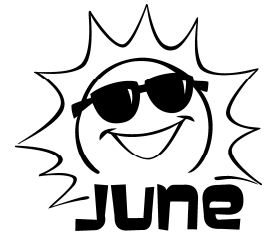


Covenant Express



The Lord Is With You

As Moses prepared the nation of Israel for his departure, he brought before them the man God had prepared for such a time as this and whom the nation trusted, Joshua. Joshua had been with Moses for over 40 years. He started as a slave in Egypt, witnessed the 10 plagues in Egypt, walked across the Red Sea on dry ground, fought in battles against enemies larger, stronger than Israel, yet was victorious, was one of two spies to the promised land that said "let's go and take it." He walked with the people through the desert for 40 years, ate manna everyday during those years and now standing on the Jordan River shores, he is fearful of the next move.

There God speaks to him, "Be strong and courageous, because

you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:6-9

I ask you, "Why is Joshua to be strong and courageous? Is it because God will make all the difficult times

disappear? No! Is it because the inhabitants of the land will just give Israel their towns and cities? No! Is it because there will be no grumbling, complaining and confusion for the Israelites? No! Not a word about any of this. The word given to Joshua is "be strong and courageous". Why? "For the Lord your God will be with you, wherever you go. That was the promise given to Joshua and Israel. They went on to cross the Jordan River and immediately began to face great challenges. But those challenges became opportunities to experience God's faithfulness.

Continued on page 3

**Moose Lake
Evangelical
Covenant Church**

Volume 36, Issue 6

June, 2009

Inside this issue:

--Final Inspection (Building Update)	2
--The Power & Freedom of the Wind of God	3
--Adult Ministries --Congregational Health Ministry --Church Staff	4
--Children's Ministries --Summer Bible Camp	5
--Sonshine Community Services --Church Council	6
--June Birthdays --Family Camp Baptisms	7
--Thank you -Kids Under Construction --Reducing the Risk	8
--Evangelism Corner --Mission Moment	9
--Youth Calendar	10
--Sonshine Walkers	11

Final Inspection

After 12 months, the Building Inspector is scheduled to come in June for his final inspection! It seems like such a long time ago when in July, 2008, the ceremonially shovels came out for a Ground Breaking by the entire Congregation. This was quickly followed by the heavy equipment that changed the landscape forever. Slowly, but surely, the new Multi-Ministry Building (MMB) began to rise. At many times the construction moved more on the "slowly" side, but we are now on the brink of using this new space to further the ministry of the Church.

Even though we hope the Inspector will provide us a Certificate of Occupancy in early June, there are still a few remaining items that we hope to accomplish this month before fully using the new building. These include the elevator installation, gym floor and motorized basketball backstops. As we wait for the Anderson House to sell, the parking lot designed for that space will be delayed.

Many people have walked through the MMB on Sundays when the doors were open to monitor the progress. Now that the walls are being demolished between the buildings, everyone has had a glimpse of the new structure. When the MMB is opened for use, it will be the place to go between Sunday services to find the mailboxes, bathrooms, nursery, Welcome Desk, coatroom and maybe even coffee and refreshments.

The Congregation and community are invited to tour the MMB on July 4th after the local parade. This allows visitors in town for the holiday to check out our new building and ministries. The official Open House and Dedication has shifted to September, so watch for more details this summer.

Finally, the Building Committee has been monitoring the construction finances, and has decided to wait to purchase some of the desired "furnishings". In the meantime, a fun but functional "Furnishings Registry" has been setup at:

<http://www.myregistry.com/welcome/MIcovenantChurch> for anyone

to buy an item for the MMB. Items range from sports equipment to electronics which will be used to put the finishing touches on the MMB. Please consider visiting the site and purchasing an item!

*Serving together,
Ron Mossberg
Building Committee Chair*



New Building Tours

July 4th from 11:00am-2:00pm

Join us for cake and refreshments!
Invite your family, friends and neighbors

The Power and Freedom of the Wind of God

If anyone wants to see the kingdom of God, that person must be born again, Jesus makes this plain to Nicodemus in the third chapter of John. This sounded very strange to Nicodemus. In verse 4 Nicodemus says to Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb?" Jesus' answer to Nicodemus gives us a glimpse of the amazing grace God bestows on sinners like you and me.

Jesus says in verses 7-8 "You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." What Jesus is saying is that the Christians rebirth and regenerate heart is the work of God the Holy Spirit. Just as man cannot command the wind, man also

cannot command the Holy Spirit. The Spirit blows where He wishes, causing hearts to be softened and eyes to see the Son of God for who He really is. Suddenly and supernaturally our dead eyes were able to behold and comprehend the magnificence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; the Lion of the tribe of Judah who willingly laid down his life as the perfect, sacrificial Lamb of God to save sinners like us.

