

THE COVENANT CHRONICLE

September 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In July and August, I wrote about the first two parts of our mission statement “Reflect Jesus Christ - Serve Through the Spirit. This month I am reflecting on the last part of that mission statement, which is “Nurture One Another in God’s Love.

In a world often marked by rugged individualism and self-interest, the call of Scripture to nurture one another in God’s love is countercultural and yet life-giving. Jesus challenged his disciples and the Church when He said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34, NIV). This love is not just a feeling but an active commitment to the well-being of others. As a gardener tends a plant, watering, pruning, and protecting it from harm—so we are called to invest in the spiritual and emotional growth of those around us. The early church modeled this beautifully, sharing meals, resources, and prayers so that “there were no needy persons among them” (Acts 4:34).

Nurturing one another in God’s love involves intentional presence and sacrificial care. Paul exhorts believers to “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11), reminding us that our words and actions should strengthen and challenge the faith of another. Consider the image of a shepherd who knows each sheep by name, guiding them to safe pastures and tending to their wounds. Similarly, we are to spend time together in fellowship, noticing when a brother or sister is hurting and walking alongside them through trials and triumphs. Often this is not easy, but it reflects Jesus’ call to love one another.

Primarily, nurturing one another in God’s love is a reflection of His own nature at work within us. John writes, “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11).

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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.

When we forgive as we have been forgiven, serve without expecting return, and pray earnestly for each other's good, we become living testimonies of the gospel. Like branches connected to the true Vine in John 15:5, our ability to nurture flows from abiding in Christ. As His love fills us, it overflows into the lives of others, creating a community where grace is abundant, burdens are shared, and faith is strengthened. In such a community, the world catches a glimpse of God's kingdom on earth—a place where love is not just spoken, but lived out in our actions.

God bless,
Pastor Keith



**Remember
Our Homebound Members**

Paxton
Betty Lesus



CE Board will be
hosting a Family
Fun Night at the

Pells Park pavilion on Sunday, September 27
from 4-6:30pm. There will be pumpkin
painting, games and a potluck.



- 2 Rick Nelson
Audrey Bloomquist
- 4 Ray Kellerhals
- 5 Alex Abrahamson
- 7 Reagan Loschen
- 11 Bria Grohler
- 13 Doug Vest
- 15 Patricia Johnson
Jena Schaumburg
- 17 Darlos Shaffer
Sandra Burklund
- 18 Craig Kief
Garret Waterstradt
- 19 Dalton Busboom
Lauren Sawyer
Aubree Sawyer
- 21 Mary Jean Harrison
- 23 Cheryl Henson
- 25 Gail Ritzma
Dawn Bachtold
- 27 Lindsey Stone
- 28 James Stone
Brooke Carlson
- 30 Hayden Gerdes
Lilly Schaumburg



Fall Worship hours will begin Sunday, September 13. Sunday School classes will resume at 9:30am and the Worship service will begin at 10:45am.

Fall Kickoff BBQ

There will be a BBQ lunch served in the church yard immediately following the Worship service on Sunday, Sept. 13. The meal will consist of a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, chips and a cookie.

In case of rain, lunch will be served in the church basement.



- 3 Craig & Alaina Kief
- 6 Dave & Becky Burklund
- 10 Travis & Myndie Glazik
- 16 Mike & Merrily Griffin
- 21 Dan & Vickie Swan
- 26 Tyler & Tabitha Adkins
James & Lindsey Stone
- 28 John & Amanda Toohill
David & Dawn Bachtold

Scripture Readers

6 Kathryn Sawyer

13 Janet Loschen

20 Joe Sawyer

27 Tanner Jones

Ushers

6 Jesse Balk, Ahlden Harms

13 Matt & Amy Jones, Diane Gustafson

20 Roger Gustafson, Jeff Shaffer

27 Glen Foss, Melanie Harms

Anniversary Celebration

Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, the church 2 miles south and 2 mile east of Elliot, IL is a historic church in Ford County, that shares a certain pietistic, and Scandinavian heritage with the Covenant. Throughout the years many people at the Paston Covenant Church are a generation or two removed from Pontoppidan.

Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, rural Elliott, will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the congregation on the weekend of Oct. 2-4.

The weekend will kick off with on Friday at 7 pm with a hymn sing and a talk by Pastor Brian Lunn, of Uppsala, MN on Bishop Erick Pontoppidan; who he was, and the role he played in establishing a unique theological and pietistic emphasis within Norwegian American Lutheranism.

The main celebration will be on Sunday, Oct. 4th. with worship at 10:45 followed by a meal and an afternoon service at 2. All are invited to attend. For dinner reservations please call Kevin Hanson at 217-249-4056.

Evangelical Covenant Church
260 S Union Street
Paxton, IL 60957

«Title» «First Name» «Last Name»
«Address Line 1» «Address Line 2»
«City», «State» «ZIP Code»



PRAY RELENTLESSLY.
God is always listening!