

The BRIDGE

SEPTEMBER 2013



Rally Sunday will be here on Sunday, September 15th! We hope you and your family come and join the FECC family as we “kick-off” another year of activities and classes.

The schedule for that morning:

- 9:00 a.m.—Breakfast served by our youth group. Both regular and Swedish pancakes are on the menu. *Special donation collection during breakfast to help with Chancel Renovation and Lift expenses. See Stewardship Corner on page 2.*
 - Following Breakfast—Meet your Sunday School teachers. Children will go to their classrooms for a few minutes; teachers for the adults will review their classes. (first actual day of Sunday School will be the following week, Sept. 22nd)
 - 10:30 a.m.—Worship service begins at the new time. Midwest Conference Supt. Tammy Swanson-Draheim will be our guest as she helps with the Installation Service of our new pastor, Evan Westburg.
 - Following Worship—reception in honor of Pastor Evan. Cake and light refreshments will be served.
- Plus, the new FECC PHOTO DIRECTORIES will be available on Rally Day! There will be a small charge of \$5.00 per book to help cover printing costs.

Sunday School classes are set to begin meeting on Sunday, September 22nd. Besides the children and youth classes, there will be adult classes as well:

- ⇒ Library Class led by Bob Reier. Titled “Heads-Up on Today’s Sermon”: have you ever been listening intently to a sermon and felt the urge to raise your hand and say something like, “I didn’t get that. Would you explain it more please?” Or stand up and say, “I’m not sure that’s what I believe, can we discuss it?” Well, this class will give you that opportunity. We’ll be studying and sharing insights from the same scripture on which the morning message is based. We’ll see if we come up with the same thoughts that we hear in the morning’s sermon from Pastor Evan. In the past, that has been a rare occurrence!
- ⇒ Missions Class led by Brian Carlson. We will be studying missions, both at home and overseas. We will also use the Covenant prayer calendar to learn more about the missionaries currently serving with the Covenant, plus there will be time to learn about missionaries with connections to FECC. Rose Allinder, missionary with the Rafiki organization in Africa, will be sharing with this class on Sept. 22nd.
- ⇒ Body Builders, a membership class, led by Pastor Evan. This is a class for those who would like to become members of FECC, or (re)member. We will look at the history, beliefs, and ministry goals of FECC. This four-week class will be held at different times of the year (first class to begin Sept. 22nd; second class will start on Jan. 12th; future times TBD).
- ⇒ Convert: From Adam to Christ led by Ben Pratt. Convert examines the subject of conversion in its Biblical context. Convert shows how everything we lost in Adam we gain in Christ. It is God’s job to convert the soul. In this book you will understand how and why He does it. Convert is an invaluable tool for anyone seeking to gain a better understanding of the mysteries of conversion. There WILL be a study guide! Meets in the Chapel. If you are interested, please speak to Ben or call the church office so that we can order books.





Wednesday Night Activities are set to start up on Wed., Sept. 18th.

5:45—6:15 pm: Wednesday Night Suppers*

6:16—7:30 pm: Camps Seedling** (2 yrs old thru preK), Pinecone** (Kdg thru 2nd gd), and Evergreen (3rd thru 5th gd); Confirmation; Bible Chicks

6:30—7:30 pm: Chancel Choir+

7:30—8:30 pm: Adult Handbells

[note: Youth Handbells will resume at a future date TBD]

* **Wednesday Night Suppers** will continue this school year, thanks to co-leaders Shauna Randall and Stephanie Mattison. Cost: freewill donations that will go towards the Mission of the Week. If anyone would like to be on the cooking rotation, bring a dessert, or help serve, please let Shauna (402-477-0070) or Stephanie (402-440-4830) know ASAP.

** **Camps Seedling and Pinecone** are being headed up this year by Stephanie Mattison and Susie Carlson. They are looking for adults to help out on a rotating basis. Please contact Stephanie at the above number, or Susie (402-464-5218) if you would be interested in helping.