Before, we were as dead as doornails in our sins. (Ephesians 2:1) But, like Lazarus who was summoned from the grave with a command, so too were we summoned to eternal life by God. As Moses lifted the serpent and the Israelites who looked upon it were saved, we now look to Christ, raised on a cross, and through faith we are saved.

It is God who has worked in us. Isaiah 65:1 says, "I revealed myself

to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me." As Christians we have nothing to be proud of. All we can do is respond with humility and gratitude towards our merciful Savior. Let us always remember with the Apostle Paul "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

*Sola Gratia, by grace alone
Tim Pretasky
Adult Ministries Chairperson*

The Lord Is With You (continued from page 1)

I want to encourage you by saying this promise from God is ours as well. It is good to be reminded of God's presence with us. Great challenges will come to us this summer. These challenges will be great opportunities to step out in faith and trust in the promise of God. We will experience His leading, His provisions, His victory, His presence. "Be strong and courageous, the Lord your God is with you!"

As we face these challenges and opportunities, some of them will cause fear to creep in. At these times we need to be reminded of the promise of God,

"Be strong and courageous, for the Lord your God is with us."

I want to encourage you with God's very words, "Be strong and courageous." Why? "Because whatever we face, whatever challenges, whatever opportunity, whatever storm, whatever comes across our path—we do not go alone, we go with companions—God the Father/Son/Holy Spirit. And when we gather together in August, we will have much to say about the amazing things God has done. Remember, the Lord is with you.

*Serving Together,
Pastor Todd*

Pastor Todd will be on
Sabbatical June 3rd
through July 30th.
He will be back in the
office on August 3rd.

FYI
• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Adult Ministries Opportunities

Ladies Coffee Fellowship

Join us at Kenwood Place, June 1st at 2:00 pm and Oakview, Monday, June 15th at 2:00 pm. If you can bring a treat and help serve coffee at Kenwood or Oakview, let Beth Walters or Barb Carlson know.

Women's Retreat, 2009

Mark your calendar and plan to attend retreat, September 18-20 at Covenant Park Bible Camp.

Greetings From Women Ministries, Chicago

I was reminded again of the scope of our ministries and richness of resources for women of the Covenant. All the projects

the Department of Women Ministries has initiated throughout its 93 year history, along with the total of donations. The total now exceeds \$8 million! What we celebrate, however, are the lives impacted by those efforts, as well as through ongoing ministries of the Department--Triennial, AVA, Ministry Coaching, for example. The heart of all we do is "connecting women in transformational relationships and uniting them in Christ to impact our world."

Ruth Hill, WM Director

Covenant Quilters

Regular meetings are Thursdays, June 4 and 18 from 4 - 8 PM in

the Fellowship Hall. Bring your machines, supplies, projects, or work on one of the church's. Questions? Call Teresa at 496-5735.

Kids Against Hunger Meeting

Wednesday, June 3rd at 6:30pm in the East Room.

Compassion, Mercy and Justice Team Meeting

Thursday,, June 4th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the East Room of the church.

Church Family Camp

July 24-26

Cabin sign-ups will be on the counter in the foyer toward the end of June.

Congregational Health Ministry

Planned doings for Health Ministry for June are:

- Blood Pressure Clinics after all 3 services on the 14th and 28th.
- Walking (I believe Donna Eckman called it "Covenant Walkers"), will meet at 7:00

pm on Thursdays in June at the old railroad station parking lot next to the Munger Trail. Dates are the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th.

- Visiting as requested.
- Planning for the future.

Remember, as you pray about

good health for yourself and loved ones, that the basic instructions for wholesome living are in the Word. If you have questions, feel free to call Bill at 218-658-4593.



Church Staff

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
218-213-5250, home

Wendy Sorvik, *Pastor of Family Life*

485-4800
485-5777, home

Lucia Carlson, *Secretary*

485-4800
485-4892, home

Linda Ripley, *Assistant Secretary*

485-4800
218-206-4376, home

Robyn Spiess, *Janitor*

485-8882, home

Deb Halls, *Assistant Janitor*

485-4311, home

Dale Halls, *Maintenance*

485-4311, home

Kathy Hatanpaa, *Treasurer*

485-5944, home

Children's Ministry Commission



Sunday School classes will be held during the summer for children ages 2-Kindergarten, starting May 31st and continuing through August 30th. These classes will be held in the same classrooms they were in during the past school year until the little ones move into the new space. We'll let you know when that happens.

