

DASSEL COVENANT  
CHURCH  
251 Lake Street  
Dassel, MN 55325

Leading People to a Transforming  
Relationship with Jesus Christ



Weekly Activities & Ministries

|           |         |   |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Sundays   | 8:30am  | Prayer                                  |
|           | 9:00am  | Sunday School & Confirmation (Sept-May) |
|           | 10:00am | Worship                                 |
| Mondays   | 9:00am  | Coffee Fellowship                       |
|           | 10:00am | Seated Fitness                          |
|           | 6:30pm  | Prayer Meeting                          |
| Wednesday | 4:00pm  | KidsQuest (Sept-April)                  |
|           | 6:30pm  | Men’s Group                             |
|           | 6:15pm  | Jr High Youth Group (Sept-April)        |
|           | 7:30pm  | Sr High Youth Group (Sept-April)        |
| Thursday  | 9:00am  | Seated Fitness                          |
| Saturday  | 7:00am  | Men’s Bible Study                       |

\*Visit the Church website & social media for more information and details!

www.dasselcovenant.org



Dassel Covenant Courier  
December 2023

Leading People to a Transforming Relationship with Jesus Christ

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Instagram  
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Transitional Pastors:  
Marv & Linda  
Norlien  
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Worship Director:  
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Custodial:  
Randy & Marcia  
Dischinger

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”  
Galatians 4:4-5

We are excited to begin a special **teaching series planned for Advent** that begins the 26<sup>th</sup> of November and continues through the weeks of Advent, culminating at the Christmas Eve Service:  
Nov 26 – Advent is a Season for Gratitude  
Dec 3 – Advent is a Season for Hopeful Expectation (Communion Sunday) - Hope Candle  
Dec 10 – Advent is a Season for Lament - Peace Candle  
Dec 17 – Advent is a Season for Joy - Joy Candle  
Dec 24 – Advent is a Season for Generosity - Love Candle  
Christmas Eve – Advent is a Season for Celebration - Christ Candle

We want to highlight and express our **most sincere appreciation for all the hours of volunteer time** so many from our congregation give to the variety of programs, studies, meals and various events conducted at our church! There is no way we could list the many of you who pitch in to make the life of our congregation so rich with opportunity to grow in our love for Jesus and for each other! Thank you, thank you!!

**Confirmation** lessons for this month will be: Sessions 12-14 in *The Journey, The New Testament and Beyond...*, the weeks of December 3, 10 and 17. Confirmation will not be held on December the 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> but we hope to see everyone in worship those Sundays.

We are thrilled that 43 people participated in one of the two **Healthy Church Systems Workshops** we held Saturday mornings, October 28<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>. Using five teaching videos developed by the Evangelical Covenant Church Missional Vitality, we saw how people typically respond to each other when change, challenge or crisis upend our sense of peace and stability. Together we learned that anxiety is the energy that gets released in a relational system like a church when change, challenge and crises occur. Additionally, we learned that that same anxiety gets passed “like a hot potato” when people share their anxious thoughts and feelings with others. We can, however, learn to respond to that anxiety in healthy ways that defuse its negativity, so our church can be empowered to become mature in its ability to prevent and resolve potential conflicts. Finally, we learned six corporate spiritual disciplines that our church can cultivate which grow our capacity to remain clear, curious and connected all the while growing in our walk with Jesus and our relationships with each other. If you would like to watch these videos, please let us know and we can send you the links to watch them online.

We pray that love, peace and joy will fill your hearts this Advent season!

Pastor Linda and Pastor Marv

## November Volunteers

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <u>Ushers</u><br>3: Al Olson, Sharon Radke<br>10: Diane Dodge, Jon Young<br>17: Brian & Maria Anderson<br>24: Leon Nordberg, Marlene Blunt<br>31: | <u>Nursery</u><br>3: Jess & Kenna Gasta<br>10: Catherine & Larissa<br>17: Maddy Pankratz<br>24: Carolee, Rachel, Britton<br>31: Sonja Olson | <u>Coffee Cart</u><br>3: Judy<br>10: Rinden's<br>17: Marlene |
|---|---|--|

### Leadership Team Note

- 2023 budget, income and expenses
- 2024 budget recommendations
- Process to form a search committee

### Fellowship Time

3:  
10: Nelson's & Hallquist's  
17:  
24:  
31:

### Book Club

Book Club will be gathering for a Movie and Christmas Party!  
December 26th at 6:30pm  
*All are welcome to join book Club!*



No Community Meal for the month of December.



