

Farewell, Plockmeyers!

Pastor Kory will preach his last sermon for us during the morning service on October 1. We will use that Sunday to also say goodbye to the Plockmeyers, celebrate and give thanks for their time of ministry at Covenant, and bless them on their way. We will do this with a seamless service: we'll gather for worship at 10:00 AM, after which we'll move to the fellowship hall for a meal together, and then back into the sanctuary for a service of sending and the Lord's Supper. We hope you will plan to stay for both services!



Church will provide the meal. And nursery will be provided as usual, though we encourage you to keep your children with you in the afternoon for communion; as Pastor Kory often reminds us, it is our family meal.

All congregations of Classis Iakota and Classis Heartland are warmly invited to a combined worship service in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The joint Iakota-Heartland service will be on Sunday, October 29 at 3:00 PM in the Western Christian High School gym in Hull, IA. The service will include music by area high school choirs and a brass quintet, a sermon by Pastor John Lee, and a celebration of communion hosted by the councils of First CRC and Hope CRC in Hull. The offering will be for Resonate Global Mission. Join us for this special service of worship, remembrance, and shared fellowship.



Pastoral Group Dinner Schedule

Our fall Pastoral Group Potluck Dinners will be starting soon on Sundays after the morning worship service. Please put these dates on your calendar!



October 15—Mellema/Haan
October 22—Hibma/Crull
October 29—Friend/Bajema
November 5—Kok/Christians
November 12—Schelhaas/Mellema
November 19—Holtrop/Oostra

Courier

October 2017

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Notes from the Pastor



Saying Goodbye

As I think about how to say goodbye, I am struck by the ways in which many of them express encouragement within them. In Latin, **for instance, one would say, “Valete!” meaning, “Be of good health.” Romance languages commend the other to God: *Adios* (Spanish), *Adieu* (French), *Addio* (Italian), *Adeus* (Portuguese). English, too, reflects this same pattern: “Fare (thee) well,” for instance, or “Goodbye,” which comes from “God be with ye.”**

There’s an old cliché among church circles that we never say goodbye, we only say “See you later.” Of course, that’s true. It’s especially true in a relatively small, well-connected denomination like the Christian Reformed Church, where the connections between Grand Rapids and Northwest Iowa ensure that we will, in fact, see many of you again this side of heaven. But of course, we recognize that our ultimate hope rests in the comfort that no matter what may pass in the days, weeks, months, and years to come, we will be reunited again in the song of heavenly praise in the New Creation.

Yet there seems something good and proper about bidding Covenant and her members **“farewell” or even “goodbye.” It reflects the pattern of some of the letters of Paul, for instance, who ends his letter to the church in Rome with these words: “Now to him who is**

able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus **Christ! Amen.” Or the simpler close to the letter to the church in Philippi: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.”**

Rooted in our English words for goodbye are words of encouragement and hope, prayers **for God’s enduring presence, and affirmation** of the calling incumbent upon followers of Jesus.

On October 1, I will preach my farewell message at Covenant. As of October 2, I officially relinquish my pastoral duties at Covenant. The council and I have signed a mutual **“Covenant for Health” that lays out some of** these details, in which I make these promises:

- Rev. Kory Plockmeyer is determined to be supportive of the future pastoral and lay leadership of Covenant CRC. Rev. Kory Plockmeyer will not receive negative comments or participate in any conversation or activity which might undermine any program or person.
- Any future contacts which may occur between Rev. Kory Plockmeyer and the congregation will be as friends and not in a pastor-parishioner relationship.

The goal of these promises is to strengthen the ministry and fellowship of Covenant. They are rooted in the desire for the next pastor of

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Notes from the Pastor

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Covenant to be able to flourish. My hope, desire, and commitment is to continue to pray for Covenant, to continue to support it, and to continue to be encouraging of the ministry of this church.

So on October 1, we don't just say "See you later," although we certainly will. We say "goodbye," an affirmation that God will go before Covenant to guide her, beside her to befriend her, beneath her to support her, and behind her to protect her. As I have said each week of my ministry here at Covenant: do not be afraid. Goodbye, brothers and sisters in Christ. God be with you. God is with you. Do not be afraid.

-Pastor Kory

English Department Reading



All are invited to the Dordt College Annual English Department Reading (original fiction, nonfiction, poetry), on Sunday night, September 24, at 8:00 PM in room 1144 of the Classroom Building (Ribbens Complex). Refreshments will be included. **Come join us as we celebrate God's literary gifts.**

Some of our own Covenant English folk will be participating! Come out to support Mary Dengler, Bob DeSmith, Luke Hawley, Jim Schaap, and Dave Schelhaas as they share their gifts of writing.



Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Doug and Marge De Boer are grandparents again! On Tuesday, August 29 at 5:17 PM, in Ames, Iowa, a boy, Peter Klaas Friend, was born to Naomi and Andrew Friend, daughter and son-in-law to Doug and Marge. Peter is **Naomi and Andrew's first child and Grandma Agnes De Boer's first great-grandchild.**

Peter is named after his birthmother's great great grandfather, Peter Behr. Peter's middle name, Klaas, comes from both Peter's great-grandfather and great-great grandfather on the Friend side of the family.

Here are the vital statistics: Peter was 7 lbs and 21.5 inches long. He was born three-and-a-half weeks early, which earned him a bit longer stay at the hospital. Naomi and Andrew are both excited to be a parents. Thank the Lord for this new life and pray that Naomi and Andrew continue to revel in parenthood.



Thanks to all of our volunteer elderberry pickers (one group is pictured here), the Covenant Christian Education Fund raised \$650!

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Dave G Judah H	9	Emma He Steve H Kara Maletoungou Ed & Natalie B	21	Erin E
2	Ethan B Ava L			24	Lydia C Kenny H Marv W
3	Alleke Crull	13	Sara H	25	Layne V
5	Ed B Anna C	14	Finley D	27	Dave & Emily K
7	Kayt F Arie H	15	Brenda F Mark H	28	Julia K Linda VH
8	Dan Kuiper Dave & Jan V	17	Zoe H	29	Nick B Tina D Jonathan VT
		18	Pam DJ	30	Pete VP
		19	Pat C Laura J		
		20	Esther E		



Offering Schedule

October 1

AM General/Building Fund

PM Compassion Fund

October 8

AM Christian Education Fund

PM New Roots Ministry

October 15

AM Missions Fund

PM World Renew: Relief for Hurricanes
Harvey and Irma

October 22

AM Tuition Assistance Fund

PM Faith Formation Ministries

October 29

AM General Fund: Ministry Shares

PM Resonate Global Mission (at Joint
Reformation Day Service)

Evening Worship Schedule

October 1 Seamless Service (lunch and
service immediately following)

October 8 Teaching Service

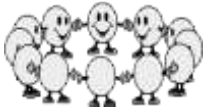
October 15 Teaching Service

October 22 Service of Evening Prayer

October 29 Joint Reformation Day Service
(3:00 PM at Western Christian
High School)

October Assignments

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



Nursery

Parents of the month: Josue & Ana F

October 1

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

October 8

AM INF Duane & Jan B, Ruth C
TODDLER Josue & Ana F, Tom C
PM Daryl & Deb H, Ethan & Donna B

October 15

AM INF Mark & Merrill MC, Sharon V
TODDLER Dave & Emily K, Kurt V
PM Mark & Cheri H, Kathy DW

October 22

AM INF Dave & Jeri S, Laura L
TODDLER Davey & Kate H, Jo F
PM Laremy & Rebecca DV, Barb T

October 29

AM INF Jason & Dani W, Steve C
TODDLER Jeff & Sara P, Pat C

November 5

AM INF Doug & Marge DB, Robin F
TODDLER Ryan & Angela H, Adam F
PM Dave & Jan V, Lee R



Coffee Servers

Natalie, B, Rebecca DV, Mary D,
Josue F, Marty VP, John V



Greeters

AM Isabel C, Paul C, Mark MC
PM Dave G, Mark H, Rachel L



Ushers

AM Bob DS, Linda V, Marcia W
PM Howie H, Sally J

Substitutes

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

Steve C, Rebecca DS, Jo F,
Jeri S, Kara T, Dennis VP

Thanks for serving!

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, October 23 for the November issue.

Notes from the Deacons

Baptism, Quilts, Profession of Faith—
What Do They Have in Common?

If you have attended a baptism at Covenant CRC, you have promised, along with others in attendance, **“to receive these children in love, pray for them, help instruct them in the faith, and encourage and sustain them.”**

At the beginning of each school year, the Covenant quilters present each kindergarten student with a small quilt. These kindergarten quilts reinforce the promises made at baptism. They are an expression of our love and care for the kindergarten students as they begin their school years.

