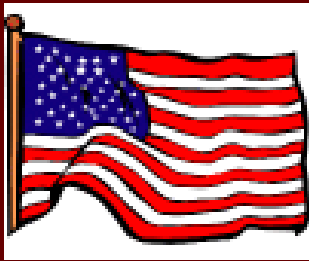


July 2015



FIRST COVENANT CHURCH • RED WING, MN

# MESSENGER

## Pastor Rick's Thoughts

It is appropriate during this month of patriotic memory that we honor the significance of the day when America's founders declared independence from England. An anonymous writer pulled together a list of the events of July 4th throughout our history.

"On July 4, 1776, King George III wrote in his diary, "Nothing of importance happened today." He, of course, had no way of knowing what had occurred that day 3,000 miles away in the colonies in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in particular.

Other things have happened on July 4. In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, abdicated. In 1754, George Washington surrendered Fort Necessity to the French and Indians. In 1802, the United States Military Academy opened at West Point. In 1817, construction of the Erie Canal began. In 1821, slavery was abolished in New York State. In 1826, Stephen Foster was born and John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died, and in 1831 James Monroe died. In 1845, Texas voted for annexation to the United States. In 1848, the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid. In 1862, on a historic (literally) cruise and picnic, Lewis Carroll made up the story of a little girl named Alice who falls down a rabbit hole and has wondrous adventures. In 1863, Vicksburg, Mississippi, surrendered to the Union army. In 1866, half of Portland, Maine, was destroyed by fire. In 1872, Calvin Coolidge was born. In 1884, the Statue of Liberty was presented to the United States by France. In 1946, the Philippines were granted their independence by the United States. In 1954, meat rationing ended in England (after 15 years). In 1976 the U.S. bicentennial was observed."

King George III could not have been more wrong. King David got it perfectly right in Psalm 143:5,

I remember the days of long ago;  
I meditate on all your works  
and consider what your hands have done.

Let us be thankful for the Fourth of July, the day our country celebrates its independence. More importantly, let us live in true liberty each day as we put our full and unfettered dependence on Jesus Christ.



# Summer Small Group Schedule

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Here this summer is your chance to join others in a Small Group at First Covenant. This is also an excellent opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to a Small Group!

Each of the small groups below will meet at Church and include a video based lesson from the RightNow Media library.



- **Tuesday, July 7th**, 6:30-8:00pm - Chris Conrad - Perfect Blend.
- **Wednesday, July 15th**, 6:30-8:00pm - John Ortberg, All the places to go... How will I know?
- **Thursday, July 23rd**, 6:30-8:00pm - Kyle Idleman, Not a Fan
- **Sunday, August 2nd**, 9:00-10:30am - Tullian Tchividjian, One way love

**Note that these sessions are not sequential, nor repetitive!** That means that if you attend just one of the five, you won't be missing out on previous or subsequent content. On the other hand, if you attend more than one (up to all five!) you will experience new content each time!

It is not required that you sign up to attend any or all of these sessions, but it is appreciated. (We are also looking for volunteers to help with these small groups.) To sign up or learn more, contact Dave Fredrickson, Vitality Chair at [fredandtrish@live.com](mailto:fredandtrish@live.com), contact the Church office, or go to our website

## Kids Musical Camp

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**Our Kids Musical this year is called "In the Big Inning"!!**

This is such a fun script and has so many great songs! The story begins when the kids gather at the part near the church for a Saturday of baseball, they are in for a surprising glimpse at the Bible's "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. They'll meet Moses, Noah, Abraham and many more. With shades of the iconic Casey at the Bat, it all leads to the climactic finish of Jesus at the Cross, and the Good News of the Gospel is driven home with power!

**Our rehearsals are July 27-31 from 9:30-11:30.** We are the church service on Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please mark these dates.

Please let me know if you are planning on your child participating so we can have enough materials available. Also, please let me know if your child would like a large or small speaking role, as we will have an additional rehearsal for those cast members.

