

Pastoral Group Dinner Schedule

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



March 4—Hibma/Crull
March 25—Mellema/Haan
April 8—Friend/Bajema
April 15—Kok/Christians
April 22—Schelhaas/Mellema

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, March 29, 2018
7:00 PM

The service will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper. Nursery will be provided.



From the Elders...

Dear Covenant brothers and sisters;

It's time for another update from your elders. Let me begin with a brief look at the form for the "Ordination of Elders and Deacons" found in the back of the 1987 gray Psalter Hymnal. In this form we read that "elders serve by governing the church in Christ's name... Elders are responsible for the spiritual well-being of God's people. They must provide true preaching and teaching, regular celebration of the sacraments, and faithful counsel and discipline...And they must promote fellowship and hospitality among believers, ensure good order in the church, and stimulate witness to all people." We elders ask for your prayers as we continue do our best to serve you. We also ask that you do not hesitate to call on us if you would like a visit to talk about personal matters or the governance of the church. We continue to be grateful for the many preachers who have brought God's Word to us while we don't yet have our own pastor.

Our pastoral group dinners are scheduled to begin soon. We strongly encourage you to participate. Meeting together on these and other occasions helps us to grow in knowledge of and love for one another. The food, in addition, is always a feast!

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Courier

March 2018

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

A Song for Lent

At Covenant we have a tradition of reflecting on a song during the high liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. This year, we are focusing on the song “My Worth is Not in What I Own” by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Graham Kendrick.

We chose this song for a couple of reasons. First of all, it calls us repeatedly to the cross, to Christ’s “costly wounds of love” that have saved us.

But further, it helps us reflect on our theme of baptism. We know that baptism brings us along with Christ on the journey through death to new life, but for traditions like ours that emphasize infant baptism, it also points out that there is nothing that we bring to the table. We are helpless as we make that journey; we are truly saved by grace, not of our own, so that no one can boast.

So often during Lent we are asked to give something up to reflect on Christ’s suffering. This year, as we reflect on our worth and what makes us worthy, we challenge you to give it all up: everything, save the saving work of Christ. Consider your baptism and how, in this season and throughout the year, we can clothe ourselves in Christ.

“Two wonders here that I confess, my worth and my unworthiness. My value fixed, my ransom paid, at the Cross.”

-The Lent Planning Team

Want to listen to this song? You can find a few recordings of it here:
<https://www.gettymusic.com/my-worth-is-not-in-what-i-own/>

My Worth Is Not in What I Own

My worth is not in what I own;
not in the strength of flesh and bone,
but in the costly wounds of love
at the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name;
in win or lose, in pride or shame,
but in the blood of Christ that flowed
at the cross.

Refrain:

I rejoice in my Redeemer,
greatest treasure,
wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other.
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.

As summer flowers we fade and die;
fame, youth, and beauty hurry by.
But life eternal calls to us
at the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might,
or human wisdom’s fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ
at the cross.

Refrain

Two wonders here that I confess:
my worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed, my ransom paid
at the cross.

Refrain

Words and Music by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Graham Kendrick, © 2014 Getty Music Publishing (BMI) / Makeway Music (admin. by Musicservices.org)
CLLI #493458

From the Elders

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Covenant is, of course, also part of a cohort of other churches in our town and our classis. Mark Tazelaar and Dennis De Jong recently attended the CRC Liaison Committee meeting, which discusses matters of interest to the CRC churches in town. News from this meeting is that Covenant CRC and Bridge of Hope will be responsible for planning the Sioux Center CRC Reformation Day Service in 2018. Dennis De Jong, Sanneke Kok, and Chris Goedhart also plan to attend a day-long meeting of Classis Iakota early in March.

During this time of Lent, dear brothers and sisters, let us dwell on the need for repentance for our sins, and even more so, on the marvelous person of Jesus Christ, who gives us new life and new hope. And for our world, using the somewhat adapted words of Graham Kendrick, let us pray: Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us. Set us free by the truth you now bring us... send forth your word and let there be light!

-Sanneke Kok (on behalf of the Elders)



Covenant Choir

We look forward to getting Covenant's Occasional Choir together for our Maundy Thursday and Easter morning services. Thank you to Ryan Smit who has agreed to direct! We invite all interested singers high school and up to join us! If you are interested and did not receive an email from Rebecca De Vries, please contact her for rehearsal information.



Christian Education Auction

The auction is coming!

Save the date for Saturday, March 24, at 6:30 PM for a night of fun, fundraising, fellowship, and a bit of friendly bidding competition!

Wondering what you might have to offer? Covenant folk have come up with wonderful, creative ways to offer themselves and their services in the past. Past auctions have included international dinners, game nights, swimming parties, freshly baked bread, flower bouquets or desserts delivered monthly, and so much more.

And don't forget that your kids can be of service as well! Would your child be willing to offer their babysitting, lawn mowing, or leaf raking services? Can they provide some hard labor or cleaning services?

We challenge you to think creatively about how you can offer your gifts and abilities! And if you are not able to donate something to be auctioned, we encourage you to bring your checkbook—we also need buyers!

Thanks to the Christian Education Committee who is planning and preparing for this event and who work hard to help us raise money to meet our commitments to the Legacy Fund/Fair Share programs.

Watch for sign-ups coming soon!

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Caleb S	10	Jeff P Lila S	23	Richard E Victoria E Mike J Beth VB
2	Jerry P	11	Benjamin P Del VZ	25	Emma H
4	Brian M Lee R	14	Mike & Laura J Roger & Linda VH		
5	Annika G	17	Sean H		
6	Mark MC	19	Cheri H		
8	Amaliah F Sara P	20	Carol A Mark T		
9	Davey & Kate H	21	Wil & Jo A		



Offering Schedule

March 4

AM General/Building Fund
PM World Renew: General Fund

March 11

AM Christian Education Fund,
Compassion Fund
PM Promise Community Health Center

March 18

AM Missions Fund
PM Resonate Global Mission

March 25

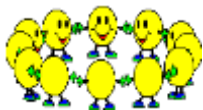
AM Tuition Assistance Fund
PM Back to God Ministries International



March Assignments

Here are the assignments for members to “practice hospitality” this month...

Remember to wear your name badges!



Nursery

Parents of the month: Jason & Dani W

March 4

AM INF Erin E, Duane B

TODDLER Joe E, Jan B

PM Mark & Cheri H, Barb T

March 11

AM INF Ana F, Kurt V

TODDLER Josue F, Sharon V

PM Marty & Kris VP, Kathy DW

March 18

AM INF Mark MC, Donna B

TODDLER Merrill MC, Ethan B

PM Steve & Pat C, Dave & Jan V

March 25

AM INF Dave K, Dani W

TODDLER Emily K, Jason W

PM Doug & Marge DB, Jo F

March 29—Maundy Thursday

PM Davey & Kate H, Eldon & Marcia W

April 1

AM INF Megan H, Ryan H

TODDLER Rob H, Angela H

PM Jeff & Sara P, Lee R



Coffee Servers

Alejandro C, Mark C, Jo F

Barb H, Kurt V, Dani W



Greeters

AM Adam F, Tim K, Lila S

PM Cal J, Barb T, John V



Ushers

AM Paul C, Joan MC, Jake VW

PM Rebecca DS, Laurey Z

Substitutes

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

Duane B, Ruth Clo, Marge DB,

Beth VB, Dennis VP, Eldon W



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, **March 19** for the April issue.

Notes from the Deacons

Why Support Christian Education?