When a member of our church family makes

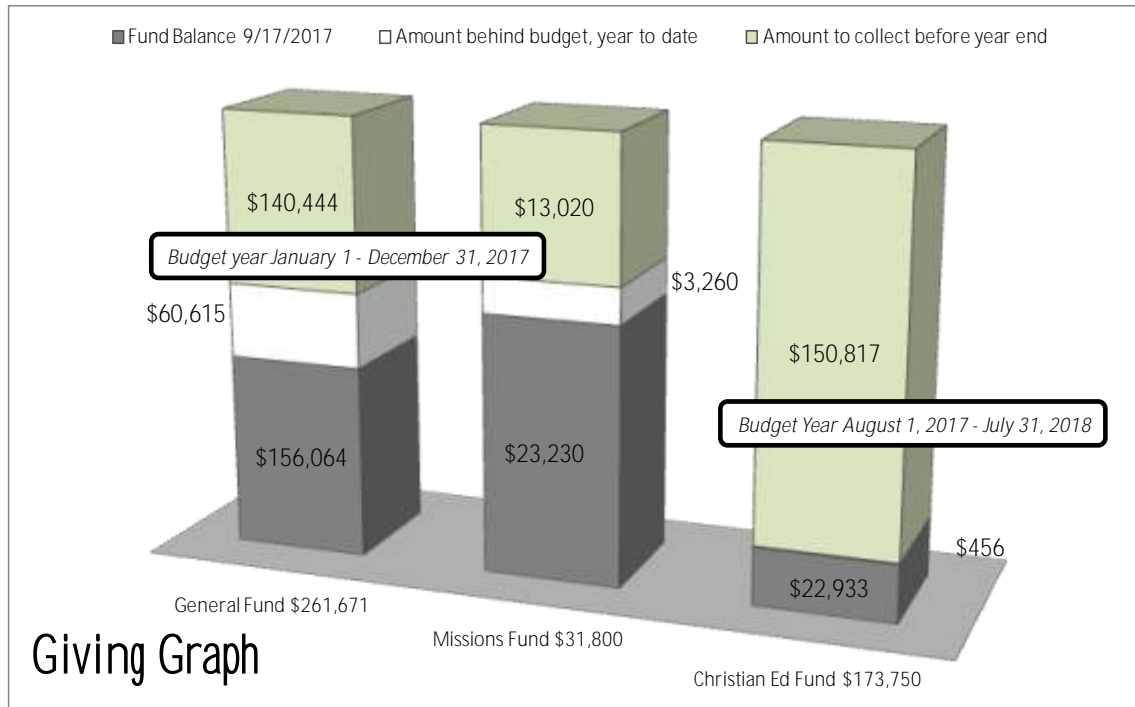


Lydia Clark and her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Bleeker, with her Covenant quilt

profession of faith, we welcome that person as a full member and promise him/her our love, encouragement, and prayers.

So, as you can see, there is a common thread running through baptism, quilts, and profession of faith. At Covenant, they are all a time

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Notes from the Deacons

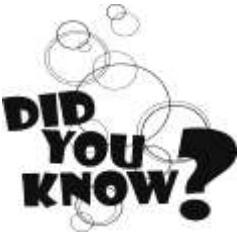
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to express our love and care to the children of our congregation, from the time they are infants, throughout their growing up years, and beyond.

As members of a church family we not only make those promises to the child, but to their parents as well. Promising to love and care for that child may mean helping the family financially. For many of our children, their growing up years include attending our Christian schools. We, as a church family, have made a commitment to help cover the cost of tuition

for “our children” so that they can attend our local Christian schools. For those of us who have/had school-age children, hopefully we have all felt that loving support. For those whose children are past school age, we hope that you find joy in giving that loving support. A big thank you to all those who faithfully support these young members and their families by giving regularly to the Christian Education Fund. Please continue to be faithful in meeting the commitment we have made to these young members.

For the Deacons,
-Pat Crull



you can drop a few dollars into the church’s accounts by buying groceries, doing a home remodeling project, or making an order on Amazon?

If this sounds like a good idea, we encourage you to participate in the TRIP program at Sioux Center Christian School. TRIP stands for Tuition Reduction Incentive Program. It is a program that anyone can participate in. Local stores (and national too) are donating money **to TRIP and it doesn’t cost you a thing!** All you need to do is buy gift cards through school and 100% of your purchase can be used at a store, just like cash! The selection is amazing and includes both local stores and restaurants as well as most of the national chains (including Amazon!). Covenant actually uses TRIP to pay for some of its own purchases as

well—for example, many of the bills from the parsonage kitchen remodel were able to be paid with TRIP gift certificates!

While many families choose to designate their **TRIP funds for their own children’s tuition account, those who don’t have a child in school** can also participate and the money will come back to Covenant. You can specify at the TRIP office whether you want your purchases to go toward the Christian Education Fund or the Tuition Assistance Fund. Either way, your purchases will help a Covenant child receive a great education.

The TRIP office at Sioux Center Christian is located right inside the main entrance (a window just inside the door to the left) and there are order forms available there. The office is typically open Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We encourage you to check **out the TRIP page on the school’s website** for more information and the online order form.

www.siouxcenterchristian.com/support/tripinfo.cfm

Kids' Page: Celebrating the Reformation

This year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation! Reformation Day is on October 31, but we'll celebrate it in church on October 29.



The Five Solas found in this coloring page are main themes of the reformation:

- Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone: II Timothy 3:16-17)
- Sola Gratia (Grace Alone: Ephesians 2:8-9)
- Sola Fide (Faith Alone: Galatians 3:11)
- Solus Christus (Christ Alone: I Timothy 2:5)
- Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone Be Glory: I Peter 4:11)