

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
January 2024

Leading People to a Transforming Relationship with Jesus Christ

Email:
office@dasselcov.com

Website:
dasselcovenant.org

Phone:
320-275-3315

Find us on:
Facebook
Instagram
YouTube

Staff

Transitional Pastors:
Marv & Linda
Norlien
Marv:
mnorlien@reachone.com
(507-219-9822)
Linda:
lnorlien@reachone.com
(254-338-7912)

Volunteer Director of
Youth:
Randy Dischinger
youth@dasselcovenant.com

Secretary:
Amanda Fusari
office@dasselcov.com

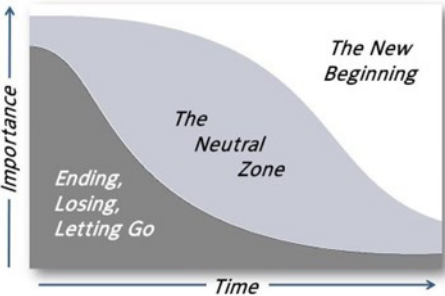
Bookkeeper:
Kristin Carlson
finance@dasselcov.com

Worship Director:
*Position Open
worship@dasselcov.com

Custodial:
Randy & Marcia
Dischinger

New Beginnings for 2024

Where are you now? That is, on the graph below from the Bridges’ Model of Transitions, where are you on the timeline? You will see from the graph that there are typically three phases of any transition: 1) the experience of ending, losing and letting go of what used to be the case; 2) the neutral zone; and 3) being able to envision and embrace the new beginning that is presented by the change. As time goes on, for instance, it is natural for people to be able to emotionally let go of what used to be and move smoothly into the neutral zone. Finally, we are able to anticipate what the new future will look like with increasing enthusiasm. As followers of Jesus, we also wonder, what God might have in store for us as we move into new beginnings.



As we hear feedback from you, we are very excited about what God is doing among us as a church family and what He is going to do in and through us in January and on into 2024.

Preaching Series

We are very pleased to be launching a new preaching series on Jesus’ longest and most comprehensive sermon recorded for us in the Gospels, that is, Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon, Jesus uses humor and brilliant illustrations to define life in God’s Kingdom. Please join us as we explore together how to live in God’s Kingdom now in our real lives today.

Leadership Team

We are very grateful to the Leadership Team (LT) for all they do on an ongoing basis to lead our church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This month, we will continue to contribute to the LT’s discussions of the best approach to incorporate the recommendations our Vitality Taskforce made as a result processing the surveys. We will also be deciding on the steps we will go through as a church family to nominate and vote on a Search Team. Please start praying now that God will call the right people to serve on that very important team.

Save the Date for February Marriage Enrichment Event

If you are married or engaged to be married, please mark your calendar now for Saturday, the 17th of February for a special marriage enrichment seminar. The details will be forthcoming, but for now, please save the date (9am-3pm) and plan to join us for an informed presentation of very helpful information that will enrich your experience as a couple along with some food and fun together.

It is our joy to serve among you,
Pastor Marv and Pastor Linda

January Volunteers

<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Nursery</u> 7: Kristi Mackenthun 14: Tim & Candy Paulson 21: Tonya Hastings 28: Sonja Olson	<u>Coffee Cart</u> 7: Judy 14: Amanda 21: Marlene 28: Rinden
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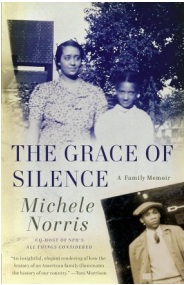
<u>Leadership Team Note</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2023 budget and 2024 proposed budget2024 ballot approved: Brian Anderson, Marcia Dischinger, Bonnie Eng, Andy KraemerRevisions to the Facility Use Policy and Wedding Guidelines was approved	<u>Fellowship Time</u> 7: 14: Dan & Mary Rinden 21: Community Meal-Youth Fundraiser 28:
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Book Club

Book Club will be meeting Tuesday, January 30th at 6:30pm.

The book selection is “Grace of Silence” by Michele Norris

All are welcome to join book Club!



Save the Date!

Men’s No Regrets Conference

February 3, 2024

The event will be streamed to Dassel Covenant!

noregretsconference.org

2023 Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual meeting is Sunday, January 28th following worship. We will also have a potluck! Please bring a dish to share! All agenda items need to be turned in to the office by January 7th.

