

# Church Chat



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## FEBRUARY USHERS:

*Jim Gottsch, Bob Dugger, Herb Lundberg, Harold Olson*

## MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH:

*Neil & Liz Peterson*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

*2nd....Brady Archer*

*3rd....Micki White,*

*Ron & Corinne Peterson*

*5th....Brandon Butler*

*6th....Jeannine Johnson, Steve White,*

*Nora Seehusen*

*7th....Pete Ekstrand*

*14th....John Betten*

*15th.... Micah Archer, Jenna Teerink*

*16th....Jack Gerdes, Craig Nesbitt*

*17th....Aubrey Erickson*

*19th....Web Ekstrand*

*20th....Larry Koos*

*21st....Joyce Carver*

*22nd...Marjean Seehusen*

*28th...Jeanette DeNeui*

## Announcements & Notices

### Prayer Breakfast

You are all invited to join us for a prayer breakfast the 1st Sunday of the month at 8:00 am. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather together to pray for our church and seek the Lord for how He wants to use us to reach out to our community.

### Help Needed:

The Covenant Church is responsible the month of March for Meals on Wheels. We need 3 couples or individuals to do one week. If you can help please contact Ginny Olson 712.468.2284. Thanks!

### Coffee Fellowship Schedule for February

- 5 – Steve & Micki White/ Stephanie White
- 12 – Dean & Ellen DeVore
- 19 – Glen & ReNay Hanson
- 26 – Covenant Women Ministries

# Rip 'n Roll & Layettes


**Wednesday, February 22,**

in Fellowship Hall at Church

Starting at **9:00 AM**


to coincide with **Mom's Group**

Please Note: No evening session this time  
due to Ash Wednesday services

**What to bring:** scissors   
old sheets, table cloths

*(Cottons & poly blends. Please no flannel)*

**Optional:**

 can of vegetables  
to add to "Hobo" stew  
"treats" for coffee &/or dessert



*Covenant Women Ministries*

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the winter retreats at **Twin Lakes Christian Center:**

Wintertainment (grades 7th-12th) February 3-5

Superbowl Party (grades 7th-12th) February 5

Scrapbooking Retreat February 17 - 19

Spring Quilting -March 16-18 and March 23-25

To register or for more information go to [www.twinlakescc.com](http://www.twinlakescc.com).



### Church Treasurer's Report--General Fund

Balance January 1, 2012	\$6,531.29
Receipts	\$37,044.60
Disbursements	\$38,432.54
Balance January 24, 2012	\$5,143.35

Respectfully submitted by Dale Seehusen, Acting Treasurer

\*January receipts and disbursements appear to be quite high for one month. Please note that approximately \$30,000 of this total were non-budgetary donations received and disbursed to our ongoing mission projects in Honduras and Laos.

\*The Potato Bake held last Sunday, January 22, raised \$512 for the new library project. This Sunday's offering (January 29) is also a 5th Sunday offering which goes to the facility enhancement fund.

\*Thank you for your patience as we transfer the Treasurer's position to Linda Christoffers. Hopefully, the transition will be complete by February 1.

# Church Calendar For February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:30 Pioneer Club 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 CRU	2	3	4
5 <i>Covenant Women Sunday</i> 8:00 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Service 6:00 TOTAL	6 7:00 Women's Bible Study at M. White's	7 7:00 Ministry Council Meeting	8 5:30 Pioneer Club 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 CRU	9 1:30 CWM Thursday Fellowship	10	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Service 1:30 Worship Service at Pocahontas Manor 6:00 TOTAL	13	14 2:00 CWM Bingo at Pomeroy Care Center  7:00 Worship Team Meeting	15 5:30 Pioneer Club 6:00 Confirmation 6:30 EC Meeting 7:00 CRU	16 9:00 Youth and Family Team Meeting	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Service 6:00 TOTAL	20 7:00 Women's Bible Study at M. White's	21	22 9:00 Mom's Group 6:00 Confirmation <i>7:00 Ash Wed. Service</i>	23	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Service. 6:00 TOTAL <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	27	28	29 <i>Leap Year!</i>	<p><u>February Verse of Inspiration</u>  <i>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.</i>                      1 Peter 5:7</p>		

# Youth and Family Ministry Update

## T.O.T.A.L

Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

Students in grades 6-8 continue to learn more about Jesus while having a fun time playing games and building relationships with one another during Pioneer Club, Confirmation, and Cru on Wednesday nights! Our Wednesday night attendance remains strong so far this semester during all of our ministry programs!



