



Pass It On

January, 2018

Dawson Covenant Church

2756 130th St.
Dawson, Minnesota 56232-0370
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www.dawsoncovenantchurch.org

Annual Letter from Pastor Erik Carlson

To my Dear Brothers and Sisters at Dawson Covenant Church,

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:58

As another calendar year comes to a close I am reminded once again of God's faithfulness. As we continue to follow God's leading into mission and ministry I am amazed at God's provision. We have had nearly one year with full use of the addition and it has been so encouraging to see its various uses for ministry and in the life of the church family and community. God has continued to draw us together as a community of believers and has added to our numbers. I see a body of believers that are continuing to grow deeper in love and in maturity as disciples and thank God for it daily.

There are currently ten students in their second year of confirmation. I officiated at one funeral for Daniel Fondell. I officiated three weddings: Dannika and William Kamrath, Andrew and Amanda Thole, and Benjamin and Dallas Kamrath.

I have visited with many of you at your homes, at church, the hospital and parsonage. I have ministered to some of you in times of sickness and grief. In addition to the ministry of the Sunday service itself, I have had the opportunity to teach Inquirers class, Confirmation, Sunday school and youth group events.

Carlson annual letter continued on page 5...

Lucia Potluck & Christmas Hymn-Sing

A Lucia-inspired potluck meal was held on December 20. Many delicious Swedish specialties were served along with other traditional family favorites. Following the meal the adults joined together for a Christmas hymn-sing with Brandon Ulstad accompanying on the piano. The kids participated in their usual Wednesday night Pioneer Kids and Hi-League activities. The Hi-Leaguers even had a white-elephant gift exchange that sounded pretty fun!

Thanks to Ashley Tensen and Jenna Tolbert along with Liam for dressing as the traditional Lucia Queens and Star Boy.



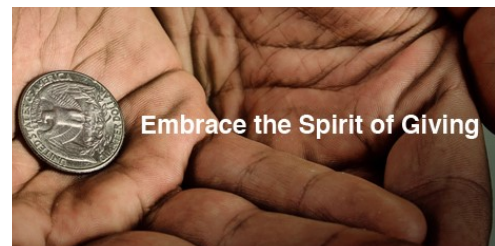
"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"
SAYS THE LORD.

"THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD
AND NOT FOR DISASTER,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."

JEREMIAH 29:11

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Dawson Covenant Church will be held on Wednesday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All members are encouraged to attend.



Online giving is available through our website and is a powerful way to faithfully give in a consistent manner. Visit the church website at www.dawsoncovenantchurch.org to learn more or to sign-up.

Food for Kidz

Dawson Covenant Church will be partnering with area churches, businesses and community members to host the second annual Food for Kidz meal packing event at DCC on January 17 from 2:00-8:00 p.m. You are invited to come work at the event anytime during those hours. Our community goal is to pack 50,000 meals. Our church's goal is to raise \$2,000 by January 17 to support this ministry. Please mark your donation as Food for Kidz. Please prayerfully consider taking part in this ministry event through prayer, financial donations and packing meals.



Grace Christian Outreach Ministries



Our mission of the month for January is Grace Christian Outreach Ministries. GCOM is the ministry of Kevin and Sylvia Rosendahl shown in the photo above with their son, Joshua. Kevin ministers to many areas in Mexico and all over the world. The primary areas that are targeted are those remote areas in Mexico where there are hundreds of villages without any Christian churches to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. Most of the people living in these areas have never heard the Gospel. Please pray for God to move in each of these villages and the whole unreached part of Mexico. Check out the Missions table for updated newsletters and photos from GCOM. We will be collecting a special offering throughout the month of January in support of the Rosendahls.

QUILTING GROUP

You are always welcome to join the Covenant Quilters! We will meet on Monday, January 8 and 22 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. A light lunch will be provided. Come and go as you are able. Beginners are always welcome!



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

We received an update that the shoeboxes collected from Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin will be going to countries in Africa, Trinidad, and Tobago and to some Native American Reservations. Please keep these locations in prayer that they will receive the good news of Jesus Christ!



Lagrace, Covenant Kids Congo

Donations collected during our Sunday morning fellowship time are used to sponsor Lagrace, a young girl who lives in the DR Congo. This sponsorship is possible through World Vision and Covenant Kids Congo. Our church receives updates, photos and drawings from Lagrace which are posted on the bulletin board near the mailboxes. Please keep Lagrace and all the kids of DR Congo in prayer, and check out the bulletin board for more information.

