

Evangelical Covenant Church  
Box 15 901 Dakota Street  
Lake Norden, SD 57248

# The Covenant Echo

A newsletter published by the Evangelical Covenant Church of  
Lake Norden, South Dakota

Fall 2011

## **Mission Statement**

We are a church committed to serving Jesus Christ as Lord. We welcome people of all ages and needs. Our desire is to be obedient to God's word through prayer, worship, evangelism, and teaching. As believers, we seek to follow Christ's example in our lives for the glory of God.

Church office: 605-785-3829  
PO Box 15  
Lake Norden, SD 57248



# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## October

- 4 Dale Geranen
- 6 Wanda Drake
- 9 Gail Monteith
- 10 Roslyn Person
- 11 Zack Ruotsalainen
- 16 Therese Geranen
- 18 David Anderson
- 19 Doug Strande
- 22 Zoey Ruotsalainen
- 24 Debbi Pagel
- 24 Denise Reitsma

## November

- 5 Ann Hilton
- 7 Brittany Geranen
- 8 Steve Geranen
- 11 Bob Severson
- 16 Tulson Bearden
- 17 Helen Hoglund
- 20 Julie Severson
- 21 Clark Hilton
- 21 Audrey Marx
- 28 Janet Johnson
- 29 Arlyce Jacobson
- 29 Cathy Squashingroff

## December

- 1 Leland Olson
- 4 Holli Layman
- 4 Vanessa Hoyer
- 6 Cindy Hauge
- 7 Lance Layman
- 8 Gus Ruotsalainen
- 8 Lila Bentley
- 9 EJ Drake
- 11 Cami Turrill
- 14 Vanessa Hoyer
- 17 Jordon Johnson
- 20 Shirley Larson
- 22 Autumn Geranen
- 26 Andrea Pulscher
- 27 James Squashingroff
- 31 Gene Hoglund
- 31 Danielle Reitsma

Lutefisk Supper  
Friday – November 18<sup>th</sup>  
5, 6, 7pm

Lutefisk  
Meatballs  
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Coleslaw & Cranberries  
Corn  
Lefse and Bread  
Coffee

Call 785-3829  
To make reservations

FAMILY NIGHT PLUS  
Wednesday Nights!  
Meal at 6pm  
Light Zone @ 6:30pm

## TABLE

Together And Blessed – Let's Eat!!



TABLE is every Monday evening from 5-7 at the Trinity Lutheran Church. Everyone is welcome to attend! There is no cost for the meal, but a freewill offering is appreciated.

TABLE is a ministry of the  
Lake Norden  
Ministerial Association

## Cookie Connection



“Taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.”  
Psalm 34:8

Do you know anyone that would appreciate visitors and **HOMEMADE COOKIES?**

If you know of anyone that is new to the community, has just been in the hospital, is homebound, or in any situation where they would welcome a visit,  
Let the Cookie Connection know by contacting either the  
Covenant Church  
at 785-3829 or  
Janet Johnson at 785-3636

## MEN, R U HUNGRY?

Nourishing food for your spirit as well as your body.  
Tuesday @ 7:30am  
Warren Vendt's  
Call 785-3180 for  
Breakfast Reservations.  
Come and start your day with a  
Double Blessing!

**Reminder:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month = Holy Buckets! Bring Food Pantry items along with your buckets of money for the Food Pantry and an offering for the Benevolence Fund.

## The Pastor's CORNER

I recently spoke to a group of FCA students (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) at the high school on the subject of what it means to believe. I brought a couple of balloons and taped them to a cork board in the front of the classroom. I then pulled a dart out of my pocket and asked the group if they thought I could stand six feet away and pop a balloon by throwing the dart. Every hand in that classroom went up, wow, what confidence they had in Pastor Joe. A six foot toss is no sure thing for me, but they believed that I had it in me.

As I prepared to throw the dart I stopped and asked, "Do you really believe I can do it?" They sure did! Who will come up to the front and hold the balloon in their teeth, with a blindfold on? Now, that's a different kind of believing. That is putting feet to what you say. If you really believe that I can throw a dart six feet and pop a balloon will you put your faith in me?

I doubted anyone would take my offer so before my talk I asked one of the boys to raise his hand. E.J. Drake, thank you for your participation. I had no plans to throw the dart so he was safe, but the class didn't know that. There he stood brave as could be, a true believer in Pastor Joe.

Blindfold in place and a balloon clenched in his teeth. I looked at the class and said, "That is what it means to really believe," I lowered the dart. There may have been a slight let down and a few disappointed boys when I didn't throw the dart but the point was made, E.J. believed.

It is easy to say "I believe" but to actually put yourself in harm's way means believing with all of your heart. I explained to the group that being a Christian is similar. We are told that, "if we confess Jesus as Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead we will be saved", Romans 10:9-10. So often a Christian's confession is shallow and lacks real confidence to stand in harm's way. True belief that is from the heart involves more than just head knowledge. I told that group of young Christian men and women that Jesus is looking for committed believers; He is looking for young people to step out in faith for Him. Do you believe with all your heart? What are you doing that shows you have put your faith in Jesus? Will you stand for Him? Those are questions for young and old alike. James says, I will show you my faith by the things I do. Are you believing, is your faith heart deep or head deep only? You may not trust me to throw a dart at you but Jesus can be trusted. He is faithful!