We have noticed an increase in overall attendance at our T.O.T.A.L. High School Youth Group meetings on Sunday nights! We are receiving word that high school students are talking positively about our ministry and this is evident as several students have been bringing friends to our weekly meetings. Those who have come at least once have provided feedback that they enjoy the mix of food, fun games/events, laid back hangout time, and Biblical small group discussion. It is not uncommon now to have between 8-10 students attending T.O.T.A.L. each week.

## Upcoming Events

Two upcoming major events in which Chris is helping get students registered are

1) **Wintertainment/Superbowl Party:** This weekend retreat happening February 3-5 at Twin Lakes Christian Center is open to any youth in grades 7-12 and we currently have seven youth registered (and counting) taking advantage of this opportunity to interact with many other teenagers from around Iowa! As a separately-joined event, there is also a free Superbowl Party happening at camp that Sunday evening and we will have some students staying after the retreat while others join us for the big game only.

2) **CHIC:** We currently have 10 high school students plus adult leaders Chris Ravn and Jen Pearson registered for our denomination's triennial national high school youth gathering happening July 15-20 in Knoxville, Tennessee! There is still time for more high school students to register to attend with us as space permits (at a slightly higher cost)! Contact Chris Ravn at [\(712\) 335-2148](tel:7123352148) for details!

## Pioneer Parents Support Group

"Due to interest expressed from the previous Pioneer Parents Support Group last semester, **Chris Ravn will again offer another Pioneer Parents Support Group series!** All parents of children in pre-k through 6th grade are welcome and encouraged to come to Pioneer Club on Wednesday nights for a delicious meal with your family before hanging out with other parents for mutual support and relevant discussion on all things parenting! Come and be encouraged as a parent while our Pioneer Club staff works with your child(ren)! Pioneer Parents is a free support resource and will run on Wednesday nights February 8, 15, March 7, 14, 21, and April 4 in the Sanctuary at Evangelical Covenant Church, Pomeroy. Help us spread the word and invite your friends!

# Covenant Women Ministries at a Glance

February 2012

**5 - National Women's Ministries Sunday**

**7 - Monday Bible Study 7 PM**

at Micki White's home west of Pomeroy

**9 - Thursday Fellowship 1:30 P.M. at church**

**14 - CWM Bingo 2 PM at Pomeroy**

 **Valentine's Day**

**20 - Monday Bible Study 7 PM**

at Micki White's home west of Pomeroy

**22 - Rip and Roll 9 AM at Church – with Mom's Group**

**\*\*\*Ash Wednesday\*\*\***

**26 - CWM Ministries Focus Sunday**

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## Church Library Remodeling Project

The Properties Team is working on moving the library to the lounge this winter . The church started talking about this in 2009. Since that time, \$3,000 has been raised for the library with the possibility of using Memorial Fund money. An additional \$512 was raised at the baked potato meal fund raiser on January 22 after the worship service and before the annual meeting. The anticipated cost of remodeling the lounge is estimated to be between \$10,000 - \$12,000.

The purpose in this project is to build an organized space for all our library books, create an atmosphere that encourages study and reading for the use of our church attendees, and to update the lounge area. There will also be a television available for those who would like to come and watch some of the DVDs provided by the church. Children's book will be placed on low shelves for the kids in our church to enjoy under the supervision of an adult. If you have questions or would like to donate towards the project, contact a member of the Properties Team

## Executive Council Meeting

Evangelical Covenant Church

January 11, 2012

Those present at the meeting were: Pastor Dan Fullerton; Glen Hanson, Chairman; Dave Welander, Vice-Chair; Linda Christoffers, Treasurer; and Deanne Archer, Secretary.

Glen opened the meeting with prayer.

