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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
May 18, 2025

**Covenant's Mission Statement**

*"To build a faithful community of joyful disciples."*

**Covenant's Values**

Covenant is **biblical** by affirming the Bible as the authoritative Word of God,  
**connectional** by affiliating with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA),  
**confessional** by adhering to the Westminster Standards,  
**missional** by seeking to spread the Gospel worldwide, and  
**relational** by encouraging the church family to build community.

*“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses  
that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.”*

1 John 4:2

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on 1John 4:2 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Recognition of Graduate

Zeb Wilson

Call to Worship

Isaiah 2:3,5

*[3] “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. [5] O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“Forever Settled in the Heavens”*

Forever settled in the heavens Thy Word, O Lord, shall firmly stand;  
Thy faithfulness shall never fail; the earth abides at thy command.

Thy word and works unmoved remain, Thine every purpose to fulfil;  
All things are thine and thee obey, and all as servants wait thy will.

I should have perished in my woe had not I loved thy law divine;  
That law I never can forget; O save me, Lord, for I am thine.

The wicked would destroy my soul, but in thy truth is refuge sure;  
Exceeding broad is thy command, and in perfection shall endure.

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*“Cornerstone”*

Choir

Jesus is the cornerstone came for sinners to atone.  
Though rejected by His own He became the cornerstone.  
Jesus is the cornerstone.

When I am by sin oppressed on the stone I am at rest.  
When the seeds of truth are sown, He remains the cornerstone.  
Jesus is the cornerstone

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.  
Rock of Ages so secure for all time it shall endure.  
'Til His children reach their home, He remains the cornerstone.

'Til the breaking of the dawn, 'til all footsteps cease to roam.  
Ever let this truth be known, Jesus is the cornerstone.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Mike Lieblich, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn

*“Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way of Truth”*

Teach me, O Lord, Your way of truth, and from it I will not depart;  
that I may steadfastly obey, give me an understanding heart.

In Your commandments make me walk, for in Your law my joy shall be;  
give me a heart that loves Your will, from discontent and envy free.

Turn now my eyes from vanity, and cause me in Your ways to tread;  
O let Your servant prove Your word and thus to godly fear be led.

Turn away my reproach and fear; Your righteous judgments I confess;  
to know Your precepts I desire; revive me in Your righteousness.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper,  
born in my birth, alive in my life,  
strong in my character, dominating my faculties,  
following me as a shadow, intermingling with my every thought,  
my chain that holds me captive.  
Yet Your compassions yearn over me,  
Your heart hastens to my rescue,  
Your love endured my curse, Your mercy bore my justice.  
Let me walk in humility, bathed in Your blood,  
tender of conscience, living in triumph as an heir of salvation  
through Your blessed name. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Ezekiel 36:25-27

[25] I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. [26] And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Hymn

*“Speak, O Lord”*

words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness;  
that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.  
Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid Him, empty now, its mouth declares:  
"Death and I could not contain Him, for the throne of life He shares."  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with pow'r;  
all hell's minions may assemble, but cannot withstand His hour.  
He has conquered, He has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;  
but the truth proclaims a wonder thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.  
He is risen, He is risen, now receive the risen King!

We acclaim Your life, O Jesus, now we sing Your victory;  
sin or hell may seek to seize us, but Your conquest keeps us free.  
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King!

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Sermon Outline  
*"Discerning Truth from Error"*  
1 John 4:1-6

I. What is the message? (v.1-3)

II. What are the marks? (v.4-6)

1. How does the Spirit help us when it comes to discerning the truth? (see also John 16:12-15)
2. Why is it important to understand that Scripture is the supreme judge of spiritual things?
3. As you examine your own life, is it marked by a desire to listen to God? How might you grow in this?
4. How does this passage aid our assurance of eternal life (the theme of this letter)?

## **MEMBERS OF SESSION**

### **RULING ELDERS**

#### **Class of 2025**

Mr. J. C. Baker (sabbatical)  
Mr. Dan Butkowski  
Dr. Bob Tramel

#### **Class of 2026**

Mr. William Fennell  
Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Mr. Bill Scholl

#### **Class of 2027**

Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Richard Long  
Mr. Carl Monroe

### **TEACHING ELDERS**

Rev. Dr. Tim J. Reed, Senior Pastor (sabbatical)  
Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

#### **Class of 2025**

Mr. Peter Bogaards  
Dr. Jonathan Goodwin  
Mr. Jason Guenther

#### **Class of 2026**

Mr. Andrew Kinzler  
Mr. Mike Lieblich  
Dr. David Matlock

#### **Class of 2027**

Mr. Bob Davis  
Mr. Scott Freydl  
Mr. Jeff Rooker

### **STAFF**

Rev. Justin Hilliard, Assistant Pastor (Pinnacle Classical Academy)  
Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

### **MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS**

Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director  
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist  
Mrs. Katie Hughes, Pianist

### **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville  
Peter & Jenny Boling, Mexico  
Dan & Nancy Butkowski, Little Rock  
Scott & Kathy Craig, Mexico  
Frank & Daisy Du, Little Rock  
Roger & Laura Dye, South Carolina  
Jamie & Jacki Gildard, France

Rob & Jenny Ilderton, England  
Darlene Johnson, Japan  
Tom & Karen Mirabella, Japan  
Pete Mitchell, France  
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

### **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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