



# A New Year's Warning



MOOSE LAKE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

# Covenant Express

The common questions being asked the last half of December is, "Where did '07 go?" Either it is a question which speaks of our busy life with no down time or we are getting older. How about, both are true!

As a congregation we have been moving at a good clip. Take a few minutes with me to walk through the year. Last January we formally put a Building Committee together — now in December we have taken another step by giving permission to our architect to draw up blueprints and begin the bidding process. Yeah God!

In January we appointed a Call Committee to look for a staff person who will help equip, train and minister to young families. In October, Pastor Wendy Sorvik joined us and is getting her feet wet in ministry here. Yeah God!

In January we had a long conversation about camp and campers — and how to provide enough resources for any child to attend Covenant Park Bible

Camp. At the end of August, we sent 146 kids to camp. Yeah, God!

In August we began a Stewardship Campaign to educate ourselves on God's perspective on how to use His resources and to get the word out about expanding ministry here in our community. Many took advantage of this stewardship journey, many are still on the journey and many are hesitant about walking this journey. God has proven His faithfulness and provision. Through your generosity, over 1,054,000 million dollars has been pledged so far — With others still asking God, "what would You have me to do with Your resources?" Yeah, God!

Some people from Mexico came up to Minnesota to do some temporary work in Barnum. For some reason, one gentleman, Jose, walking to our church on a Wednesday night was looking for someone to study God's Word.

Two months later, 7 or 8 others have come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord, and several Moose Lake Covenant folks are asking "can we have a class to teach up Spanish?" The Mission Field has walked to our doorstep. Yeah, God!

Sonshine Closet is completing its first full year in the new building. These missionaries keep the store open 5 days a week, donate all their time and had the privilege of giving away over \$30,000 to people in need in our communities. God keeps opening people's hearts to donate goods and to buy goods at the Closet. God provides. Yeah, God!

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## A New Year's Warning, continued...

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Plus much more. You as a congregation are riding on a God-made wave. It has been stressful, challenging, demanding, joyful, eventful, fulfilling and God-led. Ministry is not easy. Ministry is hard work, but good work that has purpose and meaning.

But...

yes, there is a "but" here. Whenever God's people take an active role in ministry, step out further in faith than before, when God's Spirit is moving in peoples lives, transforming hearts from stone to hearts of flesh, when kingdom work is being done — know this — the evil one is not happy. He now has a new #1 enemy — those who follow Jesus and obey His Word. Which means, we will

experience spiritual warfare as never before. Fellow believers will be irritated with each other, families will be disrupted, sicknesses will increase, hurt feelings will be a dominant theme, things will break down, the Church will feel like they're not doing what they are supposed to be doing, people will say, "I'm leaving," and more. Spiritual warfare is here and will intensify as we continue to follow Jesus and obey His Word.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:11-12, "put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Let God's Word be a warning and encouragement to us this New Year. The devil will try to get us to fight against each other — to accuse each other of being the enemy — but God's Word says the enemy is the devil and the only way we can stand up against his lies is to put on God's armor and keep attention on Christ, Who leads us into the battle against the darkness.

May we be filled with the Holy Spirit, may we be people who pray often, may we be people who will stand together against the evil one, as we stand together.

As we enter '08, know this, we enter into an intense battle, with a victorious leader, Jesus Christ.

*Serving together,  
Pastor Todd*

## Prayer Retreat

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12 Log Cabins with oil lamps and wood stoves wait for your arrival at Wilderness North. Friday through Sunday, January 25-27, you have an Opportunity, individually or as a couple, to take time to be with God, away from the daily distractions.

The cost is:  
\$100 per day per couple  
(total of \$200 for weekend)  
Or \$65 per day per person  
(total of \$130 for weekend)

This includes 5 meals, lodging in a log cabin, unlimited use of outhouse, use of sauna and showers, and sitting in front of a blazing fire in your woodstove! The greatest benefit will be the conversation you will have with God. You will be greatly blessed.

If you want to go, fill out the registration form on the inside last page of the Express or at the Information Booth in the back of church and, along with a

\$30 deposit per person, give to Pastor Todd. There are scholarships available (talk to Pastor Todd). Registration deadline is January 13.



## Another Step Forward

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On Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, the members of the Congregation voted to enter the “Design Development” stage of our building project, coming off of a very successful Capital Campaign stage. This next step involves the following major activities:

Signing a contract with Miller Architects & Builders to begin design development of the current concept design. Numerous sub-committee meetings in January, involving many more people from the Congregation, to discuss the details of every square foot of the new and remodeled space. Wall placement, materials, furnishings, fixtures, colors – all the details will be discussed. Design specifications (“blueprints”) will be

generated by Miller. The specifications of the project will be put out for bid.

