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BE: S BE

## **January/February 2015 Newsletter**

First Covenant Church of Saint Paul  
1280 Arcade Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106  
(651) 774-0344  
[www.first-covenant.org](http://www.first-covenant.org)

## From Pastor Anne

According to [www.dailywritingtips.com](http://www.dailywritingtips.com), "RE: is one of those commonly used letter combinations that people tend to make up their own meanings for. RE: is used at the top of letters and emails in order to steer the reader to the single most important topic of the message."

You could say we are following suit and making up our own meaning for RE: at the start of a new year, though it could also be said that we want to steer our congregation to focus on the "single most important topics" of our life together through the use of RE. Its important to at least annually go back to our identified values and priorities as a church community, to REmind ourselves why we do what we do.

Ideally these values and priorities impact how we live--our "BE-ing"--and thus the title: **RE:2 BE**. We'll be looking back on the last Sunday of 2014, but not merely for the purpose of relishing in the past. It is our hope and prayer that the act of REmembering will inspire us forward into the new year, celebrating God's ever faithfulness while REcognizing God's call on our lives to BE bearers of Good News and hope, BEcoming more and more like Jesus.

REspectfully yours,  
Pastor Anne

# Worship in January & February

## DECEMBER 28

REmember

Galatians 4:4-7

*Join us for an "unplugged" worship service, singing Christmas carols and looking back at 2014*

## JANUARY 4

REconnect

Communion

Isaiah 42:5-9; Ephesians 1:3-14

*Ministry highlights:*

*Warm Winter Wear drive (see pg. 15)  
& Week of Prayer*

## JANUARY 11

REaffirm

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Isaiah 55:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

*Kate Makosky preaching*

*The Saint Paul Covenant (see pg. 20)*

## JANUARY 18

REconcile

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Partner Worship

11:30am Potluck meal

1:00pm worship

*Join us as we gather with our church partners to share in a potluck meal, followed by worship with the combined Gospel Choir singing.*

## JANUARY 25

REclaim

Nehemiah 1:1-11; John 10:10

*Pastor Brandi preaching*

## FEBRUARY 1

RElief

Communion

Jeremiah 5:23-31; Luke 4:14-21

*Ministry highlight: Covenant World Relief (see pg. 15)*

## FEBRUARY 8

REpent

Isaiah 30:15, Luke 5:31-32

*Dr. Soong Chan Rah, guest preacher*

*See pg. 18 for more information about Dr. Rah's speaking schedule.  
Dedication of Elliott Bryant*

## FEBRUARY 15

REspond

Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 1-12; Mark 9:2-9

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday

*Join us for this intergenerational & intercultural worship service with ashes in the Sanctuary.*

*Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (not including Sundays). Lent is a time for reflection on Jesus Christ – his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.*

# Adult Spiritual Growth

## SUNDAYS

### ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH HOUR

11:00am

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Join us each Sunday after worship and fellowship for a time of teaching, enriching, and growth. Topics will range from church history to spiritual practices to issues that relate to our life together.

**January 4** — Experience Prayer (see pg. 16)

**January 11** — Congregational Forum - In December the Council approved a revised Strategic Map for First Covenant. Join Council Members and FCC Ministry Team as we lead a discussion on this dynamic document and its impact on our life as a community. We will also have the opportunity to vote on a new council member and receive an update from our Governance Task Force. You won't want to miss this informative session!

**January 18** — No Spiritual Growth Hour (Combined Worship at 1pm)

**January 25** — Art: God is in the Details - Using images from Art History, Nate Stromberg will lead a discussion on the ways that we can experience God through beauty and truth, even when the artist perhaps had a very different intent.

**February 8** — Dr. Soong Chan Rah (see pg. 18)

**February 15** — No Spiritual Growth Hour – Life Group Sunday

### LIFE GROUP SUNDAYS ARE HAPPENING TWICE A MONTH IN 2015!

First and Third Sunday of each Month starting in February: February 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

Starting in February 2015, the First and Third Sunday of each Month will be a Life Groups Sunday. Not all groups meet on Sundays, many meet during the week and in people's homes. Each Life Group is unique but each is committed to sharing life together through prayer, study, mission, and worship. This winter we will be forming new Life Groups.

If you are interested in more information about Life Groups or interested in joining a Life Group, email Erik Carlson at [erik@first-covenant.org](mailto:erik@first-covenant.org).