Annual Letter from Phil Tolbert, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

To the dear and faithful brother and sisters of Dawson Covenant Church:

How crazy is it that another year has gone by from us! It just seems like yesterday that Jenna and I were coming up to visit for the first time. It has been a year of transition within my life and household. After the early (yet grateful) arrival of Liam last November, we began living the life of parents day-in and day-out come January. In July we discovered that we would be blessed by another boy come April of 2018. Through lots of prayer we also moved to the parsonage of Providence Valley Lutheran Church in September, which gave us a sense of peace (and more space that we needed!)

This past spring, by request of my PRC's recommendation, I began the process of planning for Seminary and eventually starting this fall, where I took two classes on-line through NorthPark Theological Seminary; boy was it a little more difficult than I expected, but I believe the knowledge I gained will assist me within my ministry. Also this fall I was able to go through the licensing process through the ECC, requiring me to write papers based on my personal thoughts of theological topics and if they complied with the ECC's. In November I obtained my ministers license making me a "pastor" by title. Both of these opportunities would not have been possible if not for the countless prayer and financial support the church has presented me. I know that I am able to get through even the toughest times educationally knowing how much support is behind me.

Our Hi League continued meeting every week in partnership with Calvary Baptist Church in Madison. During the spring semester, every other week our 7-12th graders met either at DCC or the PowerHouse, which is owned by CBC in Madison. We had averaged between 10-20 kids during the school year on those Wednesday nights. This Fall we agreed with Calvary that Hi League would meet every Wednesday again, but only the first at PowerHouse and the other three at DCC. Our attendance has soared to average 25-30 7th-12th graders (much from our 7th graders that moved up) but have begun to see our kids bring their friends as well. I continue to teach every week, but have been bringing in special guests the last Wednesday of the month to give testimonies to the kids. Since we have gone to an "all church" mentality for Wednesday nights, our parents, and other adults, have continued to prepare a meal every week, leaving me with only having to prepare the beverages!

Throughout the year we have been able to go out together and do some fun events. Whether it was bowling, a mini lock-in, concerts or just a time with games/social at the church, our youth have been able to spend time with others who carry the same belief structure. The High Leaguers were even able to help raise money for CHIC during the Lenten season. I also included them in our annual Christmas program to assist with singing and reading.



Pioneer Kids (K-6) had been meeting on the nights when High League was at Dawson Covenant in the spring. This fall we decided to make Pioneer Kids an every week occasion with great results. (It's crazy that just two years ago Pastor Erik brought back this with kids only meeting once a month). With the help of dedicated volunteers, these kids are able to learn the foundation of the Bible during this time. We have seen a little drop off of these kids, mostly resulting from so many moving up to Hi League this August. There are new faces I see every couple of weeks, so it's good to see kids bringing a friend with them. Partnering with Christian Education and the Worship committee we have created a "Children's Choir" that learns and sings a song on the third Sunday of every month. The kids were hesitant at first, but have become more and more comfortable since then.

PIONEER KIDS

Pioneer Kids for kids in grades K-6. We meet every Wednesday night. The entire congregation is invited to supper at 6:00 p.m. and after supper we will divide up into our smaller groups by ages.

HI-LEAGUE

Hi-League is for kids in grades 7-12. Hi-League meets at DCC every Wednesday for supper at 6:00 p.m. On the first Wednesday of the month we will bus up to the Powerhouse in Madison for our games/lesson. You need to let Phil know if you need a ride to/from (Madison kids, if you would be able to grab a ride home from a parent that would be easiest). Our hope is to drop off kids at DBHS around 8:15-8:30 those nights. Talk with Phil about rides and arrangements. On the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month we stay at DCC for the evening until activities wrap up around 7:30 p.m.

Tolbert Annual Letter continued from page 3....

This past December we completed our annual Children's Christmas Program where our kids were able to sing/act/read the story of Jesus' birth. Over the summer, to stay connected with the kids, we did a Pioneer Movie Night, where we got together and watched a movie on the big screen in the Youth Room.

Erik and I continued Early Release once again at Dawson-Boyd Stevens Elementary on Wednesdays for the 1-6. We currently split them up, Erik taking the younger kids, and I the older ones. We average around 20 for our total.

