

Covenant Life Link

SEPTEMBER 2008

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Message from Pastor Steve

It is the essence of animal nature to compete. Whether it is for procreation (the Alpha Male is the one who's line is most likely to continue), food ("I'm the biggest and strongest, so I get to feed first and you lesser ones get what's left, if there is anything!") or dominance (the strongest gets the best places to sleep, first choice, respect), animals must compete or die.

We, as God's creations, were made for higher things. We are made "in God's image," and God does not compete. God is a Trinity and yet a Unity. Perhaps this is part of what makes Him so incomprehensible; by His very nature God exists outside of our mathematical understanding and our human natures. God, three in one, is the essence not of competition but of cooperation.

We are in a bit of a quandary, therefore. By our human natures and societal teachings, we are competitive beings, but at the same time, God has created and called us to be different, even separate from the world; in a word, Holy. But it's hard in a world where our animal instincts are constantly striving to take hold of us again. Whether it's politics, sports or business, our world revels in its celebrations of our animal nature.

Look, for example, at our presidential race. Most of what we hear is not, "my ideas for running the country" but is instead, "How I'm better than the other guy (and more importantly, how he's so much worse than me.)" Any discussion of cooperation has proven to be little more than "campaign promises" that never seem to materialize.

Do I dare talk about America's sacred institution of sports? I love sports as much as the next person, but by definition, sports are the pinnacle of human competition. A sport without competition wouldn't be a sport. In fact, we recognize the animal nature of our competition with our mascots (mostly powerful animals like bears, bulls, sharks; ever heard of a team with a sheep for a mascot? Or a goldfish?)

But we are called to more than this. We are called through the Scriptures to cooperate, to work together to see that God's will is accomplished. We can't do it alone so we join together as a church, a Conference and a Denomination, not so that we can compete with other denominations but because only together can we accomplish things like CHIC, Covenant Harbor, North Park University, sending out missionaries and training our pastors. And this is as it should be.

When God first created us, He created Adam and Eve. Eve was created to be a "helpmate", a word that in the Hebrew denoted either an equal or a superior (God is called our "helpmate" as well), but ultimately a partner. Adam and Eve were to cooperate in caring for the world into which God had placed them and they did for a time. In stark contrast, their sons, Cain and Abel, give us the first example of competition, and we all know how that turned out.

When Jesus wanted to share a parable about the core of the Christian faith, he told of a lamb. The problem? The lamb had wandered off alone and gotten lost. The solution? Bring it back into the community, even leaving the other 99 to do so. Cooperation and community are the words God uses to describe us: words like family, marriage, flock, body, church. Usually, when the bible describes us as alone, it is a description of us apart from God.

I praise God that He has brought Hillcrest to this point in our history, a point of celebration and cooperation, reaching out to each other and to our community together through our united ministries and opportunities. Called to cooperate, not compete, we are prepared for the Holy Spirit to work through this church in miraculous ways in the weeks and months to come.

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Town Hall Meetings Scheduled! ~ We want to hear your ideas! We will be holding 4 meetings on 4 different days at 4 different homes, all for the purpose of hearing your ideas. There will be refreshments, time to talk together, pray together & discuss the present & future of Hillcrest Covenant Church. The Executive Board asks that everyone chose one of the four nights to attend & sign up on at the sign-up table in the narthex. The dates are Sept. 20, 23, 25 & 29.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH CHAIR . . . by Joe Bothe

So where did the summer go? I cannot believe that it is already the first day of school for our oldest three daughters. Hope you had a great summer!

It has been great to see the enthusiasm and turnout at a number of HCC Fellowship activities this summer, including the Picnic in the Park, Road Rally, Greet n Eat's , Men's Golf Outing, Vacation Bible School and the Cougar game. Just to name a few.

The Sunday School Picnic and the 125th Anniversary Weekend will also provide other great fellowship opportunities. Please make sure you have September 14 and November 1 & 2 on your calendars. In addition, as you read through this newsletter you will see that we have many others events and activities coming up, all of which help us build a stronger church body.

