



Covenant News

October 2026

A Future Worth Hoping For

As we look toward our future as a congregation, scripture gives us something more than a plan- it gives us a vision. In Revelation 21, John describes a new heaven and a new earth. The sea, an ancient symbol of chaos and separation, is no more. A holy city comes down from God, and a voice declares that God's home is now among mortals, dwelling with them as their God. Every tear will be wiped away. Death, mourning, crying, and pain will be no more, for the old order of things will have passed away. God declares, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSVue).

It's worth sitting with how different this vision is from anything we'd come up with on our own. It isn't a slightly improved version of the world we already know: a few things fixed, a little more comfort added. It's something genuinely new, built on a promise rather than a plan. It might seem a little scary or strange, but that is good news for a congregation standing at a threshold. We don't yet know every detail of what lies ahead for our church. But our hope was never meant to rest on having every answer in hand. It rests on the One who makes all things new, the One who has done it before, in empty tombs and dry bones and exiled people finding their way home, and who promises to do it again.

As we enter this season of discernment together, through the conversations ahead, the questions we're still asking, and the decisions still to come, we hold onto that same hope. Whatever comes next isn't something to fear. It's something God is already making new in our midst.



Mark your calendar: a congregational meeting will be held October 25, right after worship. In early September the Bishop's office met with our joint councils to discuss options for our future as a church; at this meeting we will share and begin discussions about planning our next steps. All are welcome to attend.

Prayer Group Serves Beyond Our Walls

In September, our prayer group explored an old idea: that prayer and work aren't separate things. It's a practice going back to monastic traditions, where monks prayed while they labored, treating the work itself as a form of prayer. We put that into practice by assembling water filters donated by Thrivent, bound for communities in Venezuela. We kept our hands busy with a task while our hearts were turned toward both the people we were serving and the God we were serving them for.



Our prayer group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6 PM, exploring a variety of prayer practices. All are welcome.



An early reminder to be sure to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, October 31!

Any Given Table: The First Gathering

On September 17th, Church of the Covenant and Church of the Master



gathered together for something new. We spent some time cooking a stew and making bread, followed by Pastor Andrea leading a simple time of worship and communion grounded in the early church of Acts 2. The bread on the table that night was the same bread made earlier in the evening— a small detail that said a lot. Good food, good company, and a meal that became worship without missing a beat. We're already looking

forward to the next one— plan to be there!

FREE community MEAL

Our next FREE community meal is Thursday, October 23 (5-6pm)! We invite you to come in through the back door into our fellowship hall and have a seat, as we serve you and our neighbors a FREE meal. However, if you don't need this yourself, please help us let others know of this wonderful opportunity to not only have some food, but conversations with our neighbors.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/1 Jane Schuetz
10/6 Elaine Knerem
10/7 Marquise Lane
10/17 Katie Garberich
10/24 Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
10/26 Steve Dobush
10/31 Abraham Allende
10/31 Ryan Spychola



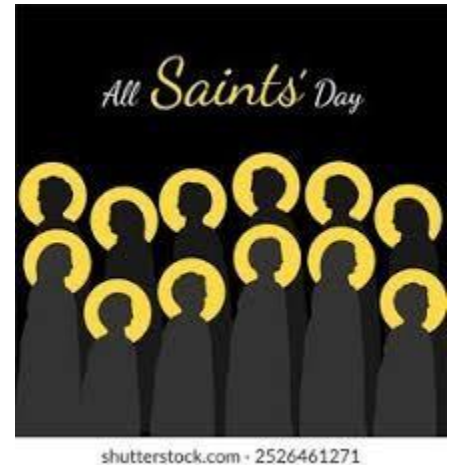
*10/10 Donna & Steve Kobella
Happy 45th Anniversary!*

*10/12 Steve Dobush & Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Happy 30th Anniversary!*

*10/18 Marie & Bert Zahn
Happy 57th Anniversary!*

*10/22 Madeline & Dick Ptak
Happy 65th Anniversary!*

On Sunday, November 1 , we give thanks for the lives of saints who have gone before us, who continue to shape us to this day. We also hear God's precious reminder that we too are saints, called out from baptismal waters to serve as the living disciples of our Risen Lord!



THANK YOU!!

Barb and Charlotte would like to thank everyone who brought in items for our annual rummage sale.

A SPECIAL Thank You goes out to all who helped set up, sell, and clear the hall after the sale. It was a really good sale, \$1420.00 and more coming.

Better than last year.

Vince Besednjak

Vanessa Petrakos

Chuck Gaglione

Karen and Ray Zack

Lynn Fridley

Paula Hoenstein

Joan Garvin

Annie Copeland

Mark Gabor

Arlene Lasher

Emily Gaberich

Marie Zahn

Jane Skrowonski

Lutheran Church of the Covenant Council

Meeting Minutes for Tues, Aug 18. 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:12pm by President Ted Lockmiller

Present: Vince Besednjak, Mike Davis, Jennier Lasher-Dobush, Ted Lockmiller, Gwen Susanek, Charlotte Zaranka

Absent: Pastor Andrea, MaryKaye Bernardo

Devotions and prayer: Ted - "Hebrews 4, Chapter 16". Gods throne of grace and love. Everyone can talk to God "anytime".

Council Business: Minutes were approved/amended for meeting Tues, June 16, 2026. Approved by Jen, seconded by Gwen.

Pastor's report – absent – written report – Joint Worship on August 30th at Master along with Covenant and Cornerstone. Next joint worship is scheduled for Dec 6, 2026 and Bishop Barbins has been invited to attend. Jen has been working with Evoke regarding our digital presence/social media. Thurs, Sept 17 we will be having a bible cooking class and dinner church here from 5:30-7:30. Sun, Sept 27, 2026 we have been invited to provide a Sunday meal for students at Case Western, from 6:00-7:30pm. Changed to Sun, Oct 4th. Judy from Master thought we should do a stewardship campaign in the Fall. What we do will depend on where we are at and what our goals are. Will have to discuss more.

Treasurers Report: Mike – no report - All utilities are paid and current. Only the high Visa bill is still outstanding with a finance charge each month. A plan was set up for real estate taxes. Auto-deduct monthly on 1 parcel of land. The church is the main parcel. The double driveway was supposed to be Oakwood Ave to Libby years ago but never happened. Financially still on shaky ground but getting better.

BOARDS: Finance – Gwen - No written report - \$700 from the Christmas in July program.

Social Ministry – MaryKaye – absent for now. Taking a leave. Pastor and Chuck will do the community meal for now. Education: Position is vacant for now.

Worship and Music – Jen – No written report – Blossom Music Center is Sun, Sept 6 to hear the Cleveland Orchestra. 12 are attending.

Manager's Report – Vince – long written report. See info in the office.

Old Business: July shed amt was \$220.28. Jan thru July 2026, \$775.89 total.
April-July 2025 shed amt was \$305.58 April-July 2026 shed \$705.69. Made \$400 more this year in same time period. Rummage Sale is Thurs, Sept 10 and Fri, Sept 11 from 10:00 – 3:00/4:00. Sat, Sept 12, 10:00 to 1:00 approx. Donations can be brought in Mon, Aug 17 to Thurs Sept 12. Please put items on the stage in the hall.

New Business: Executive session called. No notes taken. Motion made by Jen, second by Vince.

Next Council Meeting: Sept 15, 2026 at 7:15pm.

Devotions: Ted

Meeting adjourned: 8:45pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Charlotte Zaranka

Council Secretary

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