# Adult Spiritual Growth

## WEDNESDAYS

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY (beginning January 7)

9:30 - 11:00am

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Enjoy coffee, fellowship, singing and a study of two Old Testament books: Haggai and Zachariah, led by Don Pelto.

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY AND SERMON DISCUSSION (beginning January 14)

6:15pm

*Conference Room*

Starting in January, the Adult Wednesday night group will focus on the passages of scripture to be preached on the following Sunday. Join us and share your insights, thoughts, reactions, and questions as we study the text together. Everyone is welcome. For more information, email Erik Carlson at [erik@first-covenant.org](mailto:erik@first-covenant.org).

### BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN (Beginning January 16)

Fridays, 9:30 - 11:00 AM

*Conference Room*

Continue with The Inheritance study, applying the rich truths of being an heiress, inheriting a kingdom of God! This Beth Moore dvd study includes a review of Scripture, highlighting God's promises to us. A closing celebration will be held on January 30th. The study for February and March is He Speaks to Me by Priscilla Shier. Hear God speak through study, conversation and a weekly dvd lesson. Please bring your Bible. Cost is \$10 and scholarships are available.

Contact Lynn Gilmore 651-770-1536 with questions.

### MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month, 8:00 - 9:30am

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Men, rise up early and be encouraged by other men! All men (young and old!) are invited to gather with us monthly for our Men's Prayer Breakfast. In this gathering, we will share a meal, study a text from the bible, and pray for each other.

If you'd like more information, please contact Aaron Bryant at [thebryants2@gmail.com](mailto:thebryants2@gmail.com).

# Adult Spiritual Growth

## INTRODUCING:

### THRIVENT THURSDAYS

January 22, February 26, March 19, and April 23, 6:00 PM

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Darryl Savage and Sabrina Fay from Thrivent Financial are going to be leading four financial workshops in the coming months. The January and March workshops will focus on "Financial Basics" and the February and April workshops will focus on "Retirement Basics." This will be an enriching time where the essentials of budgeting and financial planning will be given in a welcoming and positive environment. A meal is included and there is no cost to attend.

If you are interested in attending one of the workshops, please RSVP with Erik Carlson at [erik@first-covenant.org](mailto:erik@first-covenant.org).

### COLLEGE AND CAREER DINNER

Sunday, February 1, 1:00 - 3:00pm

*Deb and Jim Berger's home (736 Havenhill Road, Eagan)*

Join us for a meal and a time to relax and connect with others. This is the first of what we hope will be a monthly gathering. Look for a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center to let us know you can come! We've got you covered if you need a ride.

Contact Deb at 651-456-0784 or [jimantonberger@q.com](mailto:jimantonberger@q.com) or Erik Carlson at [erik@first-covenant.org](mailto:erik@first-covenant.org) with questions.

## Children



(1 - 6 grade musical with our partner schools, Farnsworth Aerospace Lower + Upper Campuses)

### PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 11, 12:00 - 12:15pm

*Game Room*

### FIRST REHEARSAL

Wednesday, January 14, 6:15 - 7:45pm

*Lower Fellowship Hall*

### PERFORMANCES

Saturday, March 7, 4:00pm

Sunday, March 8, 10:30am

*Johnson High School Auditorium (1349 Arcade St., St. Paul 55106)*

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:15 - 7:45pm as part of the Wednesday Night Programming and Sundays from 11am - 12noon.

Based on the popular comic strip by Harold Gray, the Broadway musical Annie, the world-wide phenomenon, was the winner of seven TONY Awards including Best Musical. The beloved book and score by TONY Award winners Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin features some of the greatest musical theatre hits ever written including "Tomorrow".