There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on July 5th (4th of July weekend) and July 26th (Family Camp Weekend).

Sunday School teachers and substitutes are needed for the 2-year-olds and PreK-K classes this summer. If you can help teach one or two days, please

contact Teresa Mickelson at 496-5735.



To the Children of AWANA!
We just received a letter from Eyasu thanking you for your Christmas gift. (Eyasu Legese is the boy from Ethiopia that the children in Awana sponsor during the school year.)

Dear friends in Awana:

How are you doing? I am doing great. I miss you a lot and wish to see you.

I celebrated well at church with mom, my sister in singing & eating meatstew. Mom made coffee and I helped her. I hope you helped your family too.

I bought clothes and lunch with the money you sent me for Christmas. God bless you so much for your Christmas gift.

I have a dog. Do you have a dog or a cat? What is the weather like in your country?

Please pray fro my dad, my school. Please send me your photo.

**Love,
Eyasu**

Please continue to pray for Eyasu and his family during the summer.

For Sale To Move:

Anderson House: 713 5th St. (across from church, next to the Christian Education building). Questions, call Craig Berg at 218-380-1958.



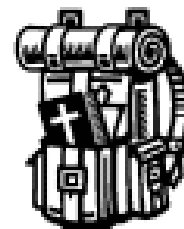
Summer Bible Camps Begi June camp sessions:

- June 14-19: Junior High 1
- June 21-26: Senior High 1
- June 28-July 3: Trailblazer 1

Summer Bible Camp

Check out Covenant Park's website at:
www.covenantpark.org

For information on camp registration and availability.



Sonshine Community Services

Sonshine Closet

Sales for April were \$6,000.52; quite an increase over a year ago. We surely are kept busy with sorting donations, pricing, displaying and all that goes with keeping our Thrift Store well stocked. At times when you look around our store, there are people all over shopping! Most of us would never have thought this ministry would grow so fast, and be needed so much. We can always use more volunteers-- stop by and fill out an application to help.

Compassion fund is being quickly used to help people who have had their power turned off. Many applications have come for Sonshine to help them. Think of how it would be if you had no electric! Thanks to God for using our store to help those people.

My 6 months as Manager is up the end of May. It has gone fast, and I have truly enjoyed

every minute of it. Time flies when you're having fun. I will have an evaluation in June--will let you know the outcome next month! Stay tuned.

Sonshine Pantry

Numbers were way down in May, because of Mother's Day, fishing opener, or what? However, we were told that numbers were also down in the other distributions supplied by Ruby's Pantry. We have been well supplied and get lots of food, beverage and household items each time. It seems many people do not have the \$15 donation. Maybe you know some family that could use the food; just come to our next Sonshine Pantry on June 13th at Holy Angels, pick up the food for the \$15 and surprise some family.

Volunteers (adults and youth) are always needed, beginning at 6:30am. We are usually done by 9:30am. CIP comes to clean up

after, so that is a great and wonderful help.

Thanks to ALL our great volunteers--without you we could not accomplish so much for so many.

*Marilyn Criley,
Manager*



2009 Church Council

Church Chair Ginger Spiess
Vice Chair Peter Thompson
Council Secretary
Mark Benoit
Financial Secretary
Kim Hassett
Treasurer Kathy Hatanpaa

Commission Chairs
Worship Dawson Gentry
Adult Ministries
Tim Pretasky
Youth Ministries
Ramona Rice
Children's Ministries
Teresa Mickelson

Evangelism/Outreach
Jim Dorfner
Extension Ministries
Chris Ripley
Ministry Resources
Don Pelkey
Stewardship
Charlie Cluka

June Birthdays



Zhao Bing Degerstrom	6/1	Jayne Van Zee	6/8	Shawna Bailey	6/20
Michelle Eggen	6/2	Naomi Brigam	6/9	Karen Erickson	6/20
Zach Peterson	6/4	David Westerberg	6/9	Adisyn Erwnin	6/20
Max Salzer	6/4	Nathan Kartak	6/10	Logan Privette	6/21
Annette Anderson	6/6	Douglas Pearson	6/10	Spencer Vail	6/21
Dave Eggen	6/6	Trent Wallman	6/10	Duane Erickson	6/22
Alex Kenemore	6/6	Mya Alberg	6/12	Murray Salzer	6/24
Dennis Piilola	6/6	Tom Degerstrom	6/12	Roger(Sue)Sandstrom	6/24
Deb Entner	6/8	Garret Goorhouse	6/12	Deb Halls	6/26
Barb Tvrdik	6/8	Chris Anderson	6/14	Don Loban	6/26
		Cassie Dorfner	6/14	Russell Peterson	6/26
		Jerry Spiess	6/14	Micah Thompson	6/29
		Barb Eggen	6/16	Rosanna Bronczyk	6/30
		Terri Krueger	6/17	Andrew McFarland	6/30
		David Furey	6/18		
		Beth Chilton	6/19		
		Kady Dockel	6/19		

Family Camp Baptisms



Summer is here and summer activities have begun. One of the great activities we do is Family Camp at Covenant Park Bible Camp. This year camp is July 24-26, a Friday evening until Sunday 2:00pm. Mark your calendar and keep an eye open for details.