### Meals-On-Wheels

Thank you to Dahl's, Crayford's, McGaw's, Koehnen's, and Hungerford's for delivering Meals-on-Wheels on December



### Advent Devotional

We encourage you to pick up the Advent devotional "The Eternal King Arrives" as you leave worship today. This devotional will walk you through Advent with our humble and mighty Savior.



### November Church Attendance

|      |             |            |            |
|------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 5th  | Sunday: 93  | Online: 19 | Total: 112 |
| 12th | Sunday: 109 | Online: 19 | Total: 128 |
| 19th | Sunday: 109 | Online: 16 | Total: 125 |
| 26th | Sunday:     | Online:    | Total:     |
|      | Sunday:     | Online:    | Total:     |

### Mustard Seeds:

Join us for a Christmas potluck on Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 PM. Bring your favorite traditional dish for Christmas or any dish to share. Also, bring a "white elephant" gift if you would like. All are welcome!

# December 2023 Youth

| Sun                                    | Mon | Tue | Wed   | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
|  |     |     |   |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3<br>9am Sunday School & Confirmation  | 4   | 5   | 6<br>6:15pm Jr High<br>7:30pm Sr High                               | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10<br>9am Sunday School & Confirmation | 11  | 12  | 13<br>5:45pm All Youth Group Caroling followed by a Christmas Party | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17<br>9am Sunday School & Confirmation | 18  | 19  | 20<br>No Youth Group  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24                                     | 25  | 26  | 27<br>7-9pm Movie Night "Princess Bride"                            | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 31                                     |     |     |   |     |     |     |

# December Youth Events:

Junior high (7th-8th grade) will meet from 6:15 - 7:15 pm with Randy and Julie  
Senior high (9th-12th grade) will meet from 7:30 - 8:30 pm with Randy and Deb

## December 6

Jr High, 6:15-7:15 pm

Sr High, 7:30-8:30 pm

**December 13** - combined Jr High and Sr High. Meet at church at 5:45 pm to go caroling at Lakeside (6:00-6:30 pm). Then, we will head back to church for the Christmas Party for a white elephant gift exchange, games and snacks until 8:00 pm.

**December 20** - No youth group

**December 27** - Movie Night, 7:00-9:00 pm "Princess Bride"

This is open to all Princess Bride Fans (any age). Bring a snack to share.

**January 5** - Surprise Movie Night, 6:30 pm One of Randy's favorites....

## UNITE 2024

What is Unite? A gathering of youth across the United States coming together to worship, to hear dynamic speakers, to grow in their walk with Jesus, to build relationships, and enjoy fun activities together. Learn how Jesus wants to be part of the

rest of your life.

Some details:

When: July 15-19, 2024

Where: Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio

Who: All students entering 9th grade through the completion of 12th grade are eligible

Cost: **\$485.00** plus transportation. Before March 1. \$520.00 after March 1.

There will be fundraising opportunities

**\$100.00** commitment deposit due by February 1.

Contact Randy (612-222-7858) or Amanda at the church office for more information.



**Mark your calendars!**

**Family and Friends Winter Retreat at Lake Beauty, February 23-25, 2024.**

**More details coming soon.**

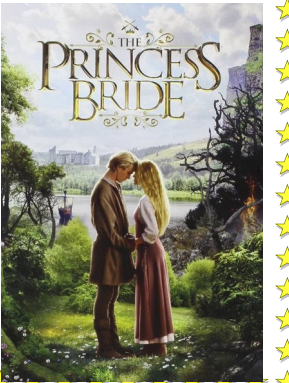
## Movie Night

December 27, 2023

7:00-9:00 pm

*"Princess Bride"*

This is open to all Princess Bride Fans (any age).  
Bring a snack to share.