# Children

## SUNDAYS

### INFANT NURSERY (birth – 2 years old)

9:15 - 10:30am & 11:00am – 12:00pm

*Room 105*

### TODDLER NURSERY (2 & 3 year olds)

9:15 - 10:30am

*Room 106*

Our toddlers will enjoy hearing Bible stories, singing, crafts, and play time.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH (pre-k – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)

During the worship service

*Room 104b*

We continue our journey through the New Testament, using the "Holy Moly" video curriculum. Parents and caregivers can learn more about our curriculum by signing up at <https://sundayschool.sparkhouseonline.org> (use the Church ID: BigGsneighborhood). After creating a log in, Donovan will approve your request. Children will meet the Children's Church leaders in the back of the sanctuary immediately following the offertory; and rejoin families during the closing song.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL (pre-K & kindergarten)

11:00am – 12:00pm

*Room 106*

Our children will be using the church calendar to walk through the Bible; learning biblical stories, doing crafts, and building relationships through play. You can learn more about your child's curriculum by creating a log in at the same website as listed above with the Children's Church.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL (1<sup>st</sup> grade – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

January 11, 11:00am – 12:00pm

*Room 104B*

Unwind from Christmas break. This is our only Sunday School time for this age group, until after the musical, Annie. We will kick off 2015 with a time of sharing, games, and crafts.



# Children

## SUNDAY SCHOOL (1<sup>st</sup> grade – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

There will be NO Sunday School for this age group during the Children's Musical rehearsals of Annie. Sunday School will resume in March.

## WEDNESDAYS (beginning January 14)

### EAST SIDE THRIVE (Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

4:00 - 5:45pm

*Youth Wing and Lower Classrooms*

See full information about our after school program on page 10.

### FREE DINNER FOR ALL

5:45 - 6:15pm

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

A wonderful hot meal is provided by Loaves and Fishes between our East Side Thrive and our evening programs. You are encouraged to come and eat with your kids. Or simply come and meet new kids from our community.

### NURSERY CARE (birth – 2 years old)

6:15 - 7:30pm

*Room 105*

### LITTLE G's NEIGHBORHOOD (pre-k & kindergarten)

6:15 - 7:30pm

*Room 106*

Little Big G's will begin learning about the amazing love of Jesus Christ as it is told in the gospels of Mark and Luke. In Little Big G's the children will be able to hear Bible stories, do crafts, learn new songs, and enjoy time of free play. The "Holy Moly" curriculum can be found at the same website as listed for Children's Church and Sunday School.

### SUPER G's and BIG G's NEIGHBORHOOD (1<sup>st</sup> grade – 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Note:** We will not have Super G's or Big G's Neighborhood for the months of January and February, so that we can prepare for the children's musical, "Annie". We encourage all children in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> to participate in the musical.

## WELLNESS POLICY REMINDER

Parents, we respectfully ask that you be considerate of other children and volunteers especially during the cold and flu season. Please do not put your children into the nurseries or Sunday School if they have any of these symptoms: contagious coughing, diarrhea, rash, fever, vomiting, eye discharge, runny nose or another communicable disease. If your child displays any of these symptoms, we ask that you keep your child with you for the day. Thank you for your cooperation!

# Youth

## SUNDAYS (beginning January 11)

### SENIOR HIGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders)

11:00am - 12:00pm

*The Game Room*

We are excited to jump into the "Solid Rock" experience. This curriculum created by the Evangelical Covenant Church is both exciting and challenging. We will use this opportunity to take the Senior High students through some of the foundational principles of the faith. All Senior High students are encouraged to come and be a part of this.

### JUNIOR HIGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH (7<sup>th</sup>& 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

11:00am - 12:00pm

*The Graffiti Room*

Media and technology are two things that have exposed our generation to so many possibilities. However, along with great technology, comes great responsibility! Join us in January as we journey through the topic of "God in the Media". We will analyze some of today's most popular films, television, and music to discuss if and where we see God.

## WEDNESDAYS (Beginning January 14)

### EAST SIDE THRIVE (grades K-12) (Sponsored by TSPC)

4:00 - 5:45pm

*Youth and Children's Wing*

We are looking forward to January 14, 2015 as East Side Thrive After School Program makes its return. Starting in January there will be monthly Science projects, Hip Hop Dance Workshops, and Art Projects just name to name a few. If you are a High School Student we also will have some opportunities for you to meet with prospective colleges, learn about financial aid, talk to a bank about creating a savings account, and there will be several other awesome things in the works. With all of these great things happening, you can't afford to miss the next phase of East Side Thrive. We can't wait to see you there!

If you have any questions please contact Leslie X. Sanders, Program Manager at [leslie@first-covenant.org](mailto:leslie@first-covenant.org), for more information.