One of our traditions during Family Camp is the Baptismal Service Sunday. It is our

privilege to hear testimonies of God's work in a person's life and join with them as they declare their identity in Christ through Baptism. If any person would want to be baptized this year, talk to Pastor Wendy or Drew before July 19th. They will talk with you and prepare you for baptism. No matter your age, baptism is a God event proclaiming God's transforming work in you and in us. See you at camp.



Thank You!!

To all the people who lived out their faith in Christ by taking on the responsibility of teaching our children, youth and adults this past year.

It is always a blessing to partner with each other as we live our lives to the glory of God by "growing in our faith" together.



"I thank my God every time I remember you.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-7)

Children ages 4 to entering 6th grade are invited to a Summer Event:

"Kids Under Construction"

August 4th - 6th (Tuesday to Thursday) from 9:00am to 11:30am

We build our lives on Jesus as the blueprint;
The tools of our faith; Obedience & service to God.



If you have any questions or would like to help, contact Pastor Wendy.

Reducing the Risk

The first **Reducing the Risk** class for 2009 will be held at 11:00 am, Sunday, June 7th. The class is required for those taking any supervisory or supporting role in a church youth activity; including Youth Sunday School, AWANA, Vacation Bible School, or Nursery Care. If there is a possibility that you will be involved with these or other church youth activities,

and you have never taken the class, or last took it prior to 2008, you are asked to sign the Reducing the Risk sheet on the counter in the foyer. Other Reducing the Risk classes are planned for August 2nd and September 27th.



Evangelism Corner

Come join us on the Journey--*In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:6

Newcomers: If you are new to the church or have been attending the Moose Lake Covenant Church for the last few months, the staff and congregation would like to thank you for checking us out. It is our goal to meet with each of you and answer any questions you may have about the church and to provide you with information related to events and ministries that are part of this congregation. Beginning June 7th, we will have a designated area in the foyer for you to fill

out an information card and to provide you with some information and a gift. Within a short time you should receive a phone call and offered a visit from a member in the congregation.

Regular Attendees: Do you remember what it was like the first time you visited the Moose Lake Covenant Church? What is it that brought here? Who have you connected with in the congregation and how have you allowed God to use your talents and gifts? How have you grown in the love of Christ? These are all good, reflective questions to consider when we think of what it is like to be a newcomer to the

church. It should be our goal to allow others to feel comfortable and safe in coming to the Lord's house to worship and grow with each other's help. You can be a part of this by volunteering to be on a visitation team or signing up to man the Welcome Booth that will be starting on June 7th in the foyer. We are looking for individuals to welcome visitors or newcomers between and after each service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jim Dorfner at 218-372-4112. There are also sign-up sheets in the foyer for each of these activities.

*Jim Dorfner
Evangelism Chair*

Mission Moment

KAH—some of you are familiar with these initials. For those who aren't, they stand for "Kids Against Hunger". KAH was founded in March 1999 by Richard Proudfit. In 1974, Richard volunteered on a medical mission trip to Honduras after Hurricane Fifi. He was profoundly affected by the starvation he saw among the children there. He made a decision to commit his life and financial resources to solving the enormous problem of world hunger. It was clear to him that his life's work would be from then on—**Feed these starving**

children.

Richard worked with executives at Cargill, Pillsbury, General Mills and Archer Daniel Midland to formulate a food that would meet all the nutritional requirements of severely malnourished children for both their physical growth and their mental development.

As many of you know, there is a strong effort being made to start a KAH food packaging satellite here in Moose Lake. There have been two informational meetings which have drawn more than 20 people from the community each time.

A Board has been formed and met with KAH staff at their main office in New Hope.

Please pray that a KAH satellite will be successfully launched here in Moose Lake. If you want to contact the Board, you can write to :
Moose Lake Area KAH
PO Box 414, Moose Lake.