## Christmas Schedule:

\* Saturday, December 2nd at 9:30am  
Women's Christmas Brunch

\* Wednesday, December 13th  
4pm KidsQuest Christmas Party  
5:45pm Youth Group Caroling & Christmas Party

\* Sunday, December 24th  
10:00am Worship, 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

\* No Sunday School or Confirmation on December 24th & 31st.

\* The Church office will be closed December 25-26, & January 1



## Did you know we are helping Dassel Elementary with our plastic bags?

Please consider saving your plastic bags (of many kinds) to help Dassel Elementary get a 100% recycled bench for the school!

Check out the big white box by the church office for what types of plastic you can donate!



Mission Partners

Did you know that our church sponsors Joel and Kim Delp as they serve in Ecuador with the Santiago Partnership? Joel and Kim have three children: Simeon (13), Esther (9), Ephriam (8). The Delp's have served in Ecuador since 2010. The mission team had the opportunity to meet them in October and learn about the various ministries they are involved in. Joel, Kim and their family will be on a one-year home assignment beginning in June 2024 and plan to visit us in Dassel at some point.

The Santiago Partnership is a collaboration of the Evangelical Covenant Church in the US, the Evangelical Covenant Church of Ecuador and FACE - the social service branch of the ECC of Ecuador. Their mission statement is: As an international team of followers of Jesus Christ collaborating with the local church of Ecuador, South America, seeks to transform the lives of at-risk children and their families, as well as serve underprivileged communities.

The medical clinic project started in 2014 and the first Home for At Risk Children was established in Cayambe in 2015. In the future, they hope to add more locations. The goal is for each location to be self-sustaining so they will outlast The Santiago Partnership's involvement. The social enterprises in Cayambe, Forever Flowers and the Artisan Studio will be the primary sources of sustainability for the Cayambe project.  
(Information from The Santiago Partnership website)



Mission Trip VBS



Let's Celebrate!

December Birthdays

- 1 Amanda Fusari
- 3 Lily Kraemer
- 4 Wayne Koehnen
- Lois Koehnen
- Carol Steinbrecher
- Susan Samuelson
- Catherine Young
- 5 Anna Peterson
- 7 Matt Woetzel
- 8 Thomas Frieler
- 9 Rebekah Kusler
- 10 Jennah Keith
- 11 Heather Olson
- 13 Cailin Gasta
- 15 Sandi Effertz
- Annette Michel
- 16 Sharon Radke\*
- 18 James Schoenherr
- 20 Aurellia Talley
- 21 Ricky Beckman
- Bryan Voelker
- 22 Liam Hungerford
- 25 Anna Carlson
- Larissa Keith
- 26 Jason Nordberg
- Emily Darwin
- 27 Bryce Olson
- 28 Myles Kusler
- Orlando Carrasco
- 30 Rollie Heid

\*80+ years

December Anniversaries

Doug & Rori Carlson  
December 12, 1981

Jon & Catherine Young  
December 18, 1993

\*Cliff & Bonnie Eng  
December 29, 1973

\*50+ years

General office hours:

Monday: 8:30am-3:00pm  
Tuesday: 8:30am-3:00pm  
Thursday: 8:30am-3:00pm

Pastors Office Hours:

Sunday: In Office  
Monday: In Office  
Tuesday: In Office

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit you may be rich in hope."