We continued our Sunday School curriculum from last year for the younger youth. After a year of learning the curriculum, and the move to their new room, the kids have enjoyed hearing a story and learning how to apply it with the help of our volunteers. I began teaching the Hi League kids not in Confirmation for Sunday School. We do a more 'discussion/question/answer' model of learning in the classroom.

Fixer Upper (our VBS) was a huge success in getting the kids to learn more about God. We were able to interact with the lesson at hand and discover more about how to build up a steady foundation on God.

In August of 2016 we took a couple of kids to MUUCE in the cities. This past August we had eight kids attend the event! We hope that this is something we can continue to get our youth interested in.

Camp season was a major success as well! I was able to drive up our junior high group (about 14 total) and be the counselor for our boys that week. I loved being back in the camp ministry mode, and enjoyed building relationships with the leaders of Lake Beauty.

I cannot begin to tell you of the gratitude in my heart consistently since Jenna and I took the call to join Dawson Covenant 22 months ago. From the moment we arrived, there has been nothing but an outcry of support and servant-heartedness from everybody. I see it in the close relationships I have made with both the kids and their families, and also those without children here. It was apparent when we were in the hospital with Liam, and so much so after he came. That child will never have too many "grandparents." As I mentioned previously, the gifts/scholarships for continuing my education was unexpected, but greatly appreciated.

I realize that bringing somebody new into a situation can be rough and have "growing pains." If I have hurt you in anything I've said or done since my arrival, know that I seek your forgiveness. My door is always open at the church so please feel free to voice any concerns that you may have with myself or the direction I am taking our youth. I apologize for not always being around or having the correct things to say at times. Thank you for your complete understanding with where I am coming from.

So, with that, 2017 was a year of transition, not just in my life, but also that of the congregation's. Thank you for trusting me with your kids, grandkids, nieces/nephews...our future. I continually pray that the Lord will open up so many different avenues for our youth to grow closer to Him. We can all agree that the world is a scary place, but if we allow our youth to build a foundation on Christ, they can endure anything that may come at them once they leave us.

Faithfully Serving, Phil Tolbert

Sunday School Christmas Program 2017



Carlson annual letter continued from Page 1...

As a part of the Dawson-Boyd ministerium, I have had the privilege of doing services at the care center. This past year I was able to attend the Mid-Winter conference of the Covenant, and the Annual Meeting of the Northwest conference as a delegate for this church. These conferences are always a fruitful time of continuing education for me, and I enjoy connecting with the broader Evangelical Covenant Church. I've continued my work as Hospice Chaplain in the area for Rice Hospice. This year I was also accepted to the Rural Minnesota Fellows program for pastors at the Collegeville Institute located at St. Johns University. This is a great opportunity for continuing education I will participate in over the next year and a half.

This May will mark 8 years since Lauren, Gregory, and I moved to Dawson. Time has gone by so quickly, it hardly feels like we have been here that long. I want to thank the church again for the many ways you have loved and cared for my family. We are so grateful for all the child care, gifts of money, food, materials, or kind words of encouragement. I am continually humbled by your kindness to us.

I want to thank you for all the ways you have served your church and the community over this past year. I want to thank everyone for the way that they love one another and for the warmth and kindness you show to those who come through our doors. One of the greatest ways I have seen God using our church is through the loving presence we represent to those we encounter, it matters greatly and is evidence of the Kingdom.

As another year passes, I am also aware of my own shortcomings and oversights. Please accept my apologies. I earnestly ask your forgiveness and encourage anyone to visit with me if there is a wound I have caused.

As we prepare for another year of ministry together I want to encourage you in the Lord. God is using this body of believers, lives are being changed and futures are being shaped for God's glory. There is great possibility before us as we seek to know Christ, to be like Christ, and to make Him known. The harvest is plentiful, and I pray that God will use us this year to draw more into the loving fellowship of the body of Christ.

In Him,
Pastor Erik



Throughout the season of Advent different families from the congregation are asked to light the Advent candles each Sunday. The photo above shows Jacob and Kayla Koch and their children Parker and Lucy reading and lighting the candles during Advent.



Christmas Eve Music

A Christmas Eve candlelight service was held on December 24th. Beautiful music was provided by Kersti (Pearson) Malmberg on the piano, Mike and Kris Cosentino on flute and Carol Skinner on violin. Other special music and scripture readings were provided by many in the congregation throughout the service as well.

THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

1	Suzie Ehrenberg
4	Amy Gustafson
6	Elsie Bevis
6	Janis Hanson
7	Loral Steinke
8	Will Wiebe
10	Erik Carlson
12	Samantha Horst
13	Allysa Larson
13	Jerrad Perkins
14	Aubrey Haugen
16	Emma Weber
17	Tim Milbeck
17	Becky Schutte
17	Linda Tensen
18	Elaine DeJesus
24	Liz Ashling
24	Virginia Goplen
24	Lucy Koch
28	Kim Delp
28	Rose Wold
30	Stefanie Haugen
31	Wylie Wiebe

Electronic & On-Line Giving

Dawson Covenant offers electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering donations. To set up an electronic giving schedule, please complete the Automatic Payment Authorization Form, which can be found on the table in the entry, and place it in the Treasurer's mailbox or the collection plate.

On-line giving is also available through our website at www.dawsoncovenantchurch.org. You can use your checking account, debit card or credit card. If you have any questions, please see Dan Schluter or Wendy Robertson.

Free Wi-Fi

To sign-in to the free wi-fi in the church building choose the "Church-guest" network. The password is "guest". To sign-in at the Youth center the password is "guest2255".



A Men's Retreat is being offered this year on January 19-21. This retreat is for men and teens 9th grade and older. There are opportunities to go snow tubing, to skate and/or broom ball on the lake, AND a Saturday Snowmobile Day Trip out-and-about on some of Todd County's greatest snowmobile trails (bring your own snowmobile).

Visit the Lake Beauty website at lbbc.com for more information or to register. If you have questions you can also ask our camp representative, Bonnie Gustafson or call LBBC at (320) 732-3218, or email them at lbbc@lbbc.com.

Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Erik & Phil's scheduled office hours are as follows:

Monday	Off
Tuesday	8:30-2:30
Wednesday	8:30-2:30
Thursday	8:30-2:30
Friday	8:30-2:30

Other times they are available by appointment, and may be reached at church at 320-769-2255 or Pastor Erik's cell: 320-305-9304 Phil's cell: 269-547-7537

DAWSON COVENANT CHURCH IS ON-LINE AND ON T.V.

Did you know you can view our past worship services online anytime? Visit our website at dawsoncovenantchurch.org and click on the Worship tab.

Worship services are also shown on local cable t.v. in Dawson at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday and in Madison at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Like us on facebook to receive updates and reminders on your facebook newsfeed!



PASS IT ON CONTACT INFORMATION

Deadline for the February *Pass It On* is Wednesday, January 24.

Dawson Covenant Church
2756 130th St.
Dawson MN 56232

320-769-2255

www.dawsoncovenantchurch.org
office@dawsoncovenantchurch.org

Attention!

If you are not getting church e-mails (prayer requests, occasional announcements, etc.) and you would like to be added to the list please let Karla Perkins or Pastor Erik know, or send an email to office@dawsoncovenantchurch.org

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES



Kevin & Sylvia Rosendahl
Joel & Kim Delp

Covenant World Missions
Covenant Youth of Alaska

Randy & Cheryl Bevis
Luke & Emma Christie-Perkins
Covenant World Relief
KICY Radio Station
Operation Christmas Child

January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			6:00 Mid-Week Supper 6:30 Pioneer Kids 6:30 Hi-League to Madison			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Prayer Meeting 10:45 Sunday School / Confirmation	10:00-3:00 Quilting	6:00 Open Gym	6:00 Mid-Week Supper 6:30 Pioneer Kids & Hi- League			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Prayer Meeting 10:45 Sunday School/ Confirmation		6:00 Open Gym 7:00 Community Prayer Service at Crossroads Lutheran Church	2:00-8:00 Food For Kidz meal packing event			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 Worship Service with Annette Seivert speaking 10:30 Prayer Meeting 10:45 Sunday School	10:00-3:00 Quilting	6:00 Open Gym	6:00 Mid-Week Supper 6:30 Pioneer Kids & Hi- League			
28	29	30	31			
8:00 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Prayer Meeting 10:45 Sunday School/ Confirmation		6:00 Open Gym	2:00 Release Time 7:00 Annual Meeting of Dawson Covenant Church			