# Youth

## WEDNESDAYS (Beginning January 14)

### CONFIRMATION (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

5:00 - 6:00pm

*Room 201 (7<sup>th</sup> graders) and Pastor Anne's Office (8<sup>th</sup> graders)*

Our Old Testament journey continues as we learn about Judges + Kings, and God's plan for his people, the Israelites.

For more information, contact Pastor Anne, Pastor Brandi, Kate Makosky or Erik Carlson.

### YOUTH GROUP (7th-12th graders)

6:15 - 7:45pm

*Game and Graffiti Rooms*

Youth have real questions about faith & life – youth group is the perfect way to explore these foundational questions with peers and youth mentors in a way that is Biblically grounded and leads back to the transformative work of Christ in their lives. Our evenings are filled: games, small group discussion and Bible study help youth find a place of belonging, grow in their beliefs and become the people they were created to be. This winter we explore topics such as: dating, friendships, what happens after we die, social justice and choices, grace and consequences.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### PRAYER PARTNER MEET UP

Sunday, January 4, 10:30 - 11:00am

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

All current 7th-12th graders are matched with caring adults who pray for them on a regular basis. This morning is YOUR chance to connect with one another, share about your life and build on this significant, sticky faith relationship before heading into the interactive prayer spiritual growth experience.

Questions? Contact Margaret Blum at [hermarblum7@aol.com](mailto:hermarblum7@aol.com) or Jan Mollet at [rjmollet@gmail.com](mailto:rjmollet@gmail.com).

# Youth

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### MAFIA GAME NIGHT FOR YOUTH + ADULTS

Friday, January 16, 7:00 - 9:00pm

*First Covenant Church of Saint Paul*

See page 16 for a description of this fun evening!

### SENIOR HIGH NIGHT OUT (9th-12th graders)

Friday, February 20, 7:00 - 9:00pm

*First Covenant Church of Saint Paul*

Stay tuned for a fun night out, planned by your youth mentors! SH youth mentors plan activities on this night with their small groups. Stay tuned for more information! Questions? Contact Kate Makosky or Leslie X. Sanders.

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT (7th + 8th graders)

Sunday, February 15, 4:00pm – Monday, February 16, 2:30pm

*Dunrovin Retreat Center, 15525 St. Croix Trail N., Marine on St. Croix*

Save the date for our annual retreat! More details coming soon.

Contact Pastor Anne or Kate Makosky for more information.

## CHIC FUNDRAISERS

### CINNAMON ROLL AND BAKE SALE

Sunday, February 15

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Warm up this Valentine's weekend with a hot cinnamon roll, cake or more! Pick up some delicious treats for your sweetheart, LifeGroup, or to take home with you. All proceeds go towards CHIC fundraising. Rolls are \$2 each, or a plate of 3 for \$5, additional baked goods are assorted prices.

Questions? Contact Sue DeLeon at [suedeleon1@gmail.com](mailto:suedeleon1@gmail.com).

# Youth

## CHIC FUNDRAISERS

### ENVELOPE WALL

Sunday January 4 and 11

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Help support our youth attending CHIC this summer by helping them make their January deposits! Entering Upper Fellowship Hall you will find a wall of envelopes numbered 1 through 50 on the wall. Help support our youth by choosing an envelope and giving the amount listed on the front (anywhere from \$1-\$50). Make sure that you get your first pick – free tickets, gift cards and other random surprises are hidden in random envelopes – maybe even yours!

Questions? Contact Casey Nault at [naultcasey@msn.com](mailto:naultcasey@msn.com).

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Saturday, January 24, 12:00 - 1:30pm

*Room 201*

This is a 3-Dimensional, new, exciting experience to equip senior high youth to love, lead, and serve as leaders. Senior High Students apply for one of three tracks:

- SERVE Team: lead behind the scenes in a variety of ways such as serving communion on a rotating basis, planning service opportunities, and several other areas.
- LEADERS IN TRAINING (LIT): lead alongside the SERVE team, but also serves alongside youth mentors in a variety of areas.
- JUNIOR MENTORS: lead alongside the Serve and LIT teams. These youth are paired with a youth mentor to serve as co-small group leader or Sunday School teacher.

These unique ways to lead provide opportunities for leadership skill development, service and to be challenged to grow in personal faith. For more information speak with Natalie Goodrich or Jim Berger.