December Church Attendance			
3rd	Sunday: 116	Online: 27	Total: 143
10th	Sunday: 104	Online: 24	Total: 128
17th	Sunday: 92	Online: 30	Total: 122
24th	Sunday:	Online:	Total:
31st	Sunday:	Online:	Total:

Thank you for all of the birthday cards and wishes! You made my day very special.
Love, Sharon Radke

Our Sincere Thanks!
Thank you to everyone who blessed us with gifts this Christmas! We are grateful for each person in the Dassel Covenant Church family. It is our pleasure to serve as you church staff.
Blessings, Dassel Covenant Church staff

January 2024 Youth

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Movie Night 6:30pm	6
7 9am Sunday School & Confirmation	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 6-8pm Ice Skating Litchfield Civic Arena	15	16	17 6:15pm Jr High YG 7:30pm Sr High YG	18	19	20
21 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 11:15am Community Meal Fundraiser	22	23	24 6:15pm Jr High YG 7:30pm Sr High YG	25	26	27
28 9am Sunday School & Confirmation	29	30	31 6:15pm Jr High YG 7:30pm Sr High YG	1	2	3 10am-12pm Jr High Ice Fishing 2-4pm Sr High Ice Fishing

January 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

Friday, January 5, 2024 - Surprise Movie Night, 6:30 pm. Come watch one of Randy's favorite movies.

Wednesday night youth group will resume on January 17 with the regular schedule.

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

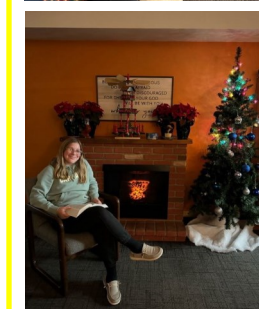
Events

Ice Skating: Sunday, January 14, 6:00-8:00 pm, Litchfield Civic Arena
\$4/per skater
Rental is \$2 per pair
We will leave the upper church parking lot at 5:30 pm and return at 8:30 pm.

Community Meal: Sunday, January 21 following the worship service
This is your opportunity to fundraise for your student accounts. Students wishing to participate will bring a dessert and help with the serving and clean up of the meal. Please sign up by the church office.

Ice Fishing: Saturday, Feb 3. Lake to be determined
Junior high students 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Senior high students 2:00-4:00 pm

Unite is happening July 15-19, 2024. A \$100 commitment deposit is due by February 1. The CE Team feels it is important that this deposit is out-of-pocket in order for students to have an investment. Please let Randy know if you are interested.



2024 Dassel Covenant Friends & Family Winter Retreat at Lake Beauty Bible Camp.

**Friday, February 23, 2024, beginning at 6:00pm through Sunday, February 25, 2024,
check out time is 2pm.**

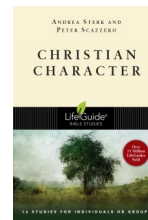
**Loon Lodge and Edlund Retreat Center have been reserved for us.
Come and enjoy our beautiful camp and the many activities offered.
Or just come and relax and have someone else do the cooking!
We will do our own "potluck" lunch on Saturday & breakfast on Sunday.**

Each family unit will be assigned their own bedroom. Bring your own bedding and towels.

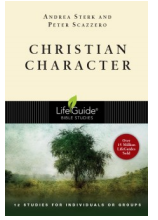
**Activities may include:
Snow Tubing, Snow Shoeing, Hiking, Sauna
Gym-9 Square, Basketball, Dodgeball,
Carpetball, Laser Tag (additional cost)**

**Cost:
(2 nights and 2 meals, breakfast & supper on Saturday)
Adults (13 and up) \$114.00
Youth (5-12 years) & Child (0-4 years) free**

**Questions? Talk to Amanda or Marcia
RSVP by February 9, 2024**



New Sunday School Class
Christian Character, a 12 week study.
The class will begin January 7th, 2024.
Books are available for the class.
Please join us in the library.



**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!

Ecuador at the Equator Finding Sameness

Sometimes things occur to you that seem so obvious afterwards. Like the title. It's the same word! It's still something I like to roll off my tongue with a bit of an accent to make it sound even more similar. That is not the most important take away from my mission trip experience. I have a hard time finding the one important take away. However, the theme of sameness is where I am headed. When we arrived in Rumipumba, it was obviously different than my Minnesota surrounding. The mountains – gorgeous! The language – fascinating! The people – lovely! Piedra Viva – a beautiful church that looks so different from the one in which we worship. There we found a group of people living, working, and serving in their church. People we could connect with and work with side by side. The people of that congregation work to maintain their church building and grounds, prepare food to serve, lead in the worship, teach and lead bible studies, and care for and guide the children. JUST LIKE WE DO. As we worked, played, ate and worshipped together, I realized that God was showing me how he loves his children. Despite all of the differences, there is sameness, and that is what He sees.



