

# COVENANT LIFE LINK

JUNE 2011

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## Message from Pastor Steve

Each year we focus on a specific theme. These themes are based on God's call to fellowship, discipleship, service, evangelism and worship, what we call The 5 Engines. For the last year, our sermon themes, teaching, and focus have been on service, meeting the needs of the world in order to make it a little more like the Kingdom of God. We did our yearly mission trip, participated with the Howells and Feed My Starving Children for Make A Difference 2K10, and continued to expand our partnerships with Hope Haven and Love INC. For the next year, we will focus on evangelism, helping those

who do not yet follow Christ to move one step closer in their relationship with Him. Our Outreach Board is beginning to brainstorm ways to help the congregation do this corporately, and at our congregational meeting, we all brainstormed ways that we can do this individually.

As we explore this theme together this year, we need always to keep in mind the words of Jesus in Luke 19, "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." Time after time, parable after parable, Jesus made our mission abundantly clear. "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," He said in Matt. 28. "It is not

the healthy who need a doctor but the sick," He said in Mark 2. "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," He said in John 10. Jesus came that we might live in right relationship with God, and He's called us to continue that work; that is evangelism.

So as we study the book of Acts together this summer, explore new ways to tell and show others the love of God, and hear each other's stories, we seek to glorify the God who has blessed each of us with a growing relationship with Him. And we pray that in the process of sharing that relationship with others, we might learn more about ourselves as well.

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THIS WILL BE TO  
PRAY FOR 24  
STRAIGHT HOURS  
THE WEEKEND  
BEFORE VACATION  
BIBLE SCHOOL  
(VBS) BEGINS"



## Message from Pastor Jen

"Prayer can do anything that God can do." This quote by R.A. Torrey is one of those strange mixes of obvious and profound. Throughout scripture, we see places where we, as followers of Christ, have been called to "pray without ceasing," as well as example after example of the importance of prayer to Jesus' life. We often times speak about prayer like the very air we breathe—something we do with each breath in and each breath out, throughout our day. In an ideal world, prayer would be our priority and our focus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More realistically, however, we know that it's easy to go throughout our day (our week? our month?) without pausing to speak to and/or listen to God. At Hillcrest Covenant Church, we realize that

none of us have "arrived" when it comes to our prayer life. Regardless of how often we pray now, each of us is called to a deeper relationship with God. Each of us is called to a growing prayer life. Sometimes it can be difficult to set time aside to be with God. And with cell phones, computers, and TVs making constant noise, the atmosphere around us sometimes prevents us from listening well. That is why we are excited to welcome you to HCC's prayer room. Right on the main floor of the building, our prayer room is a space for you to "get away from it all" and to meet with God in whatever ways are meaningful to you. Read scripture, write, paint, kneel, or sing. The space is yours. God is calling you to come just as you are.

One of the ways in which we want to use the prayer room as a church community is by being deliberate about praying for some of the significant ministries that we are a part of. Our first experience with this will be to pray for 24 straight hours the weekend before Vacation Bible School (VBS) begins. We will pray in one-hour shifts from 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning (June 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>). You are encouraged to sign up for one, one-hour shift any time during those 24 hours. We believe in the power of prayer, and we believe that prayer can do anything God can do. What does God have to say to you? What is God saying to us as a church? I dare you to find out...

## 18-25 Group Summer

It's not too late! If you're roughly between the ages of 18-25 and are looking for a way to connect with people your age over the summer, you're invited to join us for a summer book study. We know that you are a part of a fairly transient age group, and we wanted to create an opportunity for those of you who are only here over

the summer, as well as those who are here year-round, to hang out together. We are going to be reading Rob Bell's highly controversial book, *Love Wins*. We want to know what all of the hype is about. We will be meeting every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the DeKalb/Sycamore area, and we will probably have a cook-

out or two along the way as well! This is open to all, so feel free to invite friends! If you need a copy of the book and/or are interested in joining us, contact pastor Jen at [pastor.jen@comcast.net](mailto:pastor.jen@comcast.net) or "Jen Zerby" on Facebook, or you can text her at 630.651.2261.





