

# The Spotlight

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November 2011

## Give Thanks

November turns our thoughts toward the coming Minnesota winter, Christmas and Thanksgiving. I would have listed Thanksgiving first but the thought of winter is on many peoples' minds and it seems like the advertising for Christmas gets earlier and earlier each year. However, November and Thanksgiving really do go together.

Thanksgiving is my family's favorite holiday perhaps because it was a big deal while we were growing up in Indiana and because we have always tried to make it special throughout our married life. Now that our children are grown and two of them married with their own families, it's harder to keep some traditions alive. This is the first year we won't have all of our little chicklets at home. (These Minnesota winters do get in the way sometimes.)

Though it will be just a tad sad not to have the girls, their husbands and children with us, Andy will keep us entertained. But aside from that tinge of sadness we are incredibly thankful for our children and grandchildren AND a mother, grandmother and wife who is still around to bless our home.

It is interesting that many/most/some of us are grateful for the things we have in life but never really take the time to express our gratitude or to even ponder how 'lucky' we are to

have the family and stuff that we do have until we are confronted with just how fragile life can be. As I write this column our oldest daughter, Amy, has just given birth to her firstborn. Melinda has just taken off from Minneapolis to fly out to Delaware to be with her. I'm sitting here thanking the Lord that Melinda has reached another one of her goals when we didn't know how much time she had left here on earth.

The past six months have been a blur for me and Melinda and I know they have been for some of you also. It seems like our smallish congregation has had its share of troubles, illnesses, disappointments and discouragement this year, but there have been some tremendous stories of faith, strength, triumph and encouragement because of it. There are lots of things for which we can be thankful.

We'll have an opportunity to express that thanks on November 20<sup>th</sup> when we have our annual Thanksgiving service. This is a Sunday night at 5 PM. Come ready to share your gratitude and tell of your "one step" successes or adventures. Come ready to give thanks to our God for his greatness and goodness.

Giving thanks with a grateful heart for all that God has done.

Pastor Mark

# Search Committee Formed

On Wednesday, October 18th, the first meeting of the Search Committee was held. The committee was formed at the meeting of the congregation that voted to search for an additional staff person to work with youth and families, and the members are Dave Byer, Dave Danielson, Brian Gillis, Mike Gustafson, Danielle Hanson, Jerry Huebner, Glory Lucas, Zech Novinger, Daphne Roberts, Greg Stewart, and Pastor Mark, ex officio.

The order of business is to refine the job description, list the job opening with the Northwest Conference and the denomination, gather names of potential

candidates, interview them, and finally arrive at a candidate to present to the Elders and the congregation. This process will be worthless without the most important item - prayer. The committee members have consecrated themselves to prayer and periodic fasting in order to elevate the process to one that is not merely a job search but also an act of obedience and worship. We urge you, the congregation, to also pray continuously for the committee members, the process, and most importantly, the candidate who will potentially join us in our walk with the Lord here at SRCC.

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## Thank you Notes

Dear Friends,

*Thank you so much for the generous outpouring of love and support you have shown for us in these past 6 months. The cards and notes, meals, rides, housework, and other ways you have shown your care have been so important in helping us manage these uncertain times. We couldn't have done this far without you. We are thankful to God for his healing and protection and thankful to each of you for standing with us during this time of need.*

*God bless you all,*

Melinda and Mark

Dear Salem Road Family,

*The Hokanson Family wishes to thank you for your many expressions of love and care for us during the home-going of my dad. We appreciated the cards, food, memorial gifts and beautiful plant given to us in his memory. Dad lived a long and blessed life. We will treasure his memory. May God bless you all.*

*Love in Christ,*

Gene & Margaret

Both these notes are posted on the bulletin board.

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## Dates for Your Calendar

**December 25:** 9:30 AM Christmas Worship Service (There will be no Christmas Eve Service this year.)

**January 1:** 8:50 AM First Sunday Fika  
9:30 AM Worship  
11 AM All Church Prayer

**January 2:** 4:30 - 8:00 PM CHIC Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch in Stewartville  
All tips and 10% of all sales will go to support CHIC students who will be bussing tables that evening.

# Giving Opportunities - Thanks for your help!

## KICY 100% Dollar Sunday

On November 6, we have the opportunity to help our Covenant Radio station in Nome, Alaska to stay on the air with our donations. They are asking everyone attending a Covenant church to donate one dollar. This is a huge help with rising operating and energy costs.

## Operation Christmas Child

Remember to return your filled box to church on November 13 as they will be dedicated that Sunday and brought to the local collection center that week. Pray for the child who will receive your box and that he/she may be receptive to the gospel message.