Last month I mentioned that we would be having Town Hall Meetings in September. The dates and locations are shown below. The purpose of these meetings is to help us to think, pray and dream together about the present and future of Hillcrest Covenant Church. Each person can choose one of 4 meetings, which are on different nights and at different locations to help you find one that works for you. The discussion will be led by Executive board members and topics will be the same for every meeting. Each meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with fellowship and be completed by 8:00 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Saturday, September 20 th	Mark & Victoria Cordes Home
Tuesday, September 23 rd	Jim & Cheri Auman Home
Thursday, September 25 th	Rob & Beth Ferguson Home
Monday, September 29 th	Bob & Dianne Donaldson Home

We have sign-up sheets at church. Please sign up for the evening that works best for you.

You may notice that the meeting tentatively for September 15th has been moved to September 29th.

We, as an Executive Committee, really look forward to these meetings and hearing your feedback and ideas.

Please plan to attend one of these as everyone's involvement is needed and appreciated and will be of great help as we plan for the future.

We are also planning an Executive Committee Retreat for October 19th and a church board meeting (all members serving on a church board) on November 23rd. More details to come on those events.

God Bless

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - "FOUNDATIONS"

Jesus taught that the Christian life needs to be built on a strong foundation, one that allows us to know God intimately and meet the challenges of life. An important part of this is to know what and why we believe. In other words, basic Christian doctrine.

This fall a new adult Sunday school class, titled "Foundations," will begin on September 20. Taught by Pastor Steve Larson, with occasional assistance by others in the congregation, the class will explore the 11 core doctrines on which the Christian faith is built: the Bible, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Creation, Salvation, Sanctification, Good and Evil, the Afterlife, the Church, and the Second Coming. The class is based on an award-winning and time-tested curriculum used in a number of churches across the country.

The class is unique in several ways. First, it will run for approximately 24 weeks, beginning in the fall and taking us mid-way through the spring. Although this is much longer than the typical adult class, each doctrine will be presented as a separate two-week unit. This will allow easy entry into the class at any point, and missing sessions will not pose a problem with continuity.

Second, the class is designed to give participants a comprehensive understanding of the basic doctrines that make up the Christian faith. In doing so, it is hoped that we as a congregation, as well as individuals, will acquire the foundation of knowledge on which a solid walk with Christ is built.

We hope that every adult in the congregation seriously considers participating in this exciting learning opportunity.

September Birthdays

Jessie Flippin
 Howard Swan
 Sherri Larson
 Samantha Kevin
 Lindie Diaz
 Kim Vines
 Carol VanderWeide
 Debbie Reingold
 Julia Cordes
 Rich Holly
 Gary Larson
 Ivan Jones
 Dorothy Elliott
 Doris Carlson
 Jeremy Geidel
 Nicole Lee
 Bruce Bickner
 Betty Morsch
 Lisandro Restrepo
 (Missionary)
 Nathan Sisler
 Kayla Kauffman
 Marcia Born
 Dennie Stanciu
 Will Ferguson
 Jerry Wahlstrom

Anniversary Worship

Sunday, Sept. 14 we invite you to join us at 10:00 A.M. for a worship service in the band shell at Hopkins Park. This unique worship experience will be followed by an old fashioned Sunday School picnic at the shelter house. Electricity, refrigeration, and stoves are available to help keep food cold or hot. Games, prizes and other surprises are planned! See Beth Ferguson for details. There is a sign-up sheet located in the narthex.

September Anniversaries

Patrick & Diane Kevin
 Eric & Kristi Peterson (Missionaries)
 Gary & Sherri Larson
 Jerry & Linda Wahlstrom

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,
 We were overcome by the love and concern we felt from Hillcrest following Dick's illness. From the hugs, food, music, the service, the donations to his memorial which will benefit needy kids, telephone calls, cards, flowers and all the other things I have forgotten or maybe didn't even know – a huge thank you. We learned what to do the next time it happens to someone we know. Martha Snyder and her family.