Craig Aljets had been invited for the beginning of the meeting to share with us about the Properties Team's plans for the library remodeling project. There was dialog about the options of sources for funding this project. Dave made a motion that we authorize \$3000 from the *memorial fund* for the building of the library project; motion passed. The Properties Team will also host the "Potato Bake" luncheon as a fund-raiser to be held January 22<sup>nd</sup> after worship and prior to the congregational annual meeting. An announcement about the purpose of the fund-raiser will be made to the congregation.

### **Other Business:**

Linda opened discussion about what specific financial information she should report at each meeting of the Executive Council. Also, in regard to the Ministry Council meetings, she will print a monthly report to give to each of the leaders which will have the balance in their account for the team. This will hopefully help the leaders continue their financial planning process through the year.

There was some follow-up discussion about the leadership workshop with Pastor Dave Benedict on January 7<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended with most of the members of Ministry Council, Executive Council, PRC, and a few others in attendance. This was felt to be a beneficial time having good information with which we will continue to work during the next months.

### **Pastor Dan's Time:**

Pastor Dan continues to work with us on building leadership skills and gaining understanding of structure and needs within the congregation. Between meetings we will be reading through the book, *The Healthy Emotional Church*, utilizing information gathered from this resource to facilitate further discussion.

He talked with us through each of the six topic areas we are focusing on to prepare for group interaction at the congregational meeting/celebration on January 22. These are: leadership development; governance; conflict resolution; pastoral roles / defining staff; communication within the church body; and search committee process. We also talked about ways to nurture the spiritual growth and meet spiritual needs of our congregation.

The congregation will be reminded to continue to be feeding ideas and thoughts to members of the leadership teams so that we persist in developing better communication throughout our congregation.

Andrea Hendrickson will be resigning as the church secretary around the end of March and we will soon be accepting applications to fill that position. We will miss Andrea's hard work and great service to our congregation as secretary.

Executive Council will meet again on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deanne Archer, Executive Council Secretary

## Congregational Meeting

Evangelical Covenant Church

January 22, 2012

Glen opened the meeting with prayer, and then Ellen Lantz played a video ‘collage’ of many of the events that took place in the church over this past year. This was a pleasant reminder of all that had been accomplished in one year.

### *New Members:*

We have several people who have completed the class for new members and desire to join the membership of this church. These include: Laura Erickson, Dave and Meryl Hiler, Joe and Andrea Hendrickson, Mark and Jen Pearson, and Holly Seehusen. Dean DeVore made a motion to accept their membership. This motion passed and they will be accepted into the membership during the worship service on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### *Communication:*

Pastor Dan presented the six topics we would be opening to the congregation for discussion. The congregation then split into six groups for discussion and input. Notes were taken to be used by the Executive Council. Glen asked for feedback from the congregation as to whether having this sort of discussion time was helpful and it was almost unanimous that this was helpful and a positive step in communication for the congregation.

### *Ministry Teams:*

The Annual report contains a report from each ministry team. Glen opened to the floor for any of the ministry team leaders to share at the meeting.

Adult Ministries – Steve White passed out a new report for the congregation to review. He had accidentally switched his report for this year with last years. He then gave a general review of the past year for the Adult Ministry Team.

Technical Ministries – Pam Ahlrichs talked about how the new technical ministries team provides important but invisible support to worship and other areas. They are the “behind the scenes” guys.

CWM – Micki White said she was speaking for Shirley Welander (who is on a mission trip). They shared that keeping the afternoon meeting going has been a blessing. Micki also shared that she and some of the others, who had been providing childcare for the mom’s group, have been blessed by the babies and seeing them growing up. Some of those babies from the first mom’s meetings are now in school.

Children and Youth Ministries – Joni Gerdes shared that it was a “God thing” to have had a week-long VBS this past summer, and added that there was a lot of commitment by many people. Close to 40 children enjoyed great fun and learning. She was grateful for fantastic volunteers. But the greatest excitement was that there was at least one child that is known to have given her life to Christ that week!!

Outreach and Inclusion – Ellen Lantz was pleased to share that the team is active now with two more members, Holly Seehusen and Steve White. The Global Thanksgiving dinner held in November was a success and brought in people from outside the church as well.

