

Covenant Goes Camping

A group of Covenant families gave up the comforts of their homes in exchange for a tent and some great fellowship out at Sandy Hollow on the last weekend in July. The Covenant Church Campout included perfect weather, swimming in the pond, glow bracelets in the dark, extra-large s'mores, singing by the campfire, great fellowship, and only a few trips back to civilization.



Here is what the Covenant kids who participated had to say when asked what their favorite part was:

Liam Clark: Well, we caught moms, dads and kids fireflies—69 kids and 2 adults fireflies. We caught them at 5:40. We got to stay up when it was dark out.

Corrie DeVries: Swimming

Nico DeVries: Playing team flash and team dark with the glow sticks

Louisa DeVries: When I found a little snail at the pond

David Henreckson: Staying up late and playing games in the dark with friends

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Join us for Guess Who's Coming to Dinner!

Who: All adults are welcome!

What: Dinner at an unknown location with unknown Covenant guests

When: Saturday, September 9, at 6:00 PM

Where: **Who knows where you'll end up...**

Why: For food, fellowship, and fun with our church family!

Sign up at the welcome table! Contact Laura Janssen if you need assistance with child care.

Courier

September 2017

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Notes from the Pastor



Building the Beloved Community

The idea of the Beloved Community has its roots in the 20th-century philosopher Josiah Royce, but it is most well-known for its use by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It makes appearances in speeches and sermons of Dr. King **from as early as 1956. Dr. King’s vision of the Beloved Community is a place of peace, justice, and reconciliation. Yet, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change notes, “For Dr. King, the Beloved Community was not a lofty utopian goal to be confused with the rapturous image of the Peaceable Kingdom, in which lions and lambs coexist in idyllic harmony.” Rather, Dr. King believed that the beautiful vision of the beloved community was achievable.**

I am particularly captured by the language of **the “beloved” community. “Beloved” is not a word I use often. Yet it is deeply Scriptural and speaks to the core of our identity as people of God: we are beloved. Rooted firmly in our belovedness, we are then free to love one another and to feel beloved not only by God but also by one another.**

For the next few weeks, our worship life together will be shaped by the Revised Common **Lectionary’s New Testament epistle readings.** We will spend four weeks looking at the end of Romans and two weeks on the opening of Philippians, beginning with Romans 12.

Paul spends the first 11 chapters of Romans building a theological framework of grace and belovedness. The first 11 chapters of Romans assure us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. They remind us that we are **like ingrafted branches into God’s covenant family.** They demonstrate to us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God but that God has lovingly given us grace and forgiveness. And then, in Romans 12:1, Paul moves into his teaching for the church in **Rome: “Therefore, in view of God’s mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices.” In the rest of the letter, Paul goes on to encourage the church to live as a body and to be living examples of love. Philippians opens on a similar note, reminding the church to have their lives be shaped by Christ’s example.**

In other words, these letters remind us that since we belong and have experienced belovedness, we ought to love one another.

In many ways, this is one of the most basic messages of the Gospel, yet it can be difficult to live out. How do we as a church model and embrace the vision of belovedness? What does it look like for all members of our body to belong, for everybody to serve, for everybody to be at home? As we ask these questions, we find that the answers spill over into every facet of our life together as a church. My hope and prayer is that as we explore the contours of the beloved community in Romans and Philippians that we will be encouraged in our belovedness but also challenged to help others feel and experience the same.

-Pastor Kory

A Note from Resonate Global Mission

Thank you for your recent gift!

Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions are now Resonate Global Mission. Right now we are working on transitioning to this new name and logo.

We are grateful for supporters like you, who care about mission work. We are excited to continue the work of Home Missions and World Missions—and we look forward to the new things God will do through Resonate Global Mission.



Why Did We Choose the Name Resonate? Imagine the good news of Jesus resonating across the globe—this is the vision behind the **name for our denomination's new mission agency**:

Resonate Global Mission

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

A ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

What's more, the idea of resonating sound isn't just a metaphor for our work, it's a picture of the future we pursue. Our Reformed theology tells us that the gospel changes everything! People all over the world are hungry to hear about the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Together with you, we will continue planting churches and supporting ministry in North American as well as sending missionaries around the globe to share the good news—to the ends of the earth.



Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Jude Christian was born on July 19, 2017, to Mark and Ashley Armstrong Zwart of Cortland, Ohio. He weighed 6 pounds 11 oz, and is very much loved and welcomed by his big sister Adelaide, grandparents John and Laurey Zwart and Dean and Patty Armstrong, and his great grandpa James Guy, who shares his birthday.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

4	Rylan B Angela H Isaac Maletougou Val Z Tim & Mimi K	15	Adam K	26	Robin I
		16	Kelly Crull	27	Michael Ribbens
		19	Charlie W	28	Paul C Aidan V
5	Marcia W	20	Pam A Erik H	29	Levi L
6	Riley I Vincent S	21	Emily VW		
8	Shirley T	22	Matthew L Rockne MC John S		
9	Doug DB Micah G	25	Rachel H Becky S		
13	Laura L				



Offering Schedule

September 3

AM General/Building Fund,
Compassion Fund

PM World Renew: General Fund

September 10

AM Christian Education Fund

PM GEMS

September 17

AM Missions Fund

PM The Luke Society

September 24

AM Tuition Assistance Fund

PM Farmer to Farmer



Evening Worship Schedule

September 3 Teaching Service

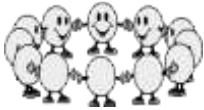
September 10 Teaching Service

September 17 Teaching Service

September 24 Small Group Prayer Service

September Assignments

Here are the assignments for members to “practice hospitality” this month...
Remember to wear your name badges!



Nursery

Parents of the month: Ryan & Angela H

September 3

AM INF Jake & Trena VW, Laura J
TODDLER Ryan & Angela H, Lee R
PM Paul & Ruth C, Doug & Marge DB

September 10

AM INF Eldon & Marcia W, Rebecca DS
TODDLER Alejandro & Isabel C, Bob DS
PM Dennis & Pam DJ, Ron & Carol O

September 17

AM INF Don & Sherri TN, Val Z
TODDLER Erik & Barb H, Ryan Z
PM Rob & Megan H, Nick & Jenni B

September 24

AM INF John & Linda V, Luanne G
TODDLER Andy & Rachel L, Dave G
PM Mark & Lisa C, Lee & Jenni M

October 1

AM INF Luke & Sarah H, Mark H
TODDLER Joe & Erin E, Sara H
PM Marty & Kris VP, Chris & Rin G



Coffee Servers

Jenni B, Vicki H, Shirley M,
Lee R, Stan VB, Jan V



Greeters

AM Alejandro C, Barb H, Cheri H
PM Ruth Clo, Laremy DV, Marilyn M



Ushers

AM Kathy DW, Rin G, Eldon W
PM Marge DB, Andy L

Substitutes

If you are unable to serve on your assigned date for coffee, usher, or greeter, contact

Wil A, Duane B, Luanne G,
Daryl H, Jake VW, Kurt V

Courier Copy—It's up to you!

The *Courier* is issued monthly at Covenant church. If you have copy that you wish to be included, send it to the church office. Each issue is distributed on the last Sunday of the month. Copy deadline is Monday, September 18 for the October issue.

Notes from the Deacons

Did You Know?

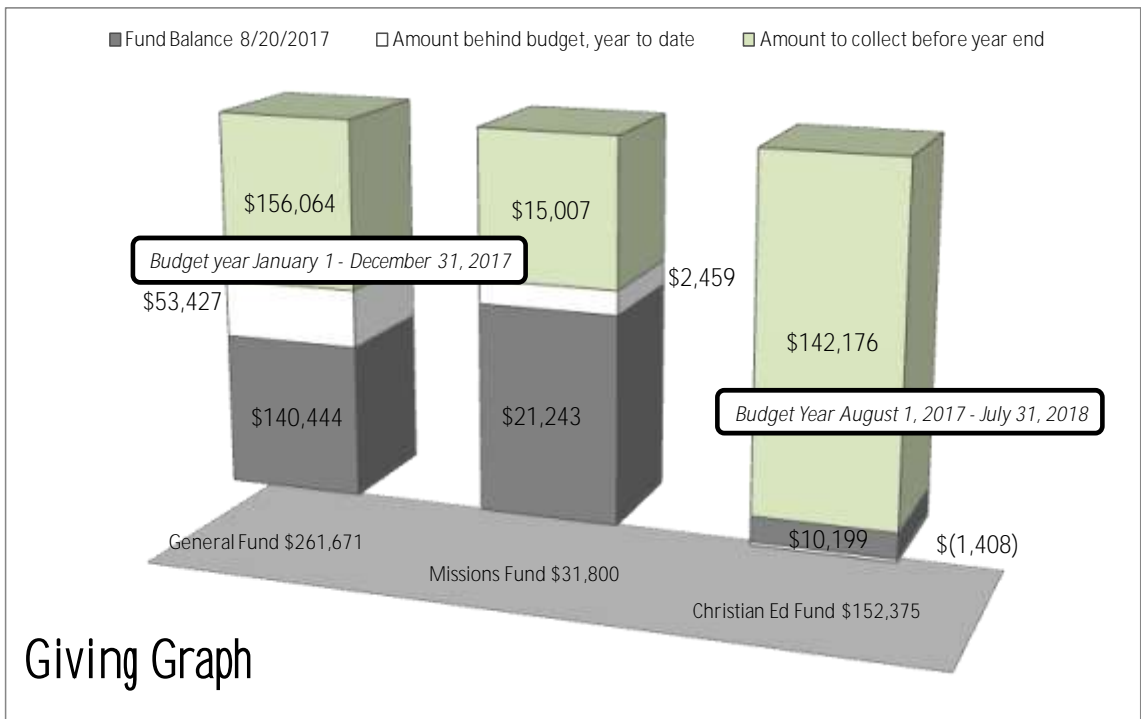
Did you know that Covenant has a Facebook page? Our hope is that this will be another way of communicating information with our congregation and sharing important happenings with those beyond our church walls.