Dear Friends,
 I want to thank everyone for the loving concerns, food and mostly for the prayers lifted up for the injury to my arm. The doctor says it is coming along remarkably well. I know God has heard all our prayers and has helped heal my wrist and fingers, along with the therapy I'm still doing. Thanks again for all your help. Loris Wiltberger

Thank you to the following families for delivering meals on wheels in July: Chris Shaff, Kauffman Family, Diaz Family, Terrie Adams, Ferguson Family & Victoria Young.

Thank you to everyone for all your thoughts, prayers, and support that were expressed during Mary Lou's illness and passing. Olle T. Larson & Family

Choir practice begins
 Sept. 21 at 9:30 a.m. New singers are welcome to join us!



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please mark your calendars for picture days, **October 6 & 7**. Sign up sheets are available in the narthex for preferred time slots. Sign up early to ensure your slot.

The Directory Committee is also looking for volunteers to host picture days. This simply consists of opening and/or locking up the church and directing families as they arrive. If you have some time that you can spare October 6 or 7 between 3pm & 9:30pm, please contact Victoria Young, Pat Vollstedt or Sue Klopfenstein. We would like to have as many families as possible included since this directory will be released for our 125th anniversary year!

Finally, the church directory committee is in need of photos of all of the 125th celebration activities. If you have photos, please give them to Victoria Young, Pat Vollstedt or Sue Klopfenstein or email them to s.klop@mchsi.com. Your original photos will be returned.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ PANERA

The Women's Bible study, which normally meets at 6:00am on Friday mornings, is not meeting at this time. We will let you know when we start up again.

Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study is completing its current series on *Women of Worth* and beginning a new series later in September. All women are invited to join the Girlfriends on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 for a time of friendship, encouragement, and Bible study. GG meets in the library/conference room at the same time as Awana and Confirmation will be happening in other parts of the building.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The restroom renovation project was completed on schedule at a cost of \$72,605—or 3.7 percent over the budget authorization. The cost overrun was largely related to increased costs associated with additional permit requirements from the City of DeKalb. One panel in the women's downstairs restroom was damaged in shipment and will be replaced in early September.

Recently staff and others have noticed an increase in the number of insects and other pests present in the church. We have retained Orkin on a monthly basis to address this situation.

The trustees have contracted with Comcast for internet service for the pastor and secretary. The new service will be installed this fall and will permit each of them to have their own confidential e-mail address.

Moline Decorating will be caulking and staining most of our exterior windows and some other exterior services in the next few weeks.

UPDATE ON ADOPT AN AREA

Thank you to the eight individuals, families or small groups that have signed up to share in the responsibility of taking of our Lord's house. The narthex/foyer, pastor and secretary's offices, nursery suite, youth rooms, choir room front and north entrances/approaches have all been adopted.

We are still looking for eleven fellow members/friends of the church to adopt the following areas:

1. Sanctuary
2. Multipurpose Room
3. Anderson Fellowship Hall
4. Library
5. Kitchen
6. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten room
7. SS rooms for grades 1-4
8. SS room for grades 5-6
9. Moat and east side planting area
10. North side planting area
11. Parking Lot

Please give this important need your prayerful consideration and contact the church office with your willingness to do your share.

Bruce Bickner, Mort Carrel, David Hegberg, Robert Kauffman, Paul VanderWeide, Olle Larson and Dale McBride

Precepts Bible Study - Philippians

Where are you right now in your walk w/ God? Are you a bond servant to the Lord? Are you wondering how to have true joy? Do you worry, and if so, how can you overcome it?... These questions & MORE will be answered in this awesome study of Philippians. Come & grow closer to God, learn & apply His Word, fellowship w/other believers,...be a part of a study that will transform you!

When: Tuesdays, starting Oct. 14th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. until March 31st. There will be breaks for holidays & "no school" days.