Thank you, Dawn [music@redwingfirstcov.org](mailto:music@redwingfirstcov.org)



# Lake Beauty Bible Camp

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Camp season is rolling! Please remember these campers in your prayers this month:

**July 9 – 11:** Morgan McCann and Jasmine Tarjeson

**July 12 – 16:** Madison McCann, Madison Snyder, Teagan Walter, Jed Heineman, Chloe Struss, Bailie Roschen, Joshua Hanson, Jasmine Engler, Kaylee Snider, Kacie McTaggart, Olivia Gilbert, Cody Ryan, Jordan Vodmelch, Emmanuel Jensen. Ethan Breuer, Hallie Roschen.

Continued prayers for energy & wisdom are appreciated for all the Lake Beauty staffers, including our own Trent Van Loon.

Consider attending family camp over the Labor Day weekend. You could camp or stay in the air conditioned cabins. Inspiring speakers, never ending activities, and great meals make this the perfect family getaway. More info can be found at [www.lbcc.com](http://www.lbcc.com)



## Building Update

The new addition is coming along quickly. The framers are nearing the final stretch and then the finishing work begins. We have heard over and over from neighbors on the lake how great this new building looks from their perspective of looking up from the lake. From our perspective, we have already added groups to this year's Fall and Winter calendar because we now have the space to host them and we are thrilled. With Memorial Day guests on the grounds and others who have been here during the beginning phases of the project, the excitement is growing every day.

We have been approved as a site project for the SOWERS (Servants on Wheels Ever Ready) group. This is a group of retired folks who in the early years of retirement have decided that they are not done yet. They buy an RV and typically travel south for the Winters to work at sites. LBBC is the first site in MANY years in the "North" to be approved. Special thanks to Bill Cairns and Myron Carlson from First Covenant Willmar for helping to make this happen. We will see several SOWERS throughout the Summer. We are also hoping to see many of our LBBC friends out as well to help put the finishing touches on the building. This is going to save us \$1000.00's as we continue to seek funds to finish this building without a loan. We have paid cash this far and we really want to see that continue to be a reality. We are still receiving checks from Member Churches who have made the "Kingdom Investment" request of their people. Thanks to everyone who has come along side of us already.

## First Covenant's Fourth of July Picnic

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**Everyone is invited to First Covenant's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic**

at Memorial Park starting at 6:00 p.m.

Grills available so bring your own picnic, outdoor toys/games and join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and fireworks!



# Mission Committee

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As you are probably aware of, First Covenant Church, and the Covenant denomination in general, has a long and storied history of supporting missionaries and missionary work around the globe. In an effort to help our church family get connected with current efforts towards missions, the Missions Committee has produced a flyer that lists all of the missionaries and mission-related organizations that are currently supported by our local body of believers. Please take the opportunity to review this flyer, as well as to pray or write, if you feel so led, to these people and organizations.

In addition to the flyer, the Missions Committee has placed binders in the shelves outside of the library. These binders contain communication from our missionary families. Please feel free to peruse these binders at your convenience to gain a better idea of what each family's work, hopes, and challenges are. Again, if you feel led to pray and/or write to one of these families, please feel free to do so.

Finally, just a note that if anyone is interested in serving on the Missions Committee, we would be happy to have you! We typically meet on the first Monday of each month, for about 60 to 90 minutes. In particular, we have a need for someone who is great at organizing and cataloging materials and communication, someone who is passionate and knowledgeable about short-term and/or local missions, and someone who feels led to write/communicate to our missionary families on a regular basis. If anyone is interested, please contact one of the Mission Committee members - thank you!

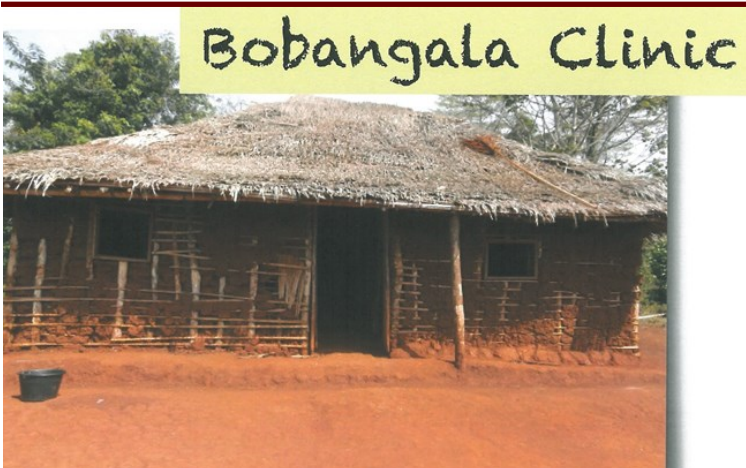
The Missions Committee,

Judy Wachholz, Elona Franciskovich, Tim Young, Adino Quiboloy, Brian Cashman

We have received letters from the Ziegelbauers, Nelsons, Johnsons and Carlsons which are in the binders. Please take time to read the letters from the missionaries we support.