+**Attention Chancel Choir members:** Mark your calendars for the following Wassail rehearsal dates:

- Wed., Oct. 23
- Wed., Nov. 6
- Wed., Nov. 20
- Wed., Dec. 4
- Sat., Dec. 7, 9:00 am-noon

Wassail is on Sunday, Dec. 8th @ 6pm

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Lift and Chancel Renovation Capital Campaign

As of this writing we have \$24,551.10 towards the \$102,000 projects. The more funds we have on hand, the less we will need to borrow. Things are well underway for the chancel renovation and we would like to put off borrowing as long as we can!

We will have a special donation collection on Rally Day, Sept. 15, during breakfast.

What is God calling you to do? Please pray, consider your budget, and donate to the projects. No amount is too small! If every family gives a little, it can add up very quickly. [Please mark your donation "chancel" or "lift/elevator", etc.]



Luke 14:28-30

²⁸ Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.





Children's Worship will be offered during the morning worship service for children ages 3½ through 2nd grade, beginning September 8th. This fall we will hear many of the Old Testament stories that show us who God is and who we are as the people of God.

What happens in Children's Worship? Children are dismissed from the sanctuary at the time noted in the bulletin, and Children's Worship leaders will bring them to our worship center in Room 118.

We will follow certain rituals which correspond to a familiar order of worship:

- As we **gather together** we greet one another, talk to God through singing and prayer, and get ready to listen to God.
- We will **hear God's word** in Bible stories as they are presented using wooden figures that the children can see and move about. Children are then able to respond to the stories by continuing to work with the story materials and through art or creative play. We will also hear the story read from the Bible.
- Then we **give thanks to God** through prayer and celebration of a "feast" (typically crackers or fruit), which helps us to learn about the Lord's Supper and fellowship.
- Finally, we **go in God's name** since we know that God is always with us and that he will help us to serve others. Children are dismissed with a parting blessing.

Parents should return to Room 118 promptly at the end of the service to pick up their children. Feel free to contact Alicia Admiraal (402-476-6230) if you have any questions, or if you would like to help with this ministry.



COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

1. New Secretary needed: Loraine Carlson has resigned as our secretary for CWM. We will miss her as a part of our board, and want to thank her for her time and efforts toward our group. If any FECC woman would be interested in this important position, please speak with one of the current CWM board members.
2. CWM Fall Retreat: Lisa Weeks will be the speaker at our Fall Retreat on Sept. 27-28 at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp. Registration forms that include all necessary information are out on the parlor table and are due by Sept. 10th. Grab one, fill it out and send it in—looking forward to seeing you there!
3. "Field Trip" to Little Scandinavia Store: We are planning a fun trip to the Little Scandinavia Store in Elkhorn, NE on Sat., Oct. 19th. We will meet at church first and then carpool or take the church van. This would be a great opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping to get something different or to enhance our heritage. More details coming later.
4. Labels, Labels: In May, we were able to take over 1,000 soup label points and 400+ box top coupons to Eastridge Elementary School. They were very pleased to receive them and plan to use them to help purchase equipment that the school would like to have. Please continue to save these labels and box tops, and we will again in the future pass them on to one of our schools.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP. If anyone ever has any questions regarding CWM, please contact Charlotte Custer at 402-423-4405.





Think about this: A “Worldly Christian” is one who accepts the basic message of salvation, but whose lifestyle, priorities, and concerns are self-centered. A “World Christian” breaks the mold of self-centeredness and realizes that Jesus calls us to deny ourselves (Luke 9:23) so that we might respond to a world of greater need. (Borthwick, “A Mind for

Missions”)

Mission of the Month: **Covenant Cedars Bible Camp.** If you haven’t visited our denomination’s Nebraska retreat center, we hope you have heard about it. Yes, we held a great Family Camp weekend in August, but listen to the impact on youth:

- ◆ In 2013, 606 youth (1st-12th grade) attended camp
- ◆ 23 made a decision to accept Christ as their personal savior
- ◆ 214 rededicated their lives to Him
- ◆ 10 high school students feel the call to ministry as a pastor, youth pastor, or missionary

What a great testimony to the effectiveness of Covenant Cedars, through the work of the Holy Spirit! [Your Missions Money at work: for several years, the Missions Ministry has supported Covenant Cedars with an annual gift of \$1,500.]

Missions Sunday School Class: As described on page one, Brian Carlson will be leading a study of missions—both studying the biblical command and learning about people who are responding to that command today. As a great start, on September 22, Rose Allinder will be with us. Rose is a former member of our congregation, who has lived in Africa for 11 years, serving on the staff of the Rafiki organization. Join us!