Where: Hillcrest - Anderson Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$31

Sign-up Deadline: Monday, Sept. 29th

Contact: Heather Larson #815-517-0554 or 442larson@comcast.net

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Labor Day</i> Church office closed	2	3 Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm	4	5	6 AWANA training 9am (Fellowship Hall)
7 Worship 9:30 a.m Summer coffee hour	8 Deacon's mtg 6:30pm CE mtg 6:30pm	9 Mutual Ministry mtg 7 pm	10 Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm	11 Music & Worship mtg 7pm Outreach mtg 7pm Mission mtg 7pm	12	13 AWANA conference in Rockford
14 Anniversary Worship at Hopkins Park 10:00am Sunday School picnic following worship	15	16 Trustees mtg 7 pm	17 Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm Confirmation & AWANA kick-off potluck 6:30pm	18 Exec. Comm mtg 7pm	19	20 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:30am Town Hall mtg 6:30pm-8 @ the Cordes' home
21 Choir practice begins @ 9:30 am	22 October newsletter deadline	23 Town Hall mtg 6:30pm-8 @ the Auman residence	24 Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm Confirmation & AWANA 6:30pm	25 Town Hall mtg 6:30pm-8 @ the Ferguson home	26	27 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:30am
28 Choir practice 9:30am Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Praise & Worship service 6:30pm	29 Town Hall mtg 6:30pm-8 @ the Donaldson home	30				

Missionaries We at Hillcrest Covenant Church Help Support

Gary & Mary Lou Sander

Apartado Aereo 55276
Medillin, Colombia
www.pactocol.org
pactosand@yahoo.com

Lisandro & Patricia Restrepo

Serving in Monterrey, Mexico
Mailing address:
P.M.B. 147
1001 S. 10th St. Suite G
McAllen, TX 78501
lisrestrepo@yahoo.com
prestrepo2002@yahoo.com

Eric & Kristi Peterson

(InterVarsity Christian Fellowship)
1048 Reasor Ave.
Louisville, KY 40217
peterson97@peoplepc.com



Sander Family Missionary Letter

August 2008

Dear Covenant Church Family,

Thank you for praying with us during the month of July. God is good and we thank Him for answering our prayers. Here is what God has going on for August.

1. Thank you for your prayers for the seven member mission team from the Bayside Covenant Church of Granite Bay, CA, which ministered in the men's, children's, and women's rehabilitation programs, as well as participated in a Love Brigade to street people in downtown Bogota. God impacted all those involved in this mission experience with the depth and width and height of his mercy and love.
2. Thank you for your prayers for the Covenant missionary families in Latin America who gathered in Tequisquiapan, Mexico, for our retreat. We were challenged and encouraged in our theology of "Caring Well". Pray that we can implement God's care for us and for his people through our ministries and through lives shared together.
3. Continue to pray for the preparations and planning for the two mission teams which will be coming to

Medellín in August, one from the New Community Covenant Church of Chicago, IL, and a group of women who will be participating in the Colombia National Covenant Women's Retreat. Also, we appreciate your prayers for the visit from a possible future staff family who will be with us August 24-31.

4. Pray for our adult children as they head into their school years, Skye – August 11, Leah – who brings her student teaching and master's program around the 20th of August, Lissa – who begins another year of teaching during the second week of August, and Leslie and Philippe – in their visit to Philippe's family in Canada to celebrate their marriage with family and friends there.

5. Pray for the 140 women who are preparing to come to Medellin and attend the National Women's Retreat on August 7th -10th. Pray for safety in travel, good times of being together, and for the speakers, Beatriz Arguello from Bogota and Trinity Abila from California, as they teach and encourage. And, finally pray for all the details that need to come together in these days.