*Chris Ripley,
Extension Chair*

June Youth

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6

Jr. High Youth Group
 Jr. High Youth Group
 SCHOOL'S QUILT
 FOR the SILVER
 JR. HIGH PARTY

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Sr. High Youth Group
 Jr. High Youth Group
 Sunshine Pantry
 8:30 @ Holy Angels
 Catholic Church

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

PYROSIS

Sr. High Youth Group
 NO Jr. High Youth Group

TR. HIGH (GRADES 7-9) @ COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

NO PYROSIS
 NO Jr. High Youth Group

SR. HIGH (GRADES 9-12) @ COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP

28 29 30
 Sr. High Youth Group

June Birthdays
 1—Zhaoqing Degestrom 10—Trent Williams
 1—Zhaoping Degestrom

Sr. High Youth Group: Sunday—6-8 p.m.
 Pyrosis: Sunday—6-8 p.m.
 Jr. High Youth Group: Wednesday—6:30 p.m.

COVENANT MINISTRY
 Youth Director:
 Dr. ewMcFarland
 PHOne: 485-4800
 (church) 218-
 213-5251(cell)
 Email: "i
 dr:ew@mooselakegovenant.roit

SCHOOL "Squirt" the Silver
 JR. HIGH PARTY
 5-9 p.m. @ Hedbergs',,
COVENANT PAW! SIS-ECAMIP
 Check in between 6-7:30 Sunday Night
 (check out between 3-4-Friday:afternoon

What/Who is a "Sonshine Walker"?

We are a team of 30 individuals and are sponsored by Sonshine Community Services. We are excited and ready to hold up our motto; "Everybody needs a little "Sonshine" in their life."

We have a large team with many of our own church family involved. As the team captain, I am thrilled at the support and enthusiasm that people have shown for this fight against cancer. I personally understand and have felt the power of God through what He enables us to do. I celebrate life as so do many other cancer survivors. Those that have not survived on this earth have fought bravely and will be remembered. And there is "Hope" as the Sonshine Walkers well know.

This is the 7th Annual American Cancer Society/RELAY FOR LIFE being held in Moose Lake. It is held at the Moose Lake City Park on July 10th and 11th. It starts at 6:00pm on Friday, July 10th and goes through the night until 6:00am on Saturday, July 11th. This event raises donations for all cancer research, support and aid for individuals and their families and friends dealing with cancer. 15 or more teams come together and walk the 12 hour relay.

The evening starts off with the opening ceremony, followed by the Honor Guard leading a "Survivor first lap" of the relay.

The walking trail is a pathway lined on both sides with white decorated luminary bags with a candle inside each bag. These bags are purchased by anyone for a donation of \$10.00. They are decorated with messages of "In memory of..." their loved ones who have lost their battle with cancer or "In Honor of..." those that are surviving their ordeals with cancer. After the 1st Survivor Lap, then all the teams participating are

committed to have at least one member of their team walking on the track until Saturday morning at 6:00am. However, everyone is invited to walk on the trail. You will see and read all of the luminaries that tell so many life stories. The best comes at dusk when the luminaries are lit, making the park aglow with the candlelit pathway that winds around, connecting itself. This will be our first year to have a "summer-time" relay. Bring along your insect repellent!

Walking isn't the only thing happening. The teams all have booths where they will sell food, beverages, craft items, goods of all sorts, and raffle tickets for items that will be drawn for later in the evening. A Silent Auction will also be taking place. There is also other entertainment planned for everyone to join in. It is a fun and enlightening evening for the

whole family, as well as very heartwarming. For many, it is highly emotional, with tears remembering loved ones, but also laughter, rejoicing in life.

This is an event that is to CELEBRATE those that are survivors of cancer; recognize those who have been or are caregivers; to REMEMBER those who have lost the battle with cancer; and for the HOPE that is in the FIGHT BACK against cancer through research and by helping all those affected by cancer.

This event needs support to do it. This means you and me! I would like to offer everyone the opportunity to give for this fight against cancer by making your donations to the American Cancer Society, or if you would rather make a donation of \$10.00 for a luminary bag and decorate it for someone.

Below are all those from this church family that you can contact if you are interested.

Elaine Bogenholm,

Jessica Booker, Dick and Judi Burt, Kristin Doucette, Shirley Eckman, Deb Halls, Doris Head, Marilyn Hennager, Kristine Salzer, Jerry Spiess, and Anne Tollefson.

I know that the world is as it is, but the Sonshines everywhere and for this I rejoice.

*The "Sonshine Walkers" Captain
Robyn Spiess*

**Moose Lake Evangelical
Covenant Church**

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

Phone: 218-485-4800
Prayer Line: 218-485-8242
Email: office@mooselakecovenant.com

www.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.

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