## Message from Church Chair

We have had a busy and productive month of May with confirmation, the end of the Sunday school and AWANA year, and the congregational meeting. A special thanks to those able to attend the congregational meeting. Below are the highlights of the meeting:

The Long-Range Plan was approved as presented with the exception of one amendment to Objective #14, which will now state "Increase Individual and Corporate Giving to Missions." A special thanks to the Long-Range Planning Committee for their great work the past 2 years.

With Evangelism being the theme for the next year, we had brainstorming session

on how we individually and as a church can improve our evangelism efforts.

Dave Wessel provided an overview of the new website that he has worked on over the past year. A special thanks to Dave for all his efforts.

Pastor Steve provided a brief Vitality Team update.

We elected new members to the Church Board with the ballot being approved as presented.

Larry Schultz and Joe Bothe were elected as members-at-large to next year's Budget Committee.

A special thanks to those who have served on Church Board for their faithful service and a spe-

cial thanks and welcome to those who have agreed to serve on the Church Board. We are fortunate to have many talented leaders willing to serve.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as Church Chair the past three years and thank everyone for their support of Hillcrest Covenant Church.

*To God be the Glory,*

Joe Bothe  
Church Chair



"A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED ON CHURCH BOARD FOR THEIR FAITHFUL SERVICE"

## Sign Up Now for Summer Special Music!

If you have musical gifts and would like to provide special music for our summer worship services, please sign on the sign-up sheet at the information counter. This can be vocal or instrumental music, solos or groups. Please sign up soon. The summer goes by quickly! Questions? Talk to Victoria Young.





## Trustee Report

### Financial

Donations for the first four months were about \$13,000 below budget, and this shortage has grown to over \$15,000 as May has unfolded. Expenditures for the first four months were also below budget, but only by about \$7,000. Accordingly, through April our cash flow was a deficit of about \$6,000. Until the level of donations improves, we will continue to fund the operating shortage through liquidation of certificates of deposit.

### Work Day

We had a good turnout (about 30 members, family and friends) for the semi-annual work day on May 7. We spread mulch around our trees and shrubs, added soil and seed to repair winter damage to the lawns, washed all windows inside and out, and cleaned our ceiling light fixtures. Thanks to all of you who pitched in to accomplish these projects.

Subsequent to the work day, annual flowers and some perennials have been planted. We still have areas to plant and other material to replace.

### Interior Staining

During the first two weeks of June, a contractor will touch up the stained woodwork in the church. We will also be repairing water damage to the multi-purpose room ceiling and repainting the ceiling. It has been many years since we have done interior staining. Our objective is to strike a balance between keeping the interior looking good, on the one hand, and moderating the cost, on the other hand. The finished product should look significantly better, but some items might not justify the cost of making them "like new."

### Other Projects

Over the course of the summer, the trustees will paint two of the Christian Formation rooms. We will also do minor tree trimming.

The right-hand turn lane off of Ridge Road and onto First Street is now completed. If you choose to park on First Street, please park on the north side or, if on the south side, far enough to the west so that you do not block the approach to the turn lane.

Bruce Bickner, Mort Carrel, Bob Donaldson, Jessie Flippin, Ron Grimm, John Guio, and Ed Peterson.

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly,  
"I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth"



## Hillcrest AWANA Clubs

God has used the AWANA-clubs at HCC to impact our community. Parents have shared how their children have grown in various ways from knowing more about God to overcoming their shyness, to making friends, to accepting Christ! Kids and parents love AWANA! At our awards ceremony on May 11th, we celebrated all that God has done in and through our clubbers and leadership team this year. It was an encouraging and affirming time.

This year we had around 40 club members and a volunteer team of 28 adults/high schoolers. We had 3 clubs: Cubbies, Sparks, and Truth and Training. Our missionaries were the Howells so we took an offering for FMSC every Wed. night. Club-

bers and the leadership team raised over \$300 to feed children around the world who are in need! We also encouraged clubbers to serve others in our community as that was our church theme for the year. Three of our clubbers were recognized for their acts of service!

