*

Grades 3-4, *Room 104B*

Grades 1-2, *Room 104A*

Grades 5-6, *Room 201*

Confirmation, *Game Room*

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Nefa Madison-Rutz, who passed away on Monday, April 9. Her Service will be held at First Covenant Church tomorrow, April 23. Visitation: 10:00am, Memorial Service: 11:00am, followed by a light lunch.

We also extend our sympathies to the family (Doug Nelson and Judy Kline and family), and friends of Adele Nelson who passed away on Tuesday, April 17. Her Service will be held at First Covenant Church next Sunday, April 29. Visitation: 4:30pm, Memorial Service: 5:30pm, followed by refreshments. God's peace to all those on a journey through loss and grief.

Misa Criolla (our Good Friday Concert) CD's: sign up at the Welcome Center to order a CD of Misa Criolla. Each CD costs \$10, which will help support FCC future musical events. Please pay with cash or a check written out to First Covenant Church, and pick up your CD at the Welcome Center the following Sunday. Thanks for your support!

Stay connected: Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts of each week's message can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab. Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any Worship Service or our current Adult Spiritual Growth Hour.

Correction: The Spring Guidebook listed an incorrect date for the Visitor Appreciation Lunch. The correct date and time is: Wednesday, May 23, 10:00am in Upper Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, April 25, 6:15pm: We are thrilled to have a visit from President Rev. Jules Mboka Ngate, who has been leading as the President of the Covenant Church of Congo (CEUM) for six years. He and his wife, Charlotte, live in Gemena in the DR Congo. The mission of the CEUM is to reach the lost for Jesus Christ and believes in the holistic gospel by empowering the community through education, health, and development. The CEUM consists of over 1.8 million members, 46 church regions, 1,714 parishes, 1,198 pastors, 551 evangelists, 4 health zones, 4 hospitals, 579 schools, and 5 development training centers. Paul Carlson Partnership works alongside the CEUM to improve health and medical care and transform communities through economic development initiatives in the northwest part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

All Church Cleaning Day, Saturday, April 28, 8:00am-12:00pm, *First Covenant Church*
If you're interested in helping our church building look its best, we invite you to join us for this fun and productive day. Weather permitting, there will be indoor and outdoor tasks suitable for adults and youth. Coffee, treats, and cleaning supplies will be provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Center TODAY.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 29

9:30am Worship, including Guest Preacher Chris Gehrz and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dr. Gehrz is a professor of history at Bethel University and co-author of the book "The Pietist Option: Hope for the Renewal of Christianity".

11:00am Adult Spiritual Growth Hour topic, *The Pietist Option for a Multiethnic Church.*
Dr. Gehrz will lead us in a balanced, thoughtful, yet inspiring perspective, along with his deep knowledge of pietism. Learn about Pietism's importance in the history of the Covenant Denomination, and in facing our present day challenges as a church.

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Every Kid To Camp Fund (EKTC): At First Covenant Church of Saint Paul, we believe every kid, no matter the family's financial situation, should be able to have camp experiences. The Every Kid to Camp (EKTC) fund was created to make that a reality. EKTC is an equitable fund that asks each household to pay a registration fee for each camper and then contribute dollars, time, or both to support the fund. It also allows our FCC community to financially support our kids. Our goal this year is to send 40 campers to summer camp at Covenant Pines Bible Camp. With the average cost of sending 1 camper costing \$272, we need to raise \$10,881.00. Currently we have \$2,007.61. If you would like to donate to this fund, envelopes are available by the camp "bus" in Upper Fellowship Hall. Place your cash or check into the envelope and place it in the offering plate, in the Covenant Pines mailbox in the church office, or mail it. Please make checks out to First Covenant Church. Your gift will make a huge difference in the life of a child or youth. Questions? Please contact Donovan DeGaetano or Addin Vang.

Shared mission: Excelsior Covenant Church has partnered with us this year by providing winter wear to distribute to our neighborhood schools for children and youth. We are grateful for their donation this year of: 41 baby blankets, 68 hats, 46 pairs of gloves and mittens, 3 pairs of earmuffs and 18 shawls.

Partnering with our Universities and students: Did you know that First Covenant Church has a matching fund to help scholarship FCC folks attending North Park University, North Park Theological Seminary or Bethel University? Each school has its own guidelines - pick up an informational brochure and application at the Welcome Center beginning next Sunday. Applications for the students are due by April 29 for the 2018-2019 academic year. Questions? Contact Tom Cameron, tom@first-covenant.org.

CONFIRMATION WEEK

Wednesday, May 2, Confirmation Trek, Dinner: 5:45pm; Trek 6:15-7:30pm, Upper Fellowship "Journey" with our Confirmands as they present their projects at our annual Confirmation Trek. This is your opportunity to support our 7th and 8th graders as they communicate what they have learned this past year in their studies through the Old Testament.

Sunday, May 6, Confirmation Sunday, 9:30am Worship, Sanctuary/Upper Fellowship Hall Join us as we celebrate our young people's faith journeys during Worship, with a reception following. (Because of the reception, there will be no Spiritual Growth Hour on this day).

This year's (2018) Confirmands: Angel Johnson, Bianca Levy, Gracia Lokensgard-Wallace, Ishmael David, Josiah DeLeon, Madison DeGaetano and Samuel Lokensgard-Wallace.

First year (2019) Confirmands: Anders Hagfors, Benji Zupfer, Cody Christensen, Elijah Knox, Emilia Holm, Jen Flanagan, Liam Swenson.

COMMUNITY PRAYER GATHERING

Thursday, May 3, 6:00pm, In It Together Prayer Gathering, Contender for the Faith Church Gather with friends from Contender for the Faith Church, Family Values for Life and First Covenant Church to pray for our nation, community and people. Reception following.