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Another opportunity we have to help those in need is by ringing the bell for Salvation Army. This has become a tradition for SRCC and we have the same date and place. It's Saturday, November 19 from 10:00 - 4:00 at TJ Maxx Plaza. We are fortunate to have an indoor spot. So sign up for the hour of your choice.

## Covenant World Relief

CWR is the humanitarian aid ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church. They help with disaster relief and community development among the most vulnerable. Loving, serving, working together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized is the mission. CWR works with Covenanters and other partners around the world to respond to the needs of those who suffer from extreme poverty, hunger, disease, and injustice. They work in many areas including disas-

ter response, education, agriculture, nutrition, women's empowerment, clean water, health, justice and advocacy.

Ongoing projects are taking place in Haiti, Japan (earthquake and tsunami relief), and other places. New projects include clean water in Ethiopia and Kenya, micro-finance in Mexico, women's empowerment in South Africa and Colombia. Pick up a flyer in the hall to see the projects and where they are taking place.

Offerings for CWR can be given any Sunday in November or at our Thanksgiving service on November 20. Make checks out to SRCC designating CWR on the memo line. Thanks for your support.

## Elder Network Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for four programs. **Peer Support** volunteers are at least 55 years who undergo training to make weekly home visits to support older adults through the changes, adjustments and stresses that accompany later life. Transportation volunteers help seniors who cannot drive make it to their medical appointments. They can control the amount of time they participate in the program. Friendly Visitor volunteers generally spend one or two hours a week visiting with a senior who has limited social contacts and is often eager for someone to talk to or to listen to. Respite Care volunteers provide companionship to an elderly person, allowing that person's caregiver time to attend a support group, grocery shop, relax, run needed errands, or just take a break from the duties of care giving. For more information or to volunteer, call Elder Network at 285-5272.

## Youth Events

November 9 & 30: 7-8:30 PM  
Middle & High School Youth Group

November 11: 5:30 - 8:30 PM  
Middle School Dinner & Movie at the Roberts  
home in Dodge Center

November 11: 8 PM -9 AM  
High School Lock-In at Rochester Covenant

November 24: 9 AM  
Annual Turkey Bowl - This friendly football  
game is for youth, parents, siblings, and  
friends. Anyone who wants to play is  
welcome!

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## Christmas Dinner

Once again we will be having our  
Christmas Dinner on Sunday evening,  
December 4th at Ironwood Springs Christian  
Ranch, 7291 Co. Rd. 6 SW, Stewartville.  
Doors of the Founders Lodge and Dining  
Room will open at 5 PM. Please come  
dressed appropriately for a hayride...and  
bring a blanket or two to share! Appetizers  
and a warm beverage will be ready when  
you arrive.

Dinner will be served around 6:15 after  
everyone has warmed-up following the hay  
ride. After dinner we will have some fun  
and games, then be serenaded by the  
radiant voice of Mark Smeby. Tickets for  
this adult-only event cost \$15 and go on  
sale after church services Oct. 30-Nov.20.  
Carpooling with our seniors would be  
greatly appreciated! Please come and  
enjoy warm fellowship, wonderful food,  
and whole-hearted fun. Blessings to you  
and yours during this holiday season.



- 5 - Kohl Hanson
- 5 - Luke Ouverson
- 6 - Seth Boyum
- 7 - Sadie Iott
- 8 - Melinda Evinger
- 9 - Glory Lucas
- 10 - Ella Ouverson
- 14 - Jeanette Lorang
- 14 - Shawn Hanson
- 15 - Yana Zhong
- 19 - Mike Gustafson
- 24 - Tom Reinhart
- 25 - Steve Lewis
- 26 - Doug Zerbe
- 26 - Brian Gillis
- 28 - Marge Pratten
- 28 - Shirley Heikes
- 28 - Randy Reimer

### November Anniversaries

- 3 - Jim & Leone Svelmoe

### Greeters

- 6 - Bredeson
- 13 - Roberts
- 20 - Naatz
- 27 - Bjaastad

### Set-Up

- Danielson
- Capps
- Edmonson
- Gustafson

### Births

Vianna Grace born on October 26  
Parents: Jesse & Amy Spampinato  
Grandparents: Mark & Melinda

### Deaths

Gene Hokanson's father, Joe Hokanson  
died on October 11.



## Movie Night

All ages are invited to the "*Fall Back*"  
*Movie Night* on Saturday, November 5th.

Showing for the adults and teens will be "Soul Surfer" in the Fireside Room and the children will be entertained by a medley of Veggie Tales Movies in the Youth Building! Doors open at 6 PM so that movie-goers can pick up their popcorn and sodas and get settled to see the movies beginning at 6:30 PM. The evening ends at 8:30 PM. Please come and enjoy the show!

Then when you get home, remember to turn your clocks back an hour.