# **Children, Youth & Families**

## **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES LEADER TRAINING NIGHT**

Wednesday, January 7, 5:45 - 7:15pm

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

This training for the following adult leaders – Youth Mentors, all the G's leaders, Nursery Volunteers, Children's Church Volunteers, and Children's Sunday School Teachers. We will begin our time with a meal together and a time of fellowship and then break off into ministry specific groups. If you are not able to attend this training please let Kate or Donovan know.

# Local & Global Outreach

## WARM WINTER WEAR

January 4 through February 8

*Donations will be received at the box by the Welcome Center*

Last year we provided over 800 winter clothing items to the two Farnsworth campuses, Johnson High School, and Bruce Vento Elementary (with the help of Christ Presbyterian Church). This year we will be working with Roots Covenant to provide more Warm Winter Wear. Please consider donating new mittens, hats and scarves to be provided to kids in need.

Please contact Barb Kofski at [thefriendb@juno.com](mailto:thefriendb@juno.com) if you have any questions.

## COVENANT WORLD RELIEF OFFERING

Covenant World Relief is the humanitarian aid ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church. This ministry of our denomination works with the poorest in the world through transformational community development and disaster relief. Through contributions from Covenant people and churches as well as partnerships with other relief organizations, CWR responds to the needs of the most vulnerable who suffer from extreme poverty, hunger, disease, and injustice. Last year, CWR enabled 64 community development projects and disaster relief efforts in 23 countries around the world. Projects include: clean water, peacemaking, education, women's empowerment, agriculture and microfinance. More than \$1.5 million was donated to CWR by Covenanters in 2013. 90% of every gift goes directly to the work of relief.

This year we are inviting you to participate in the Covenant World RELief Offering by giving to support this important ministry. Cans to collect coins and envelopes will be available beginning on February 1 and need to be returned by March 1. Please consider how you can respond to the needs of our world through your generosity.



# Our Life Together

## HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

The office and the building will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26, Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1.

## WEEK OF PRAYER

January 4 through 10

As the new year begins, we will be called into active waiting through the power of prayer. The Spiritual Growth Hour on January 4<sup>th</sup> will give space for children, youth and adults to engage a number of different forms of prayer at prayer stations.

Resources will be given as our church spends the week in prayer.

For more information contact Erik Carlson at [erik@first-covenant.org](mailto:erik@first-covenant.org)

## MAFIA GAME NIGHT FOR YOUTH + ADULTS

Friday, January 16, 7:00 - 9:00pm

*First Covenant Church of Saint Paul*

Mafia is a group role playing game of strategy, survival, and the ability to spot a fraud. The imaginary setting is a small village where the local townspeople and Mafia are in an all out battle for survival, all from the comfort of your seat! More than anything, Mafia is an opportunity for us to gather for fun, laughter, cocoa + popcorn. This game was such a hit on the intergenerational, International Falls Mission trip this past summer that we are bringing it back for a night of fun and laughter. Questions? Contact Juan Perez or Kate Makosky.

# **Our Life Together**

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY - PARTNER WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

Sunday, January 18

Potluck at 11:30 am in the *Lower Fellowship Hall*

Combined Worship Service at 1:00 pm in the *Sanctuary*

This celebration started a few years ago allowing us to experience what worshipping would look like in heaven by combining the different cultures and languages. The leaders of each congregation agreed to incorporate a new change by starting a rotation of having this celebration take place in each of our partner's worship service times. This year we will meet in the Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist congregation service time and will have the Potluck before the Worship Service. We look forward to worshipping our God in this intercultural way on this special Sunday as we remember Martin Luther King Jr.

## **REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**

Monday, January 19, 7 - 9:30am

*St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church 1757 Conway Street, St. Paul, MN (and several other Twin City locations).*

The Community Breakfast is hosted in seven neighborhoods, featuring a live broadcast of the General Mills event at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Keynote speaker is Vernon Jordan. Special guest: Gospel singer Yolanda Adams.

Registration and tickets are required, available online: [www.spacc.org/mlk](http://www.spacc.org/mlk) to learn more and to register. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults, free for children under 12.

## **EASTER CHOIR - FIRST REHEARSAL**

Wednesday, January 21, 7:45pm - 8:15pm

*Choir Room*

Please contact Richard Voth to join the Easter Choir, which will be performing the Good Friday concert on April 3.