Missions – Corinne Peterson talked about how our members have been good Samaritans near home and far away. Sat April 9<sup>th</sup>, the tornado in our area caused much damage to homes of many families. Our church members “adopted” a family to support, the Steve and Melody

Pomeroy family. In one day there were over 30 people present from church to help clean up their place and in a couple hours the combined effort had made a big impact. The family is now in the process of moving into their new home. When we pass on God's mercy to others and we can make a difference.

Properties – Craig Aljets listed several areas of improvement made in the church in this past year. He also talked about the library remodeling project. He said he was impressed by a congregation who was “always there” when there was a need and they are trying to be good stewards of such generous giving.

Fellowship and Hospitality – Marge Kohn shared some enthusiasm for the work of her team and said it had been a good year.

Worship and music – Jeannine talked about how the new screen in the back helpful to those ‘up front’ such as the children’s programs, praise teams, and the pastor. She added that another thing that goes unseen is the dedication of the praise teams who practice every Sunday morning at 8:00.

#### *Other Business:*

Treasurer Report – Dale Seehusen there had been some ‘glitches’ in the printing of the individual members’ giving/ tax reports and that everyone should check to be sure theirs is correct. He reported that the Balances for the church account is in the black. Linda Christoffers, who gave the auditor’s report, made the motion to approve the treasurer’s report; motion carried

A motion was made and passed to approve the Annual report with thanks to Andrea and others who helped prepare it.

A special thanks was also given for those people who give of their time and hard work to always keep the snow removal taken care of.

**Pastor Chris:** He reported that he has been spending a lot of time on the school campuses. He has one member of TOTAL (not a member of this church) who comes almost every time with someone new and that kids are inviting friends. He is working on discipleship with this student to then reach out to the others. Pastor Chris has been blessed by seeing the group grow and there were 10 students present last week. He shared some positive information about CRU as well. He said the students are sharing their faith on their campuses and reaching out to others.

**Pastor Dan:** He commented that this has been a great year “on every cylinder” and an exciting atmosphere to be in. He feels there is a pulling together for the mission of the church. It has now been 14 months since he was asked to come be the pastor. We have focused on the ‘six areas’ to build and improve and wants us as members of the congregation to keep talking to one another so we can stay on the same page. We need to remember that we are here because God called us to be here. (Matt 28:19–call to mission). We should be building up the BODY by challenging each other and by reaching out to others. Ask ourselves, “Am I just coasting in my walk or am I growing?”

We ended the meeting by joining hands among all those gathered and sharing in prayer together as a group.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanne Archer,  
Executive Council Secretary

Dear Evangelical Covenant Church,

We ask you to PRAY for the following key time in the life of the Congo Covenant Church (CEUM).

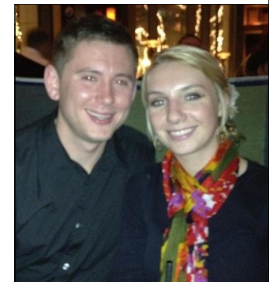
The General Assembly of the CEUM starts this Sunday, January 15 and runs to late Friday, the 20th. Over 400 delegates started traveling to the town of Bongabo as early as a week ago, traveling on foot, by bicycle, motorcycle and truck. There will be many happy reunions, lots of reports, times for worship and prayer, discussions of many ministries, and at the end, an election of a new church president. There are some tensions that need to be talked about and dealt with, but maybe not all resolved. **Pray** for God's Spirit's to work in each person and in the meeting as a whole. **Pray** for the reflection, critique and criticism and desired change that always comes out, especially at election time. **Pray** for safety in travel.