Love,

The Sander Family

Walking the Bible: a Photographic Journey

By Bruce Feiler

160 pages

HarperCollins Books

Bruce Feiler has written another interesting book that deals with the Bible. This one includes his photographs and selected professional collections of the landscape of the Bible's historical stories. Over several years, Feiler has traveled nearly ten thousand miles through the deserts of the Middle East, which led first to his bestseller, *Walking the Bible*. This book follows that route, offering a photographic voyage through the actual places of the Bible's memorable events—from the heights of Mount Ararat, where Noah's ark landed, to the desert outpost in Turkey, where Abraham first heard the words of God, to the summit where Moses overlooked the Promised Land.

This is worthy of your time, especially the words of this coffee-table book.

Music and Worship. . . by Greg Howells

The Music and Worship committee is planning a Praise and Worship Service for Sunday, September 28th in the evening. My prayer for this event is that:

- It would be a time that we can come together in a casual setting and really focus on our relationship with Jesus Christ by praising and worshipping Him. A time to honor our savior through song and prayer.
- It would be a time of fellowship. Some of the most memorable times for me in fellowship and worship are times singing with others at CHIC, concerts, church camp, and retreats. Psalm 150 says “Let everything that lives sing praises to the Lord”. This should be an awesome time to come together and do just that!
- It would be a time to invite your friends to a service that should be filled with your favorite praise songs. As I look out on our church family while we sing praises each Sunday morning I can see the joy and happiness on many of your faces as we praise the Lord. This would be a great time to invite your friends, neighbors and others to come and share in that joy.
- It would be fun. We are created to sing joyfully unto the Lord. Joyfully can mean several things, but one of those to me is having fun. I can’t help but to have fun when we sing every Sunday morning.

I hope that our church will be filled with people looking forward to a night of singing praises on September 28th. I hope that we stand that night side by side focused on a relationship with Jesus and that He is pleased to hear our voice.

John wrote from the isle of Patmos in the 5th chapter of Revelation that he heard the singing of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus. We may not be thousands and millions, but we can sing in a mighty chorus if we give our hearts to God as brothers and sisters in Christ standing together and praising our Lord and King.

I’ll see you on September 28th.

Diaconate Corner. . . by Dave Wessel

Is this the September Newsletter? ...Hey...it is! ...Already...? That means we only have four months to complete our ‘year of fellowship’ exercises. Have you put a name with every face of our Sunday worshippers? How many birthday cards have we sent so far this year? Invited anyone from the congregation to lunch? Here’s one: ever thought of being a greeter Sunday morning? That would be one great way of starting a fellowship experience with both people you know and particularly, don’t know in the congregation. When I say being a greeter on Sunday morning, I’m not necessarily referring to someone wearing a “greeter” tag, standing at the front door for the month they signed up for. I am referring to the whole church body, each Sunday, noticing one person or family (hopefully more than one person or family) walking into church (don’t forget about the north doors) and taking a moment to greet them, which could possibly lead to a fellowship experience. If everyone participated we would **all** be both the “greeters” and the “greeted,” every Sunday. It doesn’t have to be just before worship. It can also be after worship or in the parking lot or before Sunday school.

The diaconate is looking for new and continuing fellowship opportunities and I thought this could be another opportunity to grow in our fellowship experiences and responsibilities, especially to our first and second time visitors. The Worship committee is working to develop a ‘greeters team’ and participating would be a great ministry service and something we each should consider doing. There is great value in having a focused group overseeing this ministry. But you can also work in this ministry without always needing to wear the tag. Try both.

125th Anniversary - Heritage Days . . . Be sure to join us Sat., Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the opportunity to make Swedish pastries, cookies, learn a Swedish craft or just enjoy a cup of coffee. Contact Lois Miller for more details!

LOVE INC UPDATE

Several years ago, area pastors and laypeople began to have a vision that DeKalb and Sycamore churches might work together as one body to more effectively meet the needs of those in our community. They discovered that the perfect model for this is Love INC, a national ministry whose mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. At the local level this is done by creating a network of churches that links church ministries and volunteers to people in need, and thereby fulfill the Biblical mandate to reach out to the poor and needy.

