

September 2017



The Messenger

Times to Gather and Grow Together - Pastor Mike Mirakian

Every fall brings a new season of ministry with Sunday School and small groups getting back in gear. Just as young people are heading back to class, we are calling one another back to regular times of worship, spiritual growth and fellowship. These usual rhythms of church life are good for us. We can look forward to seeing friends and being drawn together by those things that matter most, like faith, love for one another and worshipping our gracious God.

Ephesians 4:3 reminds us to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” This means more than avoiding conflict or settling differences of opinion. Unity and peace within the church grow out of sharing life together and each agreeing to put first in our lives honoring and following Jesus. We are united in faith and in commitment to putting our faith into action.

This sharing of life, this unity in the Spirit is what scripture calls fellowship. It’s not just about time spent together; fellowship means joining in common purpose and mission, finding unity and peace with one another in the good and meaningful things of God.

During September, we will have several important fellowship opportunities that I hope each of us will join in.

First, we will officially begin the fall ministry season and the Sunday School year with our Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, September 10 at 9 a.m. All ages will gather in the sanctuary for some fun and to meet and pray for our Sunday School teachers. (Also that morning, the Worship time moves back to 10:15 a.m.)

The following Sunday, we will gather after Worship for the All-Church Picnic. Once again this year, the picnic will be at the beautiful Olson Swedish Heritage Park (7901 Harlem Rd. in Caledonia, across the street from the Rock Cut State Park entrance). The picnic gives us time to share a meal, play some outdoor games, and talk with friends.

At the end of the month, everyone at Broadway will be invited to a special event with folks from the other Rockford area Covenant churches. On Saturday, September 30, we will gather for Covenant Fellowship in Kresge Hall at the Riverfront Museum Park (711 North Main Street). This event has been envisioned and planned by church leaders from Broadway, First Covenant and Bethesda, and it represents an important step toward building greater unity and shared ministry between our churches.

We saw firsthand during the Alaska mission trip what a blessing it is to serve with believers from other churches. Joining our gifts and skills together enables better ministry and shows the world around us what love in Jesus’ name looks like.

I hope we will see a strong turn-out for Covenant Fellowship and that we will continue to find ways to share life and ministry with our brothers and sisters from neighboring churches.

In addition to these September events, let me also encourage you to connect with one of our small group and Bible study opportunities. Sunday School provides a weekly gathering for spiritual growth as well as friendship and encouragement. On Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., ladies gather at the church for the Women’s Fellowship, and on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., men gather for the Men’s Bible Study. Both of these groups resume meeting the first week of September and offer fellowship, prayer and Bible-focused discussions.

These opportunities, along with other on-going ministries, call us to join together and to grow in faith together. I pray that we will each taste the sweetness of unity and peace within our church and the joy of sharing life with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mission Committee Donations

The Missions Committee has determined the payouts for the \$5,000 the Leadership Team allocated to them from the 2016 surplus funds. Due to the generosity of the congregations this money was not needed for the mission trip to Alaska. The funds were distributed as follows:

- \$500.00 Stateline Youth for Christ
- \$500.00 One Body Collaborative (Love, Inc.)
- \$500.00 Christian Radio For Russia
- \$1000.00 MARC transportation of children to camp
- \$2500.00 Covenant Cares as follows:
 - Share of a bridge - \$1000.00
 - Medical supplies - \$340.00
 - Sewing machines - \$900.00
 - Brood of Chickens - \$100.00
 - Goats - \$160.00

Women's Fellowship



Are you looking for a way to deepen your faith and make some meaningful connections with the women of our church? Then please join us for Women's Fellowship at 9:30 am every Tuesday morning in the adult Sunday School room. We resume again on September 5th.

We begin the fall with a study by Jessica LaGrone entitled *Set Apart: Holy Habits of the Prophets and Kings*. This six session DVD series covers 6 holy habits of Old Testament prophets and kings who were "set apart" by their close walk with God. Topics include: consecration, listening, mentoring, humility, worshipping, and discovering God's Word.

Please consider joining us - coffee and treats will be served! For more information please contact Kathi Engstrom (815-670-4802) or Kristi Swanson (815-262-4212).