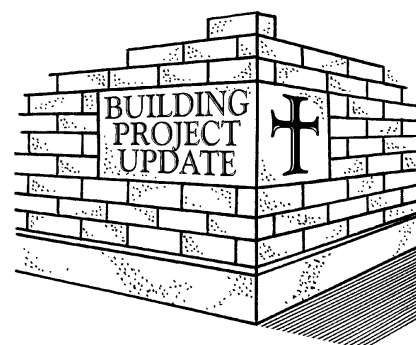
The Congregation will review the final bid numbers (possibly as early as late spring) and will have another vote on the Construction Phase details.

The Building Committee will be very busy during this important phase managing all the details, so please keep them in your prayers. They are also available to take comments and questions, so feel free to contact them with your ideas. The members are Annette Anderson, Craig Berg, Leon Hedberg, Bekah McFarland, Drew McFarland, Ron Mossberg, Brad Ramberg, Gary Rock and Pastor Todd.

To some, this project is exciting. To some, it’s scary. To others, they’re unsure of

where they stand. What we agree upon is that this church desires to expand its ministries to others and to share God’s love with this community in which we live. May we find common ground in these goals and continue to collectively and individually pray and seek God’s guidance for our church in the new year and beyond.

*Ron Mossberg  
Building Committee Chair*



## Church Staff

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Pastor Todd Van Zee

485-4800  
485-4426, home

David Nelson,

*Minister of Teaching and Visitation*  
485-4800  
485-4993, home

Drew McFarland, *Youth Director*

485-4800  
485-8191, home

Wendy Sorvik, *Pastor of Family Life*

485-4800

Greg Anderson, *Counselor*

218-722-2273

Charlie Cluka, *Visitation*

485-4800  
218-390-5251, home

Lucia Carlson, *Secretary*

485-4800  
485-4892, home

Linda Ripley, *Assistant Secretary*

485-4800

389-6999, home

Robyn Spiess, *Janitor*

Deb Halls, *Assistant Janitor*

485-4311, home

Dale Halls, *Maintenance*

485-4311, home

Kathy Hatanpaa, *Treasurer*

485-5944, home

# Upon This Hill ~ The Numbers

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## THEVOTE:

- 83 is the # of members voting at the congregational meeting.
- 60 is the # of members voting to move forward with the project.
- 23 is the # of members voting not to move forward with the project.
- 70 is the # of members that voted who have pledged to the “Upon This Hill” campaign.
- 7 is the # of members that voted who have not responded to the campaign.
- 5 is the # of members that voted who have said they would not participate in the campaign.
- 1 is the # of members that voted who said they would not participate at this time, but would if led by God.

## THE “UPON THIS HILL” CAMPAIGN:

- 300 giving units contacted for the “Upon this Hill” campaign.
- 100 is the number of giving units who have pledged to the campaign.
- 30 is the number of giving units who have said they wouldn’t pledge to the campaign.
- 10 is the number of giving units who will not pledge but will still give to the project.
- 95 is the number of giving units who should still

respond one way or the other to the campaign.

- 64 is the number of giving units who probably won’t respond.
- 1 is the number of a giving unit who asked to be taken off our mailing list.
- \$1,054,433 is the number of dollars pledged so far to the campaign.
- \$109,000 is the number of dollars received as of 12/28/07
- 35 is the number of months left of the campaign.
- 14 is the number of people on the follow up team for the campaign.

## “UPON THIS HILL” Uniqueness

- 17 is the number of ounces of gold given for the project.
- 2 is the number of snowmobiles given for the project.
- 1 is the number of pickups given for the project.
- 200 is the number of shares of stock given for the project.
- 15 is the number of stumpage acres given for the project
- 2 is the number of giving units increasing their pledge from their first pledge thus far.
- 11 is the number of giving units pledging who said they hope to give more.

## THE PROJECT:

- \$2.2 million dollars is the estimated project cost.
- \$1.99 million dollars is a new target number for the architect after the 12/2/07 congregational meeting.
- \$116,000 is the number of dollars on the line of credit still owed for the land purchased by the congregation. (7<sup>th</sup> Day Church, Anderson, Skarich)
- 9 is the number of sub committees needed to help design the project.
- 4/08-6/08 is anticipated dates for the next congregational vote.
- 5/08-7/08 is anticipated dates fro the project to begin if there is congregational approval.
- 1/09- Anticipated completion date of project.