This vision is now getting much closer to becoming a reality. Thanks to the hard work of a development team (which included our own Cheri Auman and Steve Larson), Love INC of DeKalb/Sycamore has been formally established. At this point our local Love INC has been incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, selected a twelve-member Board of Directors representing a wide range of churches, gone through training for the Board, and adopted bylaws for the new non-profit. To date 27 area churches, including Hillcrest Covenant, have become partner churches in this emerging ministry. Each partner church will be called upon to provide both financial and volunteer support as the ministry develops.

The most immediate task for the Board of Directors is to recruit and hire an Executive Director for Love INC. This person will be critical to the success of the ministry. He or she will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the program, including supervision of key volunteer personnel. The Executive Director will also be the primary contact person in establishing and maintaining relationships with churches and local service agencies.

Once the Executive Director is hired, the Executive Director and the Board will work together to establish a Clearinghouse, the foundation of the Love INC ministry. Requests for assistance, whether from a church, community organization, or a person in need, will be sent (most likely by phone) to the Clearinghouse. There a trained volunteer will collect information, assess the situation, verify the need, and refer the request to an appropriate service provider, whether it be a partner church, a volunteer from a church, or a local service agency. (Down the road, once the Clearinghouse is operational for at least a year, the ministry will begin to move on to other levels of meeting needs.)

In the months ahead, Hillcrest Covenant will be asked to support Love INC in a number of ways. One is providing financial support, both as a church and as individuals, which is essential to the success of the ministry. Even more important, however, is for us in the church to sign-up as Love INC volunteers, willing to share our skills, abilities, or simply our time with those in need. Sometime in the not too distant future, both we as a church, and also as individuals, will be asked to consider what type of ministry and service we will be willing to offer to those in need as part of the ministry of Love INC. Please begin to prayerfully consider what your involvement might be.

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups have long been an important part of the life and ministry of Hillcrest Covenant Church. They provide an opportunity to connect with others, develop relationships, and grow in our walk with Christ. Each group takes on its own identity, but typically meets several times a month for sharing, study of God's Word, and prayer.

This fall we hope to create several more small groups in addition to those that are continuing from last year. We encourage everyone to consider participating in a small group this year. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact the church office, or talk with Pastor Steve or Mark Cordes.

Mixed Nut Bars (submitted by Sue Guio)

Crust

1 ½ cups flour

¾ cups brown sugar

½ cup butter

Cut butter into flour and sugar.

Press into greased 9x13 pan.

Bake for 10 minutes.

Topping

1 6-oz pkg butterscotch chips

½ cup corn syrup

2 ½ tbsp butter

2 cups mixed nuts

Melt chips, syrup and butter over low heat.

Sprinkle nuts over hot crust.

Pour heated mixture over nuts.

Bake at 325 degrees for ten minutes.

Change and Accountability

Throughout history change has been a mark to indicate the beginning of a new era. Visible events, such as war and the need for safety, have forced human beings to develop tools to defend themselves from attacks or to attack their enemies.

With the passing of time, circumstances leading to a change were not as noticeable as before (i.e. the incandescent bulb and the Industrial Revolution). All changes that have come upon humanity have shaped people's behaviors and beliefs.

The 21st Century started with a new set of challenges due to our dependence on technology. Currently, one needs to know about computers, cell phones, mp3 players, iPod touch, LCD, HD, green technologies, and so on, in order to communicate in daily life. Therefore, one of the major trials that the current generations face is how to stay informed in this technological revolution, keeping good habits so the isolation inherent in this environment does not take over, while standing up for one's beliefs.

In the mire of this rapid change, accountability with another Christian should be our ally to keep moving forward in our Christian walk. Solomon reminds us in Eccl. 4:12 "*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*" But hasn't technology broken these strands in many ways? Today, we mainly communicate by e-mail--we don't even talk on the phone. And the messages we do send have been reduced to symbols for words as in text messaging. Not only do we not walk together, we don't even talk together. The computer, cell phone, blackberry, etc. have made it a lot easier for every man to be an island--exactly what Solomon is cautioning us against. In intentionally calling on the help and counsel of the Holy Spirit and an accountability partner, we can more easily discern from day to day the information that we are bombarded with from every direction and hold each other accountable to what God's Word says about how to live in the midst of it .

