

# THE COVENANT CHRONICLE

February 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, I am in Chicago attending the Covenant pastors' Midwinter Conference. It is a great time to see old friends and classmates and also to meet new friends and colleagues. It is a time of being refreshed, encouraged and challenged in our faith by insightful speakers and uplifting worship. It is also a good time to be reminded of the larger ministry of the Church. There are discussions about how to build more congregational engagement in missions, a celebration of 80 years of ministry by Covenant World Relief, and even stories of ministry outside the Covenant.

One such story was about a Vacation Bible School in Malawi, Africa. The Bible school was held at an Anglican church, staffed by Baptists and Pentecostals and organized by Presbyterians. What was amazing is that 80 of the kids were Muslim. The local tribal chieftains, who are Muslim, had sent the kids because they wanted their kids to learn to be more caring for others like the Christians were.

This story shines a light on some important truths. First, it is a reminder of the global mission of the Church. As Jesus told the disciples in Matthew 28, we are to "go and make disciples of all nations." Second, it shows that our theological differences do not need to prevent us from serving together. Our ministries are more effective when we work together. Finally, when people see God's love lived out in the Church they are drawn to it. As Jesus said in John 13:35, "...everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Have a blessed February!

Pastor Keith

*Retreating into private spaces is a form of anticipatory obedience. Do not obey.  
Crucify your desire to escape the cross.*

*Stay with the crucified God; Stay with the crucified people.  
When we try to avoid [the cross] we just put others on it.*

*Hannah Reichel*

---

## Mission Statement:

**We, the Evangelical Covenant Church of Paxton, Illinois, will seek to bring the people of our community and throughout the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ because God calls us to do so. In all we do we will serve Christ through individual talents working together to nurture each other in the faith and in Christian love.**



# FEBRUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 **Mark Maulding**
- Robert D. Thompson**
- Austin Burklund**
- Shane Mullis**
- 3 **Wayne A. Johnson**
- Dan Swan**
- Morgan Loschen**
- 9 **Ryan Carlson**
- 10 **Bob Edwards**
- 12 **Linda Kellerhals**
- 13 **Mike Griffin**
- Kaila Christensen**
- 14 **Chad Riggleman**
- 15 **Noah Schaumburg**
- 19 **Allen Reckowsky**
- Wyatt Gustafson**
- 25 **Pyper Siddall**



**Paxton**  
Betty Lesus

## February Ministry Volunteers

### Scripture Readers

- 1 **Joe Sawyer**
- 8 **Nikki Foss**
- 15 **Tanner Jones**
- 22 **Melanie Harms**

### Ushers

- 1 **Diane Gustafson, Matt & Amy Jones**
- 8 **Roger Gustafson, Jeff Shaffer**
- 15 **Glen Foss, Melanie Harms**
- 22 **Ahlden Harms, Jesse Balk**



**Lenten Family Nights** will begin Wednesday, February 18 at 6pm with a meal followed by a study until 7:30pm. There will be childcare provided for children PreK-6th grade of those attending.

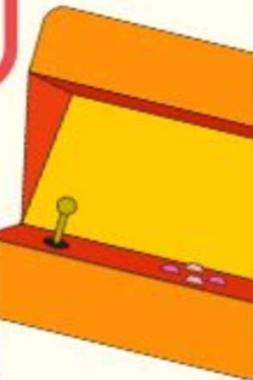
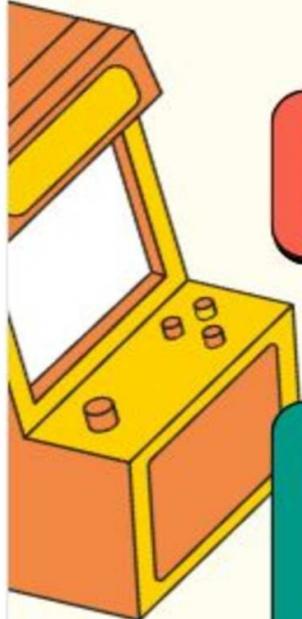
# FAMILY NIGHT

2026

Page 3



SUNDAY, FEB 15  
5-8pm



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Food will be provided
- Enjoy arcade games, outdoor games inside, and a playroom for younger kids



Eat, play old favorites, learn a new game, or just enjoy hanging out!



Saturday, February 14 there will be a Men's Breakfast at ECC at 7:30am. This will be in place of our regular Men's Bible Study.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died FOR US.

Romans 5:8, NIV

**Evangelical Covenant Church**

260 S. Union St.

Paxton, IL 60957

Phone: 217-379-3554

E-mail: paxcov@gmail.com



The LORD delights in  
those who fear him,  
who put their hope in  
his unfailing love.

PSALM 147:11, NIV