Pastor Joe

Baptisms: This summer we had ten young people baptized in the name of Jesus in Lake Norden. Zack, Zoey, and Dylan Ruotsalainen, Gavin Tormanen, Jaidison and Jeveney Turrill were baptized on Father's Day and a few weeks later, Ruby and Tulson Beardon, Samantha and E.J. Drake were also baptized. Congratulations to each of you on your commitment to Jesus.

Pastor Michael Jarrett will be sharing a message on Sunday, November 20th @ the ECC in Lake Norden.

SYATP-See You At the Pole is an annual event in which Christians gather around the flag pole at their local high school. This year about 50 of us gathered @ Hamlin High School to sing songs and pray for our teachers, students, etc. Pastor Joe played his guitar while students, parents and children praised Jesus in song and prayer. We ask you to continue to keep the school in your prayers.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

We have had a busy fall so far. We had our Family Night kick off Wednesday Sept. 21. Twenty-one kids and fifteen adults all gathered in Watertown for pizza and to go through the Watertown Corn Maze.

Family Nights are off to a good start with plenty of kids and adults coming out.

Our Children's Church performed in song and skit at the Harvest Festival on Sept. 25.

We have begun our Holy Buckets ministry again and have collected \$50.00 in our first collection. If you haven't picked up a bucket please pick one up at the church so you can participate in this ministry with us. We collect the money on the first Sunday of each month.

We will be presenting our third grade Bibles on the last Sunday of Oct.. Justine Poppen, Cameron Thue, Jackson Noem and Zoey Ruotsalainen will be receiving these Bibles.

The children that are planning to go to camp this coming summer will be doing a fund raiser at Pizza Ranch in Watertown on Nov. 28, from 5-8 pm. Come out and support our campers.

We are looking towards the upcoming Christmas season and another wonderful Christmas program. We are looking for someone who would like to take on this project. If you are interested please see me.

Blessings from the CE Board  
Jennifer Turrill

## **COVENANT WOMEN NEWS**

The Harvest Festival offering was \$1,300. It was divided 3 ways: Food Pantry = \$310., Michael Jarrett = \$460., and the New Day for Children = \$530.

## **TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

First I would like to thank the many volunteers for mowing, pulling weeds and taking care of flowers this year. Also, for helping with fall cleanup which was held on Sept. 24th.

This year new fire extinguishers were purchased to replace the old ones and added a new one which was placed on the front wall behind the organ. Old extinguishers are for sale @ \$10 each. Please contact Burt or myself if you are interested in purchasing one.

Cracks in the parking lot have been filled and missing shingles on the roof have been replaced. There was major water damage in the front west alter room from a leaking water line which is being repaired this month.

Thanks be to the Lord for blessing us with such a beautiful church to worship in and take care of.

Blessings,  
Julie Severson, Chairperson

## Treasurer's report:

Year to date budget is \$64,628, year to date offerings are \$58,518.  
We are short \$6,110 year to date. John Larson, Treasurer

## DEACON BOARD

" In our constitutionally directed role of being responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church and assisting the pastor in developing and maintaining programs," we're always interested in any feedback and new ideas anyone in the congregation may have. There may be something you'd like to see done or an idea out there that should be considered. Please talk to a Deacon or the Pastor if you have an idea. We want to reach out and touch everyone we can. "

David Anderson

## CHRISTMAS BOXES:

We are again planning to provide Christmas Boxes to be given through the Food Pantry. Give all donations to Clarice by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Boxes will have turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and potatoes.  
Thanks - Clarice

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### *Harvest Quiz*

*(Answers on page six – following the quiz) (No fair peeking!!)*

1. Who said "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few"?  
Jesus, Paul, Peter, Boaz
2. How many Fruits of the Spirit does Paul list in Galatians?  
Three, Four, Six, Nine
3. What was special about the harvest in the Sabbatical year?  
There wasn't one, It produced double, It was two months early,  
Only one type of crop was sown & harvested
4. In the parable of the tares in the field, the harvest is the end of the world, but who are the reapers?  
God and Jesus, The Levites, The angels, The Saints
5. What sort of tree did Jesus curse for bearing no fruit?  
Pomegranate, Almond, Olive, Fig
6. Which prophet saw a "basket of summer fruit" signifying the end was near for Israel?  
Micah, Joel, Amos, Obadiah
7. For how many successive years did the crops fail during the time when Joseph reigned in Egypt?  
Two, Seven, Ten, Twelve
8. Who caused great fear by calling on God to send rain and thunder during the wheat harvest?  
Samuel, Aaron, David, Joshua
9. At the beginning of which harvest did Naomi and Ruth go to Bethlehem?  
Wheat, Grape, Barley, Rye
10. In Revelation, how many harvests of fruit does the tree of life produce each year?  
One, Two, Six, Twelve

I SAID - NO PEEKING!!

Yes – this means YOU! 😊

**Answers to Harvest Quiz**

1. Jesus
2. Nine
3. There wasn't one
4. The Angels
5. Fig
6. Amos
7. Seven
8. Samuel
9. Barley
10. Twelve