It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of our clubbers' lives, sharing and growing alongside them. I am thankful for the many high schoolers and adults who have sacrificially given their time, energy, and talents to serve God as AWANA leaders. Also, a big thank you to Larry Wood for getting all our supplies this past year and cutting costs considerably. The investment made and the investment that will continue to be made is

eternal and will reap many benefits for years come. Thank you, team members, for all that you have done and will do for the kids in our community. A special thank you to those who have served on our team the last 3 years. You are amazing!

Please be in prayer as we look for an AWANA ministry director for this coming school year. As AWANA is an effective, community ministry, we will continue it in the fall. We will need other leaders on our leadership team, as well. So, please prayerfully consider how you are called to serve in AWANA this coming year. More details on leadership needs will be posted in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.



## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School, "*High Seas Expedition*," will set sail June 20-24<sup>th</sup> from 6:15-8:30pm. We are excited to begin our journey learning about God's love! Kids will experience Bible stories, movies, skits, crafts and so much more. Information about how to register is on the website, and registration forms are hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex. Completed registration forms may be turned into the church office.

If you would like to join our crew, contact Shawna Bennett at [S.Bennett919@yahoo.com](mailto:S.Bennett919@yahoo.com). We are still looking for a game leader and crew leaders to move with the kids from station to station.

If you have any nautical themed items like nets, sails, life reserves, life jackets, etc., please drop them at church with your name attached so we return the items to you after VBS.





## Kitchen Ministry

The Kitchen Ministry is nearly 9 months old. **Thank you** to the congregation for your continued donations that keep our shelves filled with all those items our recipients need to prepare food for their families.

We have delivered kitchen supplies to over 40 needy individuals and families.

A mother and children starting over after several weeks in shelter at Safe Passage

A family whose belongings were destroyed in a flooded basement apartment

A disabled, African graduate student from who could not manage dorm life

A couple who lost their belongings in an apartment fire

A disabled man who asked just for a sharp knife so he could cut a ham he wanted to bake. We brought knives and also a baking dish for the ham

A man to whom we made a delivery, had been given a set of dishes he didn't need, so he gave them to us for someone else to share in his blessing

And the list goes on.



May has been an especially busy month. We have several items we cannot currently provide. Our stock is completely gone. Below is the list of our needs.

### Critical Needs

Silverware	Toasters	Cooking utensils such as stirring spoons, spatulas, pasta lifters
Coffee makers	Crock pots	
Tongs and pizza cutters	Hand mixers	

### Other needs

Baking pans of all kinds	Plastic glasses	Soup ladles
Casseroles	Drinking glasses	Serving bowls
Cutting boards	Ice cube trays	Veggie peelers
Measuring spoons	Plastic storage containers	Dish drainers
Measuring cups	Rubber scrapers	Cream and sugar bowls
Napkin holders	Colanders	Tea kettles
Children's dishes		

With the arrival of spring, if you love to shop garage sales, perhaps you might pick up some bargains to help us replenish our shelves. There is a bin in the coat closet next to the stairway in which to leave your donations.

There is a sign-up sheet on the counter if you would like to deliver to a needy family. We go in pairs when possible. Please sign up for a two-week period when you are available to be contacted by Love INC. We need more than one or two names in each time slot so we can deliver during the week, as well as on the weekend.