sure to like our page to see what is happening!

Did you also know that Covenant has a private church swap on Facebook? This was set up as a way to pass along items that you no longer need to others in the congregation. If you are interested in joining this group search for Covenant Church Free Swap and ask to join.

-Megan Haan

Some the recent posts have included pictures from our outdoor service, the presentation of the kindergarten quilts, and the profession of faith of Tom Tazelaar and Jacob Vander Plaats. We hope to post information about sermons as well as any upcoming events. Make



* Please note that the Christian Education Fund total on the graph does not include our financial obligations to Unity Christian High School (those numbers are not yet finalized), so the total Covenant will need to collect will be higher than what is listed above.

Let the Word of Christ Richly Inhabit our Lives

As you may have read in the August Courier, Pastor Kory plans to adhere to the Revised Common Lectionary this year in his preaching, choosing from the chosen RCL readings for each Sunday the passage for his sermon.

For worship planners, this is good news. Each Sunday is assigned at least four readings—an Old Testament Reading, a New Testament Reading, a Gospel, and a Psalm. Pastor Kory will choose one to preach on, leaving planners three other passages to potentially use in other parts of the service. The Psalm may become the call to worship or the prayer of confession; the Old Testament reading may call us into a time of confession; the Epistle reading may become an affirmation of faith. You will maybe remember this from other times **we've adhered to the lectionary, but there is** often an interconnectedness to these passages. When we read one passage in light of another, we might gain new perspective on the passages. So too, we may catch a glimpse of the grand narrative that is scripture.

Likewise, this is good news for planners because there are some wonderful planning resources out there based on the lectionary. One is www.liturgyletter.com, a website curated by Philip Majorins, worship pastor at Christ Church of Davis (CRC), Davis, CA, and blogger for the *Reformed Worship* website.

Each week he posts suggestions for prayer, art, music, hymns, and readings that are **useful for connecting with the RCL readings**. I've especially liked the prayer guides and the Spotify® playlists of songs based on the weekly Psalms. You may too.

Some of you may already be following the Lectionary at home; there are some great resources for devotions and family prayer based on the lectionary as well. If not, Pastor Kory, the worship planners and I would like to **encourage you to join us in reading each week's** readings throughout the week. And then come to church on Sunday having already lived into the passages that will shape our worship. We are eager to see how this way of reading the Bible and worshipping together will shape us as a body in the coming year.

As we embark on this journey, may these words, paraphrased from Colossians 3:16 from *The Voice* **guide us: "Let the word of Christ richly inhabit our lives. With all wisdom, let us teach, counsel, and instruct one another. Let us sing the psalms, compose hymns and songs inspired by the Spirit, and keep on singing—sing to God from hearts full and spilling over with thankfulness."**

-Rebecca DeVries



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(Continued from page 1)

Hannah Landman: Staying up late around the campfire

Levi Landman: Staying up at night, snacks, and running around in the dark

Ezra Landman: Running around in the dark

Ava Landman: The glow sticks

Sadie Landman: Playing in the dark

Shiloh Plockmeyer: The lake

Judah Plockmeyer: Being able to eat without **worrying about the all the food I'm spilling** on the ground

Benjamin Ploegstra: Swimming

Naomi- Finding cool rocks and having yummy **s'mores**

Charlie Wyenberg: Everything! I want to go camping again!



Dear Covenant CRC,
Thank you so much for your generous gift in support of our ministry at LCC International University in Lithuania! We are so happy to have you partner with us as we participate in the work that God is doing at LCC and throughout the region. We continue to be amazed at the impact of this little institution. Thank you for helping to make our work possible!

Blessings,
-Tricia & Benjamin Groenewold Van Dyk