Let's Celebrate!

January Birthdays

1 Mary Rinden
4 LaRene Johnson *
7 Russell Fusari
8 Dustin Darwin
9 Marlene Blunt*
Robert Hendrickson *
10 Amy Thostenson
13 Ryan Johnson
15 Caitlin Latt
Chad Ardoff
17 Carol Anderson*
Annie Seaberg
Kirk Olson
19 Barb Kay
22 LaVonne Hansen
Joelle Woetzel
23 Carol Tritabaugh
Mary Otto
25 Betty Engelbrekt*
Kevin Hanson
26 Gail Heid
28 Tina McStotts
Hannah Hohenstein
29 Jon Young
Daniel Darwin

*80+ years

January Anniversaries

Dan & Mary Rinden
January 1, 1983

Craig & Barb Kay
January 2, 1987

Bob & Betty Ness
January 2, 2021

Ben & Tabitha Beckman
January 2, 2010

Anthony & Abigail Amundson
January 3, 2009

Dustin & Mandy Darwin
January 13, 2007

Brandon & Amber Diederich
January 16, 2021

*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

KIDSQUEST

We ended 2023 with a fun Christmas Party at KidsQuest! Games, crafts, pizza making, and gifts! It has been a wonderful first few months. We were all ready for a little break, with Christmas programs, concerts, family gatherings, and more. We look forward to returning on January 17th, 2024, and learning about the 10 Commandments!

Please join us any time! We would love to have visitors or new volunteers. Programming begins at 4:00pm every Wednesday. We have a snack and homework help starting at 3:30pm.

Blessings,
Amanda Fusari—KidsQuest Director



Thank you to those who have faithfully volunteered to deliver meals on wheels this past year.

Your dedication and service to those on the program was greatly appreciated. God Bless each of you!

Losi Dahl

*Volunteer Coordinator for Meal on Wheels at Dassel Covenant
Visitation Ministry Team*

<div>  <div>January 2024</div>  </div>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Closed Happy New Year!	2	3 6:30pm Men's Group	4 9am Seated Fitness 6:30pm Women Ministries	5 6:30pm Youth Group Movie Night!	6 7am Men's Bible Study
7 8:30am Take 25 Prayer 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship	8 9am Coffee Fellowship 10am Seated Fitness 6:30pm Prayer	9 6:30pm Chris- tian Education	10 6:30pm Men's Group	11 9am Seated Fitness	12	13 7am Men's Bible Study
14 8:30am Take 25 Prayer 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship	15 9am Coffee Fellowship 10am Seated Fitness 4pm Leadership Team 6:30pm Prayer	16	17 4pm KidsQuest 6:15pm Jr High YG 6:30pm Men's Group 7:30pm Sr High YG	18 9am Seated Fitness	19	20 7am Men's Bible Study
21 8:30am Take 25 Prayer 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship	22 9am Coffee Fellowship 10am Seated Fitness 6:30pm Prayer	23	24 4pm KidsQuest 6:15pm Jr High YG 6:30pm Men's Group	25 9am Seated Fitness 9am-9pm Quilt Retreat	26 9am-9pm Quilt Retreat	27 7am Men's Bible Study 9am-9pm Quilt Retreat
28 8:30am Take 25 Prayer 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship 11am Potluck & Annual	29 9am Coffee Fellowship 10am Seated Fitness 6:30pm Prayer	30 6:30pm Book Club	31 4pm KidsQuest 6:15pm Jr High YG 6:30pm Men's Group 7:30pm Sr High YG			

Community Meal

Fundraiser



You are invited to a Community Meal

Sunday, January 21st, 2024 at 11:15am

Dassel Covenant Church

251 Lake Street. Dassel, MN 55325

Come and enjoy Baked Potato bar & all the fixings, dessert, and good conversation!

Freewill donations are accepted. All proceed benefit the Youth Group!