## Summer Camp News

As we dive into summer, we have lots of kids going to summer camp at Covenant Harbor this year! Please remember to keep these campers and their families in your prayers as they spend a week away from home. If you would like to send them something, you can address as follows:

Camper Name  
Week of Camp  
Covenant Harbor Bible Camp

Pier 30  
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

June 19-25: Lizzie Eggerman & Rachel Larson

June 26-July 2: Nicole Kauffman & Josh Larson

July 31-Aug 6: Kevin Fagan

July 31-Aug 13: Kayla Kauffman & Christin Bothe (two-week Alpha session)

August 7-13: Emily Eggerman

August 14-18: Jack Blatchford (grandson of Bob & Diane Donaldson)

Also keep in prayer those young adults in our church family who give their entire summer to be on staff at Covenant Harbor:

Stefanie, Mark & Eric Wessel



## Save the Date!

### Make a Difference 2K11 November 17 -20th

In this year of Evangelism, we have an opportunity to reach out to thousands of people through the Mobile Pack Feed My Starving Children Event coming again this November. Last year as a community, we saved lives of starving children by packing 586,000 meals in 4 days. These manna packs were bags of hope for the children on the receiving end. There were also lives touched and transformed through volunteering.

Every donation feeds two; the volunteer is equally blessed.

Every person who volunteers is exposed to a powerful message about Christ during the orientation. Last year a young teen accepted Christ the day after he experienced the life-changing message and experience at Make a Difference 2K10. God's people, using God's stuff, to accomplish God's plan. What will God have us do in 2K11?

How many meals will we pack this year? How many lives can we reach and touch in our community? Our goal is 500,000 meals and 3,000 volunteers. Wouldn't it be awesome to go beyond that goal? Please save the

date and invite your friends to take part in this event. We need your help. If you would like to make a donation or need further information, please contact Greg or Sherri Howells.

[www.makeadifference2k11.shutterfly.com](http://www.makeadifference2k11.shutterfly.com)

*Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit*





## June Birthdays

1 - Jacob Adams

3 - James VanderWeide

3 - Ethan Kowitz

3 - David Vogl

8 - Aaron Bennett

11 - Larry Wood

12 - Herb Kuryliw

14 - Ximena Burgin

15 - Justin Kuryliw

16 - Ramona Lanier

17 - Mary Alice Adams

17 - Emma Friedlund

18 - Susan Kauffman

18 - Joshua Geidel

18 - Gene Kowitz

19 - Mark Wessel

20 - Sadie Ihm

21 - Marilyn Utter

21 - Jared Kuryliw

22 - Tracy Egerman

23 - Noni Jones

29 - Sue Klopfenstein

29 - Juli Smith

30 - Belinda Grimm



## June Anniversaries

1, 1985 - Kim & Mark Rasmussen

6, 1959 - Howard & Jo Swan

7, 1980 - Greg & Sherri Howells

12, 1977 - Mark Cordes & Victoria Young

12 - Scott & Kim Severson



13, 1992 - Rich & Jeanne Holly

16, 1979 - David & Lynn Vogl

24, 1989 - Don & Lorna Code

28, 2008 - Russ & Sarah Anderson

29, 1968 - Bill & Carole Minor

## Movie Suggestion by Valerie: Soul Surfer



The movie, *Soul Surfer*, is based on the true story of Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a shark attack in Kauai, Hawaii, where she resides. She was a promising young surfer at the age of 13 when the attack occurred in 2003. This seemingly ended her career. The movie is a beautiful testimony of God's grace in Bethany's life.

There is a shark attack

scene, so little ones might find this too intense, although it is nothing like *Jaws*!

The surfing scenes are exciting, and the cinematography and music are beautiful. I have seen this movie several times and have not grown tired of it yet. Although it is not at many theatres now, it will be available to purchase or rent on DVD/Blue Ray in July.

I was deeply moved by this movie and Bethany's story. The message of "*Soul Surfer*" will lift you and give you a new perspective.





**Pastor: Steve Larson**

**Associate Pastor: Jen Zerby**

**Minister of Music: Victoria Young**

**Administrative Assistant: Valerie Smith**

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**We're on the Web!**

**[www.hillcrestcovenantdekalb.org](http://www.hillcrestcovenantdekalb.org)**



HillcrestCovenant  
CHURCH

*Praise*

*Share*

*Grow*

## *June Sermon Series*

*June 5      The Disappointment of the Ascension*

*June 12     A Shifting Wind; A Change In Course*

*June 19     What is the Church?*

*June 26     Promises Along the Way*