I am writing this from Karawa where I am waiting for the arrival of a group that is on their way from the US. They were scheduled to have already arrived, but mechanical problems and then weather has delayed them. They arrive in Kinshasa Saturday evening, January 15, fly to Karawa on an MAF plane on Sunday and then we drive together the 2-1/2 hours to Bongabo. **PRAY** these travels go well. **PRAY** also for their return travel on January 21, the only difference being that they fly commercial to Kinshasa



Additional GREAT news is that our Congo team recently expanded. David & Debbie Williams arrived on January 21 from Ft. Collins, CO. David & Debbie are only the second African-American couple to serve here in Congo. We have had other African-Americans visit over the years, but only four have come to join the staff. New staff is always encouraging and we are excited to them here serve in continuing education of pastors and mentoring the leadership of the literature and literacy department. We are also already grateful for the insights and wisdom they bring in cross-cultural relationships. We look forward to learning and growing with them during the years ahead. Do pray for them as they work to learn Lingala over the next couple months.

And, Carl got engaged to Meghan Hartman in late December. CONGRATULATIONS! We anticipate a June wedding so we will be in the US this June.



### **PRAISE AND PRAYER**

- The CEUM biennial meeting as noted above
- For Carl and Meg and their wedding planning
- For us to walk closely with the Lord as we have busy weeks ahead and it is all too easy to not take time for our devotional lives

Thank you very much for your prayers very day and particularly through this important week in the life of the CEUM.

Walking with Him,

Pete & Cindy Ekstrand



**Evangelical Covenant  
Church**

21822 600th St.  
Pomeroy, IA 50575

Phone: 712-359-7706

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## A Note From Pastor Dan:

### Focusing on the Future while Honoring the Past

On Sunday, January 22, 2012—in spite of the sleet, ice, rain and mist—we gathered for our Annual Congregational Celebration. It was one of those great opportunities to review all that the Lord has done in and through us this year. As we gathered, we spent a designated amount of time around tables talking about six focus areas for the coming year.

One of our concerns is communication. In fact, one of the purposes for time around the tables was to increase the quality of our communication with one another. We, definitely, want to take some time to gain input and insights from all who are willing to be part of the sharing. We know that this kind of time, once every three months is not the “be all and end all,” but it certainly can be one major step in a positive communication direction.

A second subject of conversation for the year is conflict resolution. One of the givens in any relationship is not seeing everything eye to eye. This is even truer when you are dealing with a larger group. It could be fair to say that for every 50 persons gathered there might be 51 opinions. Conflict—defined as having a different, divergent, variant or clashing opinions or approaches—is inevitable. A healthy congregation knows how to handle discord harmoniously. There has to be a place for sharing differences. There has to be the ability to allow those differences which create better solutions.

A third theme for the year will be governance issues. Governance involves the necessity of asking ourselves what is working and what is not working. If something is not working as well as we would like, then how do we bring improvement? What is the “tweaking” of our system of management that will further help facilitate great ministry. Most new people to a congregation are not asking the question, does the church run well? They are observing whether or not the church serves well. What we want from our governance is sufficient administration to enable great service to others.

A fourth focus for the year is Pastoral Roles/Defining staff. Pastoral Roles are new now. Last year the church stepped forward in mission by bring on board a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. As this step of faith unfolds before us, there is the need to work out the definition of which staff person does what, how they lead in their respective areas, and who keeps the team (staff), the teams (all the Ministry teams including Executive Council and Pastor Relations Commission), and the team (the entire church) coordinated.

Leadership Development is fifth area under discussion. There are so many leadership areas in a congregation and life in those leadership positions in a constant flow of training, equipping and recruiting. We have discussion a number of ideas that could be of help: a Leadership Manual for the various positions in the congregation and a Servant Leader “Boot Camp.” Continue to pray for us as we seek God’s guidance.

A sixth subject of importance is the Search Process for a new full time Lead Pastor. God has called me, through you, to an Interim Role. The key task of this Interim Period is the establishing of a Staff Ministry and preparing the congregation for how that all works. The final phase of this transition will be the calling of a Lead Pastor. Your Executive Council in consultation with you the congregation continues to sense that “fullness of time” about which Scripture speaks. We invite your continuous prayers for knowing the when, how and who.

These are the six focus areas of conversation that we had opportunity to converse about on Sunday. It was a great opportunity and I, as Lead Pastor, and your Executive Council greatly appreciate all that you have shared. It is these conversations and focus areas that we will seek God’s guidance on this year as we also continue to do what God has called us to do: make disciples of all nations.