Questions or Comments?

Contact Mark or Lucia Carlson,  
Campaign Managers  
(485-4892)



## Don't Waste Your Life

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Don't miss this 10 week DVD and book series, created by John Piper! We will meet on Wednesdays, starting January 9, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Anderson House (across the street from the church).

What does a life lived from Christ look like? Did God really make us for something greater than the American Dream? Join

us as we learn about living to prove He is more precious than life, so that we will never need to say a the end of our lives, "I've wasted it."

This is an excellent, life-changing study for all ages, for youth through senior citizens!!

Questions? Call Tim or Becky Pretasky at 485-4216.



## Children's Ministries

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Awana will be held on Wednesdays, beginning January 9, from 6:30—8:00 PM, for 3 year olds through 6th grade. Any questions about Awana, call Sheila Butterfield at 485-4027.



### Sunday School

Classes for all ages from Nursery through Adults, at 9:30 AM on Sundays. Please join us!

## Sonshine Community Services

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### Sonshine Food Distribution

will be held on Saturday, January 12 at 7:30 AM at Holy Angels Church in Moose Lake.

### Sonshine Closet Hours

Sunday: closed  
Monday: closed  
Tuesday: 9am-3pm  
Wednesday: 3-7pm  
Thursday: 9am-3pm  
Friday: 3-7pm  
Saturday: 9am-3pm



## Women Ministries

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### **Community M.O.M.S**

We will begin a new series starting Jan. 8. "Your Child: Essentials Of Discipline" This new series features Dr. James Dobson from Focus on the Family & other experts. They tackle topics vital to 21st century parents. You'll discover wise counsel on effective discipline, self-confidence, and safeguards for a dangerous world. Learn how to grow & lead your sons and daughters - God's way. We meet at the Covenant Church from 10:00 - 11:30. Child care is provided - infant nursery, toddler nursery, pre-school room & elementary home-school room. Contact: Doreen Mossberg 372-8670.

### **Quilting**

Join us at Quilting on January 3 & 17, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM in the Fellowship hall. We work on our own projects or church projects. Bring your machine and supplies. We always welcome newcomers! Call Teresa (496-5735), with questions.

### **Women Coffee Fellowships**

Monday, January 7th, 2:00 PM  
at Kenwood Place  
(4560 S. Co Rd 61, Moose Lake)

Monday, January 21, 2:00 PM  
at Oakview Care  
(500 Talbot Dr., Moose Lake)

### **Congo Medical Supplies**

Yes, Congo Medical Ministries still desperately needs a steady supply of strip bandages. The ministry of rolling bandages enables medical work in the Congo to continue. For almost 70 years, the women of the Covenant have rolled bandages and stitched layettes. There is still a dire need for the rolled bandages. It is imperative that this ministry continue. Our need: used sheets and someone to sew strips together so we can roll them. Contact Barb Carlson (485-4926).



### **From Ruth Hill, Executive Minister for Women Ministries, Chicago:**

"2007 has been an incredible year in Women Ministries, Praise God. Triennial XII — 1,100 women gathered in Chicago for a four day spiritual adventure. A new DVD produced — "Voices of Vision," on the progress in the transition from a membership organization to a ministry of the church. "Educate the Girls" has now raised \$235,000 for Congolese girl's education.

Beneath the facts are changed lives: Susan, our Triennial guest from China, whose baptism at the close of Triennial XII moved us to tears. The abuse survivor who couldn't speak as she embraced me after reading *You Are Not Alone*. Lily Yakote, Director of "Educate the Girls," who can already see a change in the way Congolese parents value their girls. Sandy who got sucked into a cult and found freedom at a women's retreat. The local WM leader who caught a vision for women through her Ministry Coach."

### **Triennial XIII**

Washington DC

July 22-25, 2010

Omni Shoreham Hotel

From Toni Scwabe: "It's going to be LOVELY!! I was there and saw for myself. A 75 year old classic hotel, a beautiful old neighborhood, a 5 minute walk from the Metro (subway) that will take you all over DC, the VP motorcade went flying by the hotel (his house is 6 blocks away), the food was fabulous. Start saving your money now and there won't be any reason to miss this great event. Some of the costs will be up — partly because it is in DC and another because it is 3 years away. However, they are all do-able if we all start saving and fundraising now rather than in January 2010."