# Our Life Together

## LEADERSHIP ADVANCE

Sunday, February 8, 12:00pm – 4:00pm

*Location TBD*

This year's Leadership Advance will feature Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, associate professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. As an ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church, Dr. Rah has seen firsthand the denomination's significant growth in urban areas, and increasing need for intercultural ministry. He was founding senior pastor of Cambridge Community Fellowship Church, Cambridge, Mass., a multi-ethnic, urban ministry-focused church committed to living out the values of racial reconciliation and social justice in the urban context. The Leadership Advance will include a light lunch served immediately following the Spiritual Growth Hour. For questions or more information, contact Pastor Brandi at [brandi@first-covenant.org](mailto:brandi@first-covenant.org).

## BELLFEST HANDBELL CONCERT

Saturday February 28, 3:00pm

*Gymnasium of North Heights Lutheran Church, Arden Hills (1700 West Hwy 96, Arden Hills, 55112)*

Over 30 Handbell Choirs from around the Twin Cities come together for a combined concert after having rehearsed all day Saturday for the performance at 3 pm. Our First Covenant Handbell Choir will be performing. Free Admission.

## COVENANT MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

*Denver, CO – Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel*

Many of our staff will be attending the Covenant's Midwinter Conference.

Midwinter is an annual training event for ministries of all specialties and provides a retreat for the Covenant Ministerium. Midwinter allows for an opportunity to step back and consider our strengths, the challenges and the opportunities that are before us. It is a time to share with ministry colleagues on their faith journey, to hear God stories and see how God is impacting our lives.

For more information, please go to [www.covchurch.org/midwinter](http://www.covchurch.org/midwinter)

# Our Life Together

## ADVENTUROUS CHRISTIANS WINTER RETREAT

February 20-22, 2015

*Adventurous Christians Camp, Grand Marais, MN*

Adventurous Christians is our small, rustic Covenant owned camp on the edge of the beautiful Boundary Waters. This is a weekend to connect with people, ski, snowshoe, hike, sled, relax, eat, and play games. Look for a sign-up sheet at the welcome center soon. The cost of the trip is \$105/adult, and \$53/child under 12. Please contact Mandy Griffin with any questions at 612-369-0805 or [mjcline8@gmail.com](mailto:mjcline8@gmail.com)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is a very important ministry at First Covenant Church and we would like to remind you of the ways you can give or receive prayer requests.

How to share a prayer request for yourself, family member or friend:

1. Write your prayer request on the attendance card in the weekly bulletin and place it in the offering plate or "prayer" mailbox in the church office.
2. Write your prayer request on a prayer card from the slot on the prayer bulletin board by the coat racks and place it in the offering plate or "prayer " mailbox in the church office.
3. Call the church office during office hours with your prayer request (651-774-0344) or e-mail it to Judy Kline: [judy@first-covenant.org](mailto:judy@first-covenant.org).

Make sure you include your name and contact information and indicate if you would like the request to be shared only with the Ministry Team or if you would also like it to be on the Prayer Line. Every Tuesday morning the Ministry Team spends time praying for the needs of First Covenant Church, including the shared prayer requests. To listen to the requests on the prayer line, call 651-772-9212 (updated weekly).

How to receive prayer requests so that you can join in prayer:

1. Call the prayer line (651-772-9212). Thanks to Sharla Scullen, this prayer line is updated weekly.
2. Pick up a weekly prayer request flyer listing the shared prayer needs (located on the prayer bulletin board).

# Partners

## THE SAINT PAUL COVENANT

As we begin this new year, we are excited to announce new additions to the work of TSPC:

### **introducing our new executive director: Tim Herman**

Tim comes to TSPC with bold vision, energizing support for current programs and a strong foundation of relationships across the East Side. Tim has been instrumental in increased investments and development in the East Side business community as Executive Director of ESABA. Tim is sure to help TSPC have an even greater impact on our community.

### **introducing our new partner: The Sheridan Story**

We all believe that no child should be hungry. Yet there are over 200,000 children in the state of Minnesota who live in food insecurity, 100,000 of which live in the Twin Cities. While there are many programs providing lunch and breakfast to children at school, the weekends remain a gap during which children struggle with hunger.