Men's Bible Study

The Thursday morning Men's Bible Study led by Pastor Mike will resume in September. All men are invited to join us Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. This fall, we will continue reading through Genesis, picking up at chapter 35. In addition to studying the word together, we also discuss events in the world, fellowship together and pray for one another.



Youth Ministry

Hello everybody. It's back to school time. Can't believe that the summer is already gone. We're already back into the Sunday school schedule. Here's what we're looking at for the month of September. We will be meeting for regularly scheduled youth group on the 3rd and the 17th of September. I hope everything is going well with everyone and I look forward to moving into fall with you all.



September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Worship YOUTH	4 LABOR DAY office closed	5 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:00 Carol Circle Potluck	6	7 10:30 Men's Bible Study	8	9
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	11	12 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:30 LT Meeting	13	14 10:30 Men's Bible Study	15	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship Church Picnic YOUTH	18 Messenger news due in office	19 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	20 11:30 60 Plus at Capri	21 10:30 Men's Bible Study	22	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	25 7:00 Mission Meeting	26 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	27	28 10:30 Men's Bible Study	29	30 4:30 Covenant Fellowship Picnic



Serving in September

Head Usher:

Keith Holmertz

Counters:

Steve James & Sue Warren

Nursery Workers:

9/3 Kim Lape & Stacey Parlapiano

9/10 Kathy Holmertz & Jon Brown

9/17 Colleen & Gene Felts

9/24 Cathy Alexander & Amy Breese

Coffee Schedule:

9/3 Marcia Johnson

9/10 Ryan & Kara Woodrow

9/17 John & Kathy Loven

9/24 Gary Ecklund



Birthdays

- 5 Arline Gredenius
Bob Rehnberg
- 10 Kathy Almond
Skylar Retzlaff
- 11 Rikki Bickford
Andrew McCulloch
- 12 Anders Gredenius
- 13 Perry Gregorcy
Destiny Kingambo
- 14 Marcia Johnson
- 16 Ron Miller
Linda Evans
- 17 Don Leather
- 18 Louise Larson
- 19 Chris James
- 21 Bob Schweiger
Erica Schweiger
Dennis Norman
- 23 Louise Peterson
- 24 Jean Drews
Annette Retzlaff
Dennis Suhr
- 25 Kevin McCulloch
Rhyelle Wimbush
- 30 Abby Chapetta
Lily Chapetta

Remember in Prayer

Justin Murdock, Ft. Sill, OK

Betty Klaung home from the hospital.

Peggy Frint with health concerns.

Katie Rowl home from the hospital

Kara Woodrow ankle surgery.

Thank You

We want to thank everyone who helped make another Fun Fest a great success. It was a wonderful evening of fun for all who attended. It takes many loving people like you to make this neighborhood outreach event a blessing onto our Lord Jesus and his Church. Thanks to all who helped plan, organize, run errands, set-up, ran booths, cook and serve food, greet people, sell and take tickets, provide prizes, and take down and cleaned up when it was over. And a special thanks to those who prayed and to everyone who came that evening. We want to thank Jerry Jacobs & Angela Phillips and family for their music, 'Tiny' the Shriner Clown, Huenefeld Ponies and Brent's Bouncin' for providing wonderful entertainment for all ages and to our door prize donors. An especially big thank you to the kids, parents and neighbors who came and enjoyed, they are who this was all done for in Christ's name. Thank-you and bless you all.
In Christ, Your Fun Fest Committee

Anniversaries

- 2 Doug & Joan Boettcher
Randall & Laura Ann Price
- 4 Ryan and Kara Woodrow
- 8 Dan & Laura Schweitzer
- 11 Robert & Barbara Rehnberg
- 14 John & Kimberly Haase
- 14 Emily & Brian Lorbach
- 15 James & Jill Page
- 16 Wayne & Carolyn Augenson
- 17 Karl & Crystal Burdick
- 26 Maynard & Barbara Carlson
Andrew & Margo McCulloch
- 27 Keith & Kathryn Holmertz

60 Plus Lunches Are Back

Plan to join us Wednesday, September 20th, 11:30 at the Capri, 313 East State Street. Invite others to join us and make your reservation with Karen, 815-399-1523 by Sept 17th. Also let her know if you need a ride. This month we are meeting on Wednesday because the Capri is closed on Tuesday.