- Romans 15:13





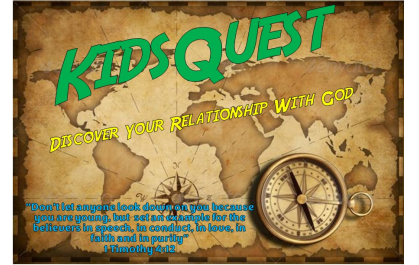
# December 2023



| SUN  | MON  | TUE          | WED  | THU  | FRI | SAT   |
|--|--|--------------|--|--|-----|---|
|  |  |              |  |  | 1   | 2<br>7am Men's Bible Study<br>9:30am Women's Christmas Brunch |
| 3<br>8:30am Take 25 Prayer<br>9am Sunday School & Confirmation<br>10am Worship                 | 4<br>9am Coffee Fellowship<br>10am Seated Fitness<br>4pm Leadership Team<br>6:30pm Prayer  | 5            | 6<br>4pm KidsQuest<br>6:15pm Jr High<br>6:30pm Men's Group<br>7:30pm Sr High           | 7<br>9am Seated Fitness<br>6:30pm Women Ministries | 8   | 9<br>7am Men's Bible Study                                    |
| 10<br>8:30am Take 25 Prayer<br>9am Sunday School & Confirmation<br>10am Worship<br>11:15pm S&F | 11<br>9am Coffee Fellowship<br>10am Seated Fitness<br>4pm Leadership Team<br>6:30pm Prayer | 12           | 13<br>10am Plarning<br>4pm KidsQuest<br>Christmas Party<br>5:45pm Youth Group Caroling | 14<br>9am Seated Fitness                           | 15  | 16<br>7am Men's Bible Study                                   |
| 17<br>8:30am Take 25 Prayer<br>9am Sunday School & Confirmation<br>10am Worship                | 18<br>9am Coffee Fellowship<br>10am Seated Fitness<br>6:30pm Prayer                        | 19           | 20<br>No Youth Events  | 21<br>9am Seated Fitness                           | 22  | 23<br>7am Men's Bible Study                                   |
| 24<br>10am Worship<br>4pm Christmas Eve Worship  | 25<br>Closed   | 26<br>Closed | 27<br>No Youth Events<br>7-9pm Family Movie Night                                      | 28<br>9am Seated Fitness                           | 29  | 30<br>7am Men's Bible Study                                   |
| 31<br>10am Worship   |  |              |  |  |     |   |

## KIDSQUEST

What a time we have had at KidsQuest! In the month of November, we were able to support a local business by going to Simply Quimby 2 times and paint! The students loved the experience! We also learned all about the Fruit of the Spirit! If you see a KidsQuest student, ask them about the Fruit of the Spirit. We have a really fun song that we sang each week too!



Up next is Advent! We will be focusing on Hope, Love, Joy, Peace, & Light. Starting in January, we will be learning about the 10 Commandments. If you are interested in seeing what KidsQuest is all about, please stop in and check it out!

### KQ Schedule:

Dec 6: Regular Programming—Advent, Peace & Light  
Dec 13: KidsQuest Christmas Party!  
Dec 20-Jan 10: No KidsQuest  
Jan 17: 10 Commandments

We are in NEED of 1-2 more group leaders. A group leader takes the children from station to station during KidsQuest. 2 leaders per group is ideal. We would like to have 3 total groups again. Prayerfully consider volunteering!

Blessings,  
Amanda Fusari—KidsQuest Director



# Leadership Team meeting , November 20, 2023

Reports

A. Wayne made a motion to approve all the reports submitted except the Stewardship and Finance Team and Women Ministries Team by consent agenda, seconded by Marcia. Carried unanimously.

Pastors Report - highlighted items from the written report are:  
43 members and friends attended the Healthy Church Systems Workshops  
Completed sermon series: Key Ingredients of Healthy Relationships  
A special teaching series is planned for Advent  
Pastor Marv and Pastor Linda are conducting monthly worship services including communion at Lakeside  
They thanked the Vitality Taskforce and Bill Ward for their work  
In addition, there was discussion on when to start putting together a search committee. Pastor Marv has resources available. He explained that the NW Conference will be involved in the process.

Stewardship and Finance Team - Ron reported that the 2024 budget is being prepared. The Leadership Team needs to approve the admin lines. S&F Team is recommending a 3.2% cost of living increase for all positions.

We operate on an expense budget and right now, we are in the red. It was agreed we need to do a better job of communicating this to the congregation. Marcia and Ron will meet to write a summary statement for the newsletter and the giving statement on the bulletin will be modified to provide for better understanding.

Pastor Marv thanked Ron and the Stewardship and Finance Team for their diligent work. Motion to approve the Stewardship and Finance Team report and recommendations for the admin lines on the 2024 budget was made by Al, seconded by Tom. Carried unanimously.