125th Church Anniversary

The Evangelical Covenant Church in Wakefield, NE will be celebrating their 125th anniversary during the weekend of October 11-13, 2013. We are invited to join in on their celebration:

- ⇒ Fri., Oct. 11—7 pm: Homemade Ice Cream Social + history slide show + brown hymnal sing
- ⇒ Sat., Oct. 12—9-11 am: Fellowship Time with rolls and coffee
- ⇒ Sat., Oct. 12—5 pm: Fellowship Time with punch and peanuts
- ⇒ Sat., Oct. 12—6 pm: Catered Banquet
- ⇒ Sat., Oct. 12—7 pm: Anniversary Celebration Worship Service, with guest speaker and former pastor, Chuck Wahlstrom + recognition of descendants of charter members and 50 yr members
- ⇒ Sun., Oct. 13—10:45 am: Anniversary Celebration Worship Service, with guest speaker Midwest Supt. Tammy Swanson-Draheim
- ⇒ Sun., Oct. 13—noon: Soup Luncheon

More information, plus lodging details, are available by contacting their church office at 402-287-2692, or checking their website at www.wakecov.org. RSVPs are appreciated!

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: The seventh annual Lincoln Christian College Fair will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 1st, at Lincoln Christian High School (84th & Old Cheney) from 6:00-8:00 pm. This is a wonderful time for students and parents to see some of the great possibilities of Christian colleges available here in the Midwest.

To find out which colleges will be represented at this Fair, check the bulletin board out in the church parlor.





LADIES BIBLE STUDY: All FECC ladies and their friends are invited to join the Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study, which resumes on Tues., Sept. 10th, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. We will continue to work on a Beth Moore study that we began last year: "Life and Ministry of Paul—To Live As Christ". Contact Janice Westburg with any questions (402-489-9105).

FUTURE MISSIONARY: "I am beyond excited to announce that I have been accepted to be part of Experience Mission's 6 month Africa Immersion trip!!! Beginning in January I will be taking a semester off school to join a small team of young adults to spend time living with and serving alongside people in communities in South Africa, Mozambique, and Lesotho. During the six month term we will live with host families and working with local community leaders to take part in projects that tackle real social, physical and spiritual needs, such as HIV/AIDS awareness, water sanitation projects, education, agriculture and more. While there we will also be learning more about our faith and what it means to live our mission, to live in and learn from new cultures, and how to empower and partner with people to carry out their visions for their communities.



I have been waiting and praying for an opportunity like this for many years and am so excited that it is becoming a reality. Your support along this journey is going to be invaluable, as I know it will be very challenging. Please keep me, the rest of the Immersion team, and the people with whom we will be living and serving in your prayers. Thanks, Ashley Carlson"

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| 1st—Dick Nelson | 7th—Beth Staswick | 20th—Catherine Masterson |
| 4th—Everett Gutzmer | 8th—Audrey Rousek | 22nd—Karis Ahlberg |
| 4th—Irene Malzer | 10th—Eugene Anderson | 22nd—Marie Shattuck |
| 4th—Madison Weber | 13th—Megan Haas | 23rd—Julie Brown |
| 5th—Oswald Flynn | 16th—Robin Byers | 24th—Evan Kottmeyer |
| 5th—Chris Scott | 17th—Emily Johnson | 30th—Donovan Murphy |
| 7th—Marilyn Carlson | 20th—Brian Carlson | 30th—Don Stenberg |

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- SEPT. GREETERS**
Lewis & Marianne Ostrand
Jared & Tiffany Wadell
- SEPT. USHERS**
Gary Bredensteiner
Bob Timme
- SEPT. YOUTH USHERS**
Joel Ebers
Everett Gutzmer

SEPTEMBER NURSERY SCHEDULE: TBA

Financial Update (as of 8/30/13):

General Fund:		Building Fund:	
Beginning Bal.	\$ 31,115.09	Beginning Bal.	\$ 23,462.19
Receipts	114,067.76	Receipts	44,012.62
Expenses	- 116,042.56	Expenses	- 43,680.00
Ending Balance	\$ + 29,140.29	Ending Balance	\$ + 23,794.81