# Hosean International Ministries

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Hosean International Ministries  
10816 Executive Center Drive,  
Suite 203  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72211  
(501)255-1610  
mail@hosean.org  
December, 2007

Joyeux Noel & Bonne Annee

Dear Friends of HIM,

We just arrived in Haiti after a couple of months in the states. My oldest daughter reminded me that we spent 12 days in the car in November. From Little Rock, AR to Moorhead, MN to Toronto and on to Missouri and Tennessee we had the opportunity to share with many of you what God is doing in Haiti.

2007 has been a very challenging year. At times we wondered whether we were going to be able to meet our payroll, or move ahead with various ministry activities. However, in the midst of it all, we have seen God's intervention at various times through your faithful prayers and support.

## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Started a "book bank" allowing our students to have access to needed textbooks.
- 875 students attend College de Ia Grace (K-13) and 300+ attend Lapila Christian Elementary school
- Held Kid's camps, Women's conferences, and Men's conferences throughout the summer.

- A new basketball court on our high school campus.
- Construction is moving forward on the Rebecca Webb Elementary Classroom Building
- Provided seminars and continuing education to our staff and area teachers.

• HIM school's students had continued success on their National Exams:

- o 85% of our 12 graders
- o 82% of our 9 graders
- o 97% of our 6 graders from Lapila Christian Elementary School
- o 100% of our 13 graders (equivalent to Associate's degree)

• 4VEP (93.3 FM) continues to serve as a downlink to 4VEH and is on the air from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily. More than 500,000 people can hear the message of the gospel.

• Through the financial help of NRECA International Foundation, we have been able to acquire a new 275KW generator for our Electrical Co-op and 300 more families are now enjoying the benefit of electricity in their homes for the first time in their lives. One 90 year old man said, "I told everyone that I would have electricity in my house in my lifetime, but they never believed me. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

As we approach the end of the year, we continue to covet your prayers for the daily challenges we face.



- \$13,000 is needed monthly to meet our payroll for 100 national staff members.
- \$6,000 is needed monthly for operational expenses
- Gasoline is \$4.50 a gallon in Haiti. By the time fuel gets to Pignon, the cost is \$6.00 per gallon
- Costs are skyrocketing; a bag of rice is now \$40.00.

Please pray for God's provision, His protection and every aspect of the ministry. Please pray to see how God may use you to help us meet our daily challenges.

We are grateful to the Lord for each and everyone who has prayed and supported the ministry financially. May the Lord richly bless you and may He bring you peace, joy and blessings through this Christmas season. And may you, just like the shepherds of 2000 years ago, go and tell everyone that Christ still offers hope, peace, salvation and deliverance to all.

Joyeux Noel! Merry Christmas!  
Feliz Navidad!

*Serving Him through HIM,  
Caleb*

## Notes from afar...

### Dear Pastor Van Zee and friends at Moose Lake Covenant,

Christmas is approaching and we will spend ours quietly at a hot springs in the nearby mountains (a gift from our colleagues here). Then on December 28, we will head back to the U.S. as we end our 7 years of service as Covenant Missionaries in Japan. Thank you for standing with us as supporters!

Let praises flow!

Let love abound!

Let the hearts of the weary be lifted up by our wonderful Prince of Peace!

With grateful hearts,

*Don, Amy, Sean & Ethan Johnson*



### Dear ML Covenant Family,

The Lord continues to richly bless me in ways beyond my comprehension. As a thank offering to Him, I am sending this gift for “Upon This Hill” Campaign. God has used this church to shape, grow, encourage and support me throughout my lifetime thus far. May His work continue to grow and prosper — and may many more people come to know, love and serve Jesus through your ministering there!

*Love, Jen Carlson*

## January Birthdays

David Nelson	1/1	Caden Privette	1/14	Jenny Sebring	1/23
Marilyn Criley	1/2	David Olson	1/15	Micah Van Zee	1/24
Deb Eames	1/2	Bonnie Strauch	1/15	Walt Westerberg	1/24
Randy Rice	1/2	Katie Grave	1/16	Shirley Eckman	1/27
Noelle Anderson	1/3	Randy Sjoberg	1/16	Lewis Eggen	1/28
Mandee Bell	1/5	Dylan Eggen	1/17	Tarah Zerwas	1/28
Caitlyn Halverson	1/5	Megan Rock	1/17	Sarah Eames	1/29
Deanne DeZeler	1/6	Gary Rock	1/18		
Delaney Kittel	1/7	Mark Benoit	1/19		
Cathy Edin	1/8	Jacob Disterhaupt	1/20		
Ron Ressie	1/8	Annabell Pearson	1/21		
Kristine Salzer	1/8	Conner Tollefson	1/21		
Randy Bailey	1/9	Marlene Waseen	1/21		
Rick Tollefson	1/10	Lorraine Brown	1/22		
Addie Hatanpaa	1/11	Joseph Benoit	1/23		
Robin Zeatlow	1/11	Bea Benson	1/23		
Shirley Disterhaupt	1/13	Hazel Berndt	1/23		
Kathy Hanek	1/14	Sarah Piilola	1/23		