Women Ministries - Amanda noted two items from the November 2 Women Ministries meeting: kitchen update ideas and a request for quarterly meetings with the Leadership Team.  
Discussion on Ministry Team quarterly meetings with the Leadership Team took place. It was decided to schedule a meeting with the chairs of the Ministry Teams on February 12, 2024. Future joint meetings will be scheduled at that time.

Old Business

- A. The Nominating Committee (Gwen, Ron, Tom) is in the process of finalizing the ballot. Once finalized, the ballot will be published.
  - B. Rental agreement, wedding and funeral policies - Tabled
  - C. Security Team update - Tom will follow up with Andy on where he and Torrey are at in the process
- Vitality - it was decided to schedule a separate meeting on December 4 to discuss the Taskforce recommendations.

Other

Pastor Marv and Pastor Linda presented their idea to provide a “Marriage Enrichment” seminar in February. A committee will be formed to work with them on the details. In addition, they informed us of their plans to take a week of vacation in February.

A note from the Stewardship & Finance Team:

The monthly financial summary is printed each month here in the newsletter and it may be hard for some to understand what it means. Please reach out to any member of the Team if you have any questions. Note that the report activity is for the previous month.

The congregation is very generous in giving to the building fund and we are able to meet the monthly mortgage and have sufficient funds for two monthly payments. Thank you to all who contribute! As of the end of October, 2023, the building loan balance is \$56,839.

On the other hand, the January-October, 2023 general fund income (\$217,644) is not meeting the January-October, 2023 expenses (\$220,018). Your generous end-of-year giving is appreciated.

Ron Hungerford, Chair  
Kristin Carlson, Bookkeeper  
Marlene Blunt, Financial Secretary  
Gwen Hallquist, Treasurer  
Paulette Dahlseng, Jim Hallquist, Tom Effertz, Mike Seaberg

| CHURCH FINANCIALS                         |         |             |         |
|---|---------|-------------|---------|
| Evangelical Covenant Church of Dassel     |         |             |         |
| Financial Summary                         |         |             |         |
| 10/31/23                                  |         |             |         |
| General Fund                              |         | Month Ended | YTD     |
| General Operating Income                  | 16,061  |             | 217,644 |
| Actual Expenses                           | 21,994  |             | 220,018 |
| Total Income Less Expense                 | (5,933) |             | (2,374) |
| Giving to General Fund YTD Last Year 2022 |         |             | 260,599 |

|  |                                     |       |  |                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Building Fund</b> —Beginning Balance 1/1/2023 |                                     |       |  | 9,859             |
|  |                                     |       |  |                   |
|  |                                     |       |  | <b>This Month</b> |
|  |                                     |       |  | <b>YTD</b>        |
| Contributions:                                   | Building Fund contributions         | 1,910 |  | 21,820            |
|  | Designated Memorials                | 0     |  | 75                |
|  | Transfer from Carry over/under      | 0     |  | 20,000            |
| Payments:  | Payments to NCP                     | 2,600 |  | 46,055            |
| <b>Current Building Fund Balance</b>             |                                     |       |  | <b>5,699</b>      |
| Building Loan 1/1/2023                           |                                     |       |  | <b>99,836</b>     |
| 2023   | Principal Payments-Regular Giving   | 2,349 |  | 20,942            |
|  | Principal Payments-Carry over/under | 0     |  | 20,000            |
|  | Principal Payment-Memorials         | 0     |  | 55                |
| <b>Current Loan Balance 3/31/2023</b>            |                                     |       |  | <b>56,839</b>     |

|  |  |                   |
|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>Women Ministries Fund Balance</b> (10/31/2023): |  | <b>\$9,182.13</b> |
|--|--|-------------------|

The 1st Sunday of each month, we will be taking a special offering for the Benevolent Fund. The money collected for the Benevolent Fund helps support those from our Church family in a time of need.

Don’t forget about the online giving option!  
[http://www.dasselcovenant.org/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](http://www.dasselcovenant.org/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)