

The Covenant Chronicle

August 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month, I wrote about our mission to “Reflect Jesus Christ”. This month I want to reflect on our call to “Serve Through the Spirit”.

Serving through the Holy Spirit means living out our faith not by our own strength or legalistic rules, but by the power and guidance of the Spirit. In Romans 7:6, Paul contrasts the old way of serving under the law with the new way of serving in the Spirit, showing that our service is now motivated and empowered by the Spirit’s work in us. This shift reflects the New Covenant, where obedience flows from love and the Spirit’s leading, not from fear of punishment.

The Holy Spirit equips believers for service through spiritual gifts and wisdom. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Paul teaches that the Spirit distributes gifts for the common good, enabling believers to serve others effectively. The Spirit also directs and guides, as seen in Acts 13:2-4, where the Spirit commissioned Paul and Barnabas for missionary work, showing that service is often divinely directed. This empowerment means we can serve with effectiveness, humility, and purpose.

Reflecting Christ in service is central to this calling. Jesus said, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28), setting the example of selfless love. Paul urges believers to “serve one another in love” (Galatians 5:13), embodying Christ’s humility and compassion. Acts 2:44-45 shows the early church sharing resources to meet needs, modeling the generosity and mutual care Jesus taught. Ultimately, serving Christ through the Spirit is about living out His love, reflecting His humility, and using our gifts to build His kingdom.

God bless,
Pastor Keith

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.



August Ministry Volunteers

Scripture Readers

- 2 Nikki Foss
- 9 Tonya Durham
- 16 Melanie Harms
- 23 Diane Gustafson
- 30 Alaina Kief

Ushers

- 2 Glen Foss, Melanie Harms
- 9 Jesse Balk, Ahlden Harms
- 16 Matt & Amy Jones, Diane Gustafson
- 23 Roger Gustafson, Jeff Shaffer
- 30 Glen Foss, Melanie Harms

- 1 Stella Kleinsteiber
- 6 Logan Loschen
Hadley Gerdes
- 9 Don Jones
- 11 Mike Johnson
Chris Bock
- 17 David Durham
Grant Kleinsteiber
- 20 Alaina Kief
- 22 Kaden Buchanan
- 24 Tami Vest
Katelynn Balk
- 26 Rod Plackett
Gene May
- 28 Merrily Griffin
- 30 Holly Busboom
- 31 Darrell Busboom

- 10 Greg & Carrie Kingston
- 13 Michael & Meghan Lottinville

Paxton
Betty Lesus



There will be a Congregational Meeting following the Worship service on Sunday, August 9 to discuss the sanctuary ceiling project.



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**



The Church Softball tournament will take place on Saturday, August 8 at Nelson Field in Paxton. The first game will begin at 8am. Please come out and cheer on the teams.

Church in the Park is scheduled for Sunday, August 2 at 10am. Please bring your own lawn chairs. After the service we will have a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish based on the breakdown below:

If your last name begins with letter:

**A-E please bring a side or a salad
F-L please bring a main dish
M-Z please bring a dessert**



Sunday School classes will begin again next month! If your child will be 3yrs old on

or before September 13 they are eligible to attend Sunday School. Please contact the church office or the Sunday School Superintendent, Nikki Foss for more information on registration and classes.

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