Questions? Call the church office at 320-275-3315

*The next Community Meal will be Sunday, February 18th at 11:15am

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.—John 6:35

Youth Fundraiser

320-275-3315

251 Lake Street, Dassel, MN 55325

office@dasseltcov.com

Leadership Team meeting , December 11, 2023

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Marv and Pastor Linda are preparing their next sermon series which will be teaching the key points of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. They also informed us of their meeting with Kara Stromberg, Northwest Conference Superintendent. Topics of discussion included the current transition, the search team committee member qualities, the process of selection of search team members and the Leadership Team’s duty to annually review the membership roster to determine inactivity.

The following submitted reports were reviewed:

- Christian Education - KidsQuest and youth group will have Christmas parties on December 13 and will break until January 17; Unite (formerly CHIC) is July 15-19, 2024 in Bowling Green, Ohio. Fundraisers are being planned;

- Worship and Music - Mary Rinden is leading the choir for the Christmas Eve services; the Technology Team (Josh Olson, Tony Amundson, Chad Ardoﬀ) are working on the livestream; it was recommended that the Leadership Team send a note to the donor of the technology funds to thank him for the money given to improve the livestream capabilities;

- Women Ministries - Community meal for January will be done by the youth. A \$1000 donation was given by the family of Chris Hansen to be used for our community meals. The WM booklets will be printed soon;

- Visitation - highlights of the report are the Thanksgiving offering; birthday coffee time at Lakeside; poinsettias and cookies will be delivered to 22 members and friends of the church; the Visitation team will assist the pastors in serving communion monthly for the residents at Lakeside Nursing Home.

- Stewardship and Finance - Ron reported the old business of the increased insurance premium cost. The Team made a recommendation to give a monetary gift to Randy Dischinger for stepping in as volunteer youth director. Motion made by Wayne, seconded by Diane. Motion carried with Marcia abstaining from the vote.

Ron highlighted the new business discussed at the Stewardship and Finance meeting. This included making a principal payment on the building loan in December with an additional \$20,000 from the over/under fund in January, 2024; creating a separate line item under the Student Event Fund for LBBC Scholarships per an anonymous donation; and a request for use of the over/under fund for the youth to attend the Family Winter Retreat in February. The 2023 financial books will be closed on January 2, 2024.

There was discussion about lining up auditors for the 2023 financial records. Paulette Dahlseng will serve as one of the auditors and names were suggested for the second auditor. Ron will contact them. It was decided that the Women Ministries Fund would be included in the general church audit. The Benevolent Fund is audited separately.

Ron presented the pre-draft of the 2024 budget. Salaries for the office secretary, bookkeeper and custodian were increased by 3.2% (cost of living). The Pastor and Youth Pastor salaries remain the same as 2023 as the positions are not filled. There was a suggestion at the last annual meeting to increase the percentages of support to the ECC (10%) and the NW Conference (5%). It was decided to stay at the same amounts of 8% and 4% respectively. Again, Ron mentioned the dramatic increase in the church insurance premium which will increase the proposed 2024 budget.

During the discussion of the proposed budget, Marcia made a motion to add a line item to the Missions budget to support The Santiago Partnership (Ecuador) in the amount of \$1200 per year. Ron seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

Motion to approve all the reports was made by Wayne, seconded by Diane. Carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. Ron and Tom presented the 2024 ballot: Brian Anderson, Marcia Dischinger, Bonnie Eng, Andy Kraemer. The congregation will vote for two. The election will take place at the annual meeting on January 28, 2024.

Motion to approve the ballot as presented was made by Ron, seconded by Tom. Carried unanimously.

Facility Use Policy Form and Wedding Guidelines

Motion to approve the revised Facility Use Policy Form and Wedding Guidelines was made by Al, seconded by Wayne. Carried unanimously.

Security Team Update - Tabled

CHURCH FINANCIALS

Evangelical Covenant Church of Dassel

Financial Summary

11/30/23

General Fund	Month Ended	YTD
General Operating Income	35,749	253,393
Actual Expenses	23,083	243,101
Total Income Less Expense	12,666	10,292
Giving to General Fund YTD Last Year 2022		285,872

Building Fund —Beginning Balance 1/1/2023		9,859
	This Month	YTD
Contributions: Building Fund contributions	9,190	31,010
Designated Memorials	10	85
Transfer from Carry over/under	0	20,000
Payments: Payments to NCP	2,600	48,655
Current Building Fund Balance		12,299
Building Loan 1/1/2023		99,836
2023 Principal Payments-Regular Giving	2,366	25,308
Principal Payments-Carry over/under	0	20,000
Principal Payment-Memorials	0	55
Current Loan Balance 3/31/2023		54,473

Women Ministries Fund Balance (10/31/2023): **\$9,821.68**

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