The Bible expresses consistently that God, the creator, is unchangeable and human beings are unstable. Praying, reading scriptures, participating in the worship service, and so on, will help us increase our knowledge about who God is and our personal relationship with Him. However, history testifies about human behavior among those who have claimed to be devoted believers. Therefore, holding ourselves accountable to one another may help us to avoid mistakes or misinterpretations of God's will.

I do understand that accountability brings many issues and I would have to acknowledge that one of the most important concerns is trust. You are probably already pondering, as I am, questions such as "Can I trust that what I say to somebody in the church will not become gossip? Will I be judged for the situation in which I find myself?"

When Christ sent out His disciples two by two, He did it because He knew that together they were stronger, but also, together they were accountable to each other. I believe, as mature Christians, we need to walk with each other in complete truth. We need to talk about what distracts and tempts us with someone who can ask us how it's going, can pray for and encourage us. We need to get our sins out there where someone else is looking at them, especially in this time when it is so easy to go hide with our technology. Therefore, I would like you to take a leap of faith and decide to trust someone to be your accountability partner. Ask God to reveal people who will be willing to help you with your struggles; trust them, invite them into your life, be humble to receive advice or to be chastised, and then share the joys in the journey while you await the victories.

The new devices of distraction and temptation are new for this age, but Satan's plan to trap us in sin is still the same. We need all the weapons of warfare that God has made available. We need eyes in the back of our heads so we can see what might be sneaking up from behind. That is what an accountability partner can help us do. "*One may be overpowered, two can defend themselves*" - Eccl. 4:12.

Ximena Recalde

Diane Kevin

Hillcrest Covenant Church

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Our Staff

Pastor: Steve Larson
Minister of Music: Victoria Young
Church Secretary: Sue Lazowski
Church Office Hours: 9 am -1:00 pm
Mon. - Fri.

We're on the Web!
www.hillcovch.org



Praise
Share
Grow
Care
Serve

HillcrestCovenant
CHURCH

Awana - An investment of your time, talents & resources that will have an eternal impact for God's Kingdom!!!!

God has called us to a weekly mid-week ministry for kids. To successfully accomplish His will we need your help! If you are willing & able, we need a Snack Coordinator, a Devotional Leader, 2 club Directors (one for each age group/club), & a Game Director. All leaders (except Snack Coordinator) will need to be trained before Sept. 16th (see dates & options below). Cost per leader: Time on Wed. nights & for any prep work needed (depends on role), completion of training, cost of own leadership polo shirt, attendance at monthly meetings. Contact Heather Larson, Sherri Howells or Amy Wessel for more details!

Awana Leadership Training Dates/Options:

Saturday, Sept. 6th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (breakfast & lunch provided) at Hillcrest or Saturday, Sept. 13th from 7 a.m. to 3/3:30 p.m. w/ driving time (lunch provided) in Rockford or meet w/ Heather Larson at a different time to go over training materials.

OR

if your gifts do not fit in those roles, please consider sponsoring a child for the year (\$25 per child per year), being a prayer partner (you will be assigned a leader to pray for, for the year) or a snack donator (as specified in monthly Awana updates/calendars). Contact Heather Larson.

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND STUDY

The men's breakfast and Bible study will start again on Saturday, September 20. The breakfast, prepared by five-star chefs Rob Ferguson and Steve Larson, will begin at 7:30 a.m. (giving men an additional 15 minutes to sleep in this year). The study itself will start at about 8:00 a.m. & end no later than 9:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity to connect with other men in the church, enjoy good food & fellowship, and dig into God's Word. All men of the church are invited.