# JANUARY YOUTH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		No Afterschool	NO Confirmation NO Youth Group	Ministry Team Meeting		Discipleship Plunge Retreat
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday School Jr. High Girls Bible Study Sr. High Youth Group	Discipleship Plunge	<i>afLerschool</i> Jr. High Youth Group	Confirmation Jr. High Youth Group			Feed My Sheep Holy Angels
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday School Jr. High Girls Bible Study Sr. High Youth Group	Discipleship Plunge	<i>afLerschool</i> Jr. High Youth Group	Confirmation Jr. High Youth Group	PYROSIS PRACTICE 6:30	<i>Jr. High Movie Madness!</i>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School Jr. High Girls Bible Study PYROSIS	Discipleship Plunge	<i>afLerschool</i> Jr. High Youth Group	Confirmation Jr. High Youth Group			
27	28	29	30	31		
Sunday School Jr. High Girls Bible Study Sr. High Youth Group	Discipleship Plunge	<i>afLerschool</i> Jr. High Youth Group	Confirmation Jr. High Youth Group			Coming up: SUPER BOWL PARTY February 3rd!

**Sunday School:** Sunday—9:30 a.m.  
**Jr. High Girls Bible Study:** Sunday—5—6 p.m.  
**Sr. High Youth Group:** Sunday—6-8 p.m.  
**Pyrosis:** Sunday—6-8 p.m.  
**Discipleship Plunge:** Monday—6:30-8 p.m.  
**Afterschool:** Tuesday—3:30-5:30 p.m.  
**Confirmation:** Wednesday—6:30 p.m.  
**Jr. High Youth Group:** Wednesday—6:30 p.m.

**COVENANT YOUTH MINISTRY**  
 Youth Director: Drew McFarland  
 Phone: 485-4800  
 218-213-5250  
 Email: [dustydisciple@hotmail.com](mailto:dustydisciple@hotmail.com)

**Ministry Team Meeting**  
 January 3rd 6:30 p.m.  
*Dr. High*  
**Movie Madness!**  
 January 18th 6-9 p.m.



# Prayer Retreat Registration Form

Friday - Sunday, January 25-27

Wilderness North, near Brimson, MN

Meals & Bedding provided. Bring your Bible, reading material, hiking boots and anticipation of meeting God.

Prayer Cabins have propane heater and wood stoves and oil lamps for light (no electricity).

An outhouse is always nearby. Showers, sauna and bathrooms are near the main lodge for your use. Questions, talk to Pastor Todd (485-4800)

DEADLINE TO SIGNUP: Sunday, January 13!

Yes, I want to go on the Prayer Retreat! Give to Pastor Todd (include \$30 deposit)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE ( \$130/2 nights) \_\_\_\_\_ or COUPLE (\$200/2nights) \_\_\_\_\_

ANY FOOD REQUIREMENTS:

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## Church Council

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**Chairman**

Gary Rock

**Vice Chairman**

Keith Newman

**Secretary**

Kris Wallman

**Financial Secretary**

Kim Hassett

**Commission Chairs:****Worship**

Dawson Gentry

**Adult Ministries**

Tom Degerstrom

**Youth Ministries**

Mark Carlson

**Children's Ministries**

Teresa Mickelson

**Extension Ministries**

Glenda Eschenbach

**Evangelism/Outreach**

Scott Bogenholm

**Ministry Resources**

Don Pelkey

**Stewardship**

Charlie Cluka



**MOOSE LAKE  
EVANGELICAL  
COVENANT CHURCH**

700 5th St  
PO Box 445  
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Phone: 218-485-4800

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covenant@mchsi.com

Website:  
mooselakecovenant.com

*Moose Lake Covenant Church*

*is about*

*Living to the Glory of God by*

*Gathering around Jesus*

*Growing in Faith, and*

*Giving of ourselves.*

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Moose Lake Covenant Church  
700 5th St, PO Box 445  
Moose Lake, MN 55767

**January**