This is the place where you get to hear the heart of our pastors and leadership for our church.
A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR LARS

I am extremely humbled by the outpouring of support, affirmation, and excitement surrounding the vote that passed on June 11th. For me, this vote has been in development for a long time, so to see it culminate with great unity and enthusiasm is a great gift to Katie and me. As I stated at the meeting, we are ready and excited for this new chapter of ministry life and I vow to give this church my utmost while fostering a healthy marriage and personal life, always listening to God’s Spirit as I fervently follow Jesus. In the words of Ruth Haley Barton, “The best thing you can offer is your continually transformed self.” That is my standard.

One question that came from the floor was, “What is your vision for the church?” Now that the vote is over, I feel more comfortable sharing a few thoughts on this. First, you are a part of helping me answer that. Vision is best discerned communally. Our ‘Flourishing Together’ mission statement started as a staff discussion, was brought to council, and was shared with many people. It was prayed over, discussed and tweaked over a period of time. I’m proud of our mission statement and that is essentially my vision moving forward. I can’t imagine feeling like that statement had become stale. Within that statement, I’m excited to communally discern where God is leading and guiding us. I have a vision for a church that is living so fully into our mission statement that we are regularly seeing people come to faith in Jesus Christ, that the vast majority of our church is interacting with God’s word in small groups, that we have more volunteers than we know what to do with, that everyone is increasingly aware of their spiritual gifts and have outlets to explore them, that all ages in the church would experience fellowship and care, and that our Sunday morning worship services would strike the right balance of deeply filling and deeply convicting souls. With goals such as these, I don’t anticipate any boring days in the office, which is partly why I love this job so much.

Lastly, I’d like to recognize this year of transition ahead. I am so thankful for Pastor Paul, not only for his wealth of wisdom from 40 years of ministry, but for his gracious desire to transition well into retirement. I’m completely committed to honoring him in every way in his final year. Much of our focus will be celebrating Pastor Paul well and setting up the next iteration of staff while buttressing existing ministries and expanding into new ones. Not all of you are comfortable about this transition, and that is understandable. I want to let you know that my office is open to you to come and talk through things, even tough things. I’m so honored to be your pastor moving forward, so let’s talk through whatever is on your heart. And in the midst of this transition, I vow transparency and accessibility to whole church.

Humbled and thankful- Lars Eric Stromberg

MID YEAR MEETING RECAP
From Council Chair Peter Kislu

For those who could not be at the mid-year meeting, we had an encouraging, unified meeting. God is good and gracious! To the voting results:

We needed a minimum of 43 members present to establish a quorum...we had 124;

MOTION #1: To change our staffing structure from a Two-Pastorate to a Lead Pastor Model, effective June 1, 2018.

With regard to Motion 1, 123 members placed ballots including one abstention. Of the 122 who voted, 118 voted in favor of the motion (97%) and four voted against the motion (3%);

MOTION #2: To ask Lars Stromberg to remain and officially call him as our Lead Pastor under this new staffing structure.

With regard to Motion 2, 124 members placed ballots including three abstentions. Of the 121 who voted, 115 voted in favor of the motion (95%) and six voted against the motion (5%);

Please note that abstentions are not included in the denominator for the calculations.

Many thanks to the Pastoral Search Committee and their tireless work, particularly Frank Peard and Tracy Scott. Thanks as well to the council for their enthusiastic leadership throughout this process.

The Pastoral Search Committee will continue to meet to address staffing needs for this new pastoral model. They welcome your prayers and feedback going forward.

Humbled and thankful- Lars Eric Stromberg
Summer is always an exciting and busy time for our youth ministry. Here’s what has already happened, and what has yet to happen this summer with our Jr. High and High School students.

**THE 12 TRIP**
12 incoming and outgoing seniors travelled to Seattle, June 4-9. The goal of this trip is to gather students who are preparing for the college years ahead around God’s word, Christian community, and a little adventure. This 12 Trip included Whale watching, exploring Seattle and some incredible sunsets from a cabin on Vashon Island.

**VENTURE**
Summer Venture, our weekly gathering for youth during the summer, is underway. Every Tuesday night incoming 7th graders thru incoming college freshman are invited to church for a time of conversation, ice cream, frisbee and Spikeball. It’s a party every week so any friends are always invited to join. Venture runs through July 25th.

**ISLAND CAMP**
This week (June 19-24), Colby and our youth intern Jason Baird, are up on the Island at Covenant Point Bible camp. There are 15 Jr. high students from Hinsdale Covenant and North Park Covenant Church. The Island is a program created exclusively for Jr. High student so it is truly special to head up to the Island as a big group together.

**WILDERNESS TRIP**
From July 16-22, a group of 40 of high schoolers will be traveling to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota for a true wilderness experience. There are a few spaces still available so contact Pastor Colby if you know of an interested high schooler.

Continue to pray for our leaders and student in this important season of ministry! Contact Pastor Colby for further information - colby@hinsdalecovenant.com
This summer, we will be studying some of the smallest books in the Bible, books that often get overlooked. What do these small books have to offer? Well, don't be fooled by the brevity of these books because their messages are anything but small in meaning. Join us each Sunday this summer and get acquainted with these big messages from these small books.

**SOME OF THE SMALL BOOKS WE'LL BE STUDYING**

- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude
- Philemon
- Obadiah
- Haggai

**MISS A SUNDAY THIS SUMMER?**

Listen to our sermon podcasts all summer long. Search “Hinsdale Covenant” on iTunes and Soundcloud.