## Our Congo Clinic We Support in Bobangala

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**Location:**

Village Name: Bobangala  
Health Zone: Bogose Nubea  
Distance to Hospital: 9 Miles  
Serving Population of 7,977



***Please pray for the staff.***

Nurse: Ngelekwana Bagaza  
Nurse's Assistants: Wolo Ndoy,  
Timbo Fioego, and Bala Wizambo  
Lab Assistant: Fiobwe Ndowe

# July Mission of the Month—Gideons International

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July's Mission of the Month is the Gideons, a worldwide organization dedicated to the placement of copies of the Bible in hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes, high school and college campuses, prisons and jails and other venues throughout the world.



The Gideons International

In operation for more than 100 years, the Gideons distribute copies of the Word of God in 90 languages, in nearly 200 countries around the globe. Nearly 2 billion copies of Scripture have been distributed by the Gideons in their history, with about 85 million copies handed out last year alone.

Operating funds for the Gideons – including the printing and distribution of scripture – primarily come from two sources:

- The annual dues and monthly offering provided by the Gideons themselves
- Free will offerings from churches in which Gideons make presentations

The Gideons are recognized by charitable giving watchdogs as being particularly efficient with donations. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Gideons International raised a little more than \$129 million, and of that amount, more than \$120 million was spent directly on the printing and distribution of Scripture. The organization's financial statements are available online at [www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org).

There are about 300,000 Gideons across the world, divided into about 11,000 small local groups known as "camps." In our area, the Goodhue County Camp distributes Bibles and Testaments and two members of the First Covenant family – Jerry Kline and Tim Droogsma – are active members of the Goodhue County Camp. Either of them would be happy to answer any questions you have about the Gideons. Gideons Bibles and Testaments have been responsible for helping millions of people around the world come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Chances are that you know someone who has been impacted by a Gideons Bible placement. Thank you for your support of the Gideons as the July Mission of the Month.

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105*

## Vacation Bible School 2015

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First Covenant Church and Teens for Christ presents:

### Camp Kilimanjaro

Summer 2015

2302 Twin Bluff Road, Red Wing, MN

August 3 - 7, 2015

9:00 a.m. to noon

Entering Kindergarten to completed 5th grade



Online registration: <https://www.answersvbs.com/vbs/1stcovenantchurch>

For more information, call: Lori Hart 651-385-0835 or Sarah 651-388-2385

**Cost: free.** Donations welcome to offset the cost to First Covenant. Please write VBS in the memo of your check.

# Remembering Our Birthday Friends with Prayer

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1st	Hazel Larson and Julie Trok	21st	Carole Daggett
3rd	Derek Alpers	23rd	Clayton Rutschow
4th	Linda Anderson and Fred Klenke	24th	Dan Gronvall and Harland Schultz
6th	Melissa Zenzen and Jim Welsch	25th	Janine Mason
8th	Vanessa Mandelkow	26th	Dawn Conroy and Dori Svihl
9th	Don Jensen and Denny Yecke	27th	Beth Schulthess
12th	Paul Resel	28th	Joanie Heineman
14th	Calla Van Loon	29th	Arlene Freewalt, Kathy Welsch, and Susan Gronvall
15th	David Nelson, Sarah Benidt-Grave, Indeah Yockey, and Brian Cashman		
18th	Matt Kline and Richie Lockwood		
19th	Bruce Eckblad and Leah Ryan		

Prayer is a vital part of the life of our church. In order to help us focus on praying for one another, please use our list of birthday friends in each month's Messenger to pray for them and their families. There will be enough names to pray for someone throughout the month. Let's make praying for one another a means of encouragement to us all!