School Supply Donations

SCHOOL



SUPPLIES

Broadway Covenant will be collecting school supplies and bring them to both Rolling Green and Whitehead Schools for their second semester. The schools use these supplies for students who do not have any. It saves teachers from spending money out of their own pockets for supplies. Purchase now during the back to school sales.

Covenant Fellowship Picnic

Plan now to attend this evening of free food, worship and most importantly a chance to meet and interact with other covenanters in our community. This special occasion will take place on Saturday, September 30th from 4:30—6:30 PM in Kresge Hall at the Riverfront Museum Park, 711 N. Main Street #7.

**RIVERFRONT
MUSEUM PARK**

SCHEDULE

Fellowship

Catered dinner

Worship

Guest Speakers — Gary Schwerin of Bridge Ministries

— Danny Martinez, Central Conference Superintendent

In addition to our scheduled events you have an opportunity to visit the Discovery Center in the afternoon at a discounted price of \$5.00 by mentioning you are part of the Covenant event.



Kick Off Sunday

Be sure to join us on at 9:00 AM
September 10th
for the kick off of Sunday School.
Something for everyone!



- Meet in the sanctuary
- Teachers will be introduced
- Curriculum will be shared
- Students taken to classroom
- Worship will begin at 10:15



DVD Studies Available in the Church library

Did you know that in the Church Library there are quite a number of DVD study series? These can be used for individual study or for group study. They are located on the top shelf of the bookcase at the far right corner of the library near the window and are in alphabetical order by author. Please check them out, but just be careful to not write in the study guides.

- Brooks, Rice
God's Not Dead (2014)
6 sessions - DVD & study guide
- Clinton Julie
Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith (2011)
10 sessions with various speakers - DVD & book
- Cloud, Henry
Be Still and Know That I Am God (2006)
7 sessions - DVD
- Courtney, Vicki
Move On: When Mercy Meets your Mess (2014)
6 sessions - DVD
- Giglio, Louie
The Comeback (2015)
6 sessions - DVD
- Gumble, Nicky
The Alpha Course: Express Version (2009)
15 sessions - DVD
- Hamilton, Adam
Half Truths (2016)
5 sessions - DVD & book
- Harper, Lisa
Believing Jesus: A Journey Through the Book of Acts (2015)
8 sessions - DVD & study guide
- Ladd, Karol
A Woman's Passionate Pursuit of God (2011)
6 sessions - DVD
- Lucado, Max
You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times (2013)
6 sessions - DVD & study guide
- Moore, Beth
Daniel: Lives of Integrity (2006)
6 sessions - DVD, book, & study guide
- Qureshi, Nabeel
Seeking Allah: Finding Jesus. 92014)
6 sessions
- Spoelstra, Melissa
First Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree (2016) 6 sessions - DVD, & study guide
- Stanley, Andy
Guardrails: Avoiding Regrets in Your Life (2011)
6 sessions - DVD , book & study guide
- Stanley, Andy
Starting Point: A Conversation About Faith (2014)
8 sessions - DVD & study guide
- Story, Laura
When God Doesn't Fix It: Learning to Walk in God's Plans Instead of Our Own (2016)
5 sessions - DVD
- Swope, Rene
A Confident Heart: How to Stop Doubting Yourself or Live in the Security of God's Promises (2013) 5 session - DVD
- TerKeurst, Lysa
Becoming More than a Good Bible Study Girl
6 sessions - DVD & study guide
- TerKeurst, Lysa
The Best Yes: Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands (2014) 6 session - DVD
- TerKeurst, Lysa
Twelve Women of the Bible: Life Changing Stories for Women Today (2012) 12 sessions - DVD
- TerKeurst, Lysa
Unglued, Making Wise Choices in the Midst of Raw Emotions (2012)
- TerKeurst, Lysa
Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely. (2016)
6 sessions - DVD & study guide
- Warren, Kay
Choose Joy: Because Happiness Isn't Enough (2012) 4 sessions - DVD
- Warren, Kay
Dangerous Surrender: What Happens When You Say Yes to God. (2008)
6 sessions - DVD & study guide