The Sheridan Story is a local non-profit that partners with local congregations and schools to fill the food gap between Friday and Monday, when children are not able to participate in the free or reduced meal programs at school. Studies have indicated that children who participate in programs that provide a weekend food supply experience increased self-esteem, improved behavior at school, better academic performance, significant improvement in standardized test scores, increased interest in school, and better relationships with school personnel.

Beginning in January, East Side Thrive and Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church are partnering together to provide funding so 100 students (K-2nd grade) at Farnsworth Aerospace Lower Campus will receive food to bring home on the weekends. In addition, we are looking for volunteers to fill backpacks on Fridays. (We're anticipating this to be a 45 minute-1 hour commitment.) If you are interested in this opportunity to "Be the Light" in our community, please contact Jon Fure at [jonfure@gmail.com](mailto:jonfure@gmail.com).

# Partners

## TSPC (Continued)

**East Side Thrive**, our afterschool programming continues for grades K-12

Wednesday Nights 4:00-5:45pm

*First Covenant Church*

East Side Thrive starts up again on January 14, 2014. We are excited about the growth we have experienced this year in volunteer and student participation. We still need your help. We are looking for a few adults to lead activities with the Pre-K, Kindergarten and Junior High. Please consider being a volunteer. If you have any questions or interest in serving please contact Leslie X. Sanders, Program Manager at [leslie@first-covenant.org](mailto:leslie@first-covenant.org), for more information.

## FAMILY VALUES FOR LIFE PRESENTS THE FOURTH ANNUAL JUMP STARTING THE NEW YOU POST HOLIDAY TEA

Saturday, January 10, 10:00am - 1:30pm

*Lower Fellowship Hall, First Covenant Church*

Ladies, this invitation is for you. Join us for a day of spiritual empowerment and mental rejuvenation. This event includes two dynamic speakers, fellowshiping with old and new friends, praise dancing, and door prize giveaways. Several vendors will be available for shopping. Refreshments and a free lunch will be served. A sign up sheet is located at the Welcome Center.

## ROOTS COVENANT CHURCH UPDATE

Sundays, 11:00am - 12:30pm

*655 Fairview Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104*

Roots Covenant Church is now officially 9 months old! We are still a baby but learning quickly who we are as a faith community and how we want to engage one another and our city as followers of Jesus. Every month we seek to serve our neighborhood and also get to know our neighbors. In October, we hosted a community wide Clothing Swap. In November, we collected coats for the Center for Social Healing and Wellness, a program of the Wilder Foundation.

If you'd like more information, contact Pastor Touger Thao at [touger@rootscov.org](mailto:touger@rootscov.org).

# Looking Ahead

**ANNIE** (1-6 grade musical with our partner school Farnsworth)

Saturday, March 7 at 4:00pm

Sunday, March 8 at 10:30am

*Johnson High School Auditorium (1349 Arcade St., St. Paul, 55106)*

## **SET APART—A FAITH FILLED CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN**

Friday March 6 and/or Saturday March 7

*University of Northwestern (3003 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55113)*

Don't miss this opportunity for worship, workshops, speakers, lunch and fellowship.

Visit [myktis.com/setapart](http://myktis.com/setapart) conference for more information. Sign up in January at the FCC Welcome Center to be eligible for a \$25 reimbursement.

Questions? Contact Lynn at 651-770-1536.

## **MN SINFONIA CONCERT & RECEPTION**

Friday, March 20, 7:00pm

*Sanctuary at First Covenant Church*

Entitled, "von Weber: The Sequel," this free concert will contain delightful orchestral music played by professional musicians and will feature clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein. All ages, including kids, are invited to enjoy this event. After the performance there will be a reception in the Upper Fellowship Hall.

## **GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT (JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM)**

Friday, April 3 at 7:00pm

*Sanctuary*

# Looking Ahead

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

March 20 – 22, 2015

*ARC Retreat Center*

This retreat is designed for women in our church looking for fellowship, respite and the opportunity for spiritual growth. Watch for more details in January!

## WOMEN MINISTRIES NORTHWEST RENEWAL CONFERENCE

March 27-28, 2015

*Hope Covenant Church in St. Cloud, MN*

Hear Meagan Gillan, Director of Women Ministries for the ECC speak on "Essential Women: The Aroma of Christ. Visit [www.wmnwc.org](http://www.wmnwc.org) for more info in January.

Connect with us online as well!

[www.first-covenant.org](http://www.first-covenant.org)

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