Mission Report

This month we are praying for **Byron and Sue Bruckner and Covenant Youth of Alaska**. **Covenant Youth of Alaska (CYAK)** oversees and coordinates youth and young adult ministries for the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. The following from CYAK's website is an example of what CYAK does: CYAK staffer Drew Williams lives in Scammon Bay and has a chicken coop near his house. He decided to add a perch to their yard and was in the process when one of the students in his youth group came by and asked if he could help. Which he did. This young man was so excited that he could help that he shared it with his family. From this experience Drew Williams has now acquired a small work shop which has tools and materials to work on projects with local students. Drew writes "It will be a place where hands-on time meets intentional discipleship." Williams will be working with students to create items such as traditional knives and jewelry as well as other items. The students will be able to sell their items to attend CYAK events such as Covenant Bible Camp. The youth will also learn valuable skills that they can use throughout their life. **Byron Buckner** is the Executive Director of CYAK. He was born in Nome and grew up in Alaska. Byron said "God has blessed CYAK with wonderful staff and wider team network of volunteers who's hearts break for the spiritual need of youth and young adults in Alaska" Please pray for the following: 1) For the beginning of a new school year-Trusting God will be at work; 2) For CYAK staff that they enter the fall season well rested and 3) For each CYAK ministry area as things pick up in the fall.

Peter and Anna - Pray that adoption process continues to go smooth and that God will give them wisdom on how to lead their ministry.

Update from Tim and Andrea Johnson: Tim got his real estate license and is working for a real estate agency in Skagit Valley. He also works part time as a pastor at a Japanese Congregational Church in Seattle. Andrea finished her dissertation. She is now working at Hospice of the Northwest as a per diem Spiritual Counselor. Sam and Lilla continue to attend the University of Washington. Sky is taking drivers education and has a job.

2017 Church Picnic

Our annual church picnic is set for Sunday, September 17 at Roland and Gladys Olson Swedish Heritage Park which is located at 7901 Harlem Rd., at noon or following the morning service. Take Perryville Rd. north to Harlem Rd., and turn east on Harlem. The park is across from Rock Cut State Park Pierce Lake entrance. You will see the pavilion and playground area right away.

There will be a sign up sheet available beginning Sunday, August 27th through Wednesday, September 13th located by the northeast entrance. Please indicate the number of people from your family who will be attending, or as always you can indicate on the communication card or call the church office. If you need a ride, we will be happy to find one for you. Meat, drinks and table service will be provided. A basket will be available for suggested donations. Kubb, bocce ball and horseshoes will be available to use. You are asked to bring a lawn chair or a blanket and a dish to pass. If your last name begins with A-N please bring a side dish or salad, and if your last name begins with O-Z bring a dessert. We look forward to seeing you there to share food and fellowship. Please call Laura Price at 815-494-3311 with questions.



Leadership Team

The search team for the new Youth and Worship Pastor is making progress. Continue to pray for wisdom and discernment as we seek to fill this important position. Search team members are Arlene Schweiger, Laura Mirakian, Steve Schweitzer, Tyler Whitney, Mike Mirakian and Keith Holmertz.

Members of the 2017-2018 Leadership Team are Colleen Felts, Dave Holmertz, Kathi Engstrom, Ken Yarwood, Kent Drews, Kim Schweitzer, Mike Mirakian and Keith Holmertz.

September 2017
Broadway Covenant
Church

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Youth Director - Skyler Retzlaff
Phone - (815)399-9296
Fax - (815)399-7860

We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com

Library News

Summer is “unofficially” over and school is back in session. With that said our Summer Reading Program has also come to an end. We had 2 readers over the summer. AJ Breese was our winner with over 20+ books read during this summer. Degan Alexander was our 2nd reader, reading 8 books over the summer. Each will receive a Reading Award and a gift card of their choice. Congratulations and keep up the good reading.

Fall is almost upon us and I for one enjoy the cooler weather and changing colors of the leaves. Stop by the library and check out the featured books for the fall season. We also have several DVD bible studies available for check out as well.

If you have any requests on books or studies you would like to see the library offer, contact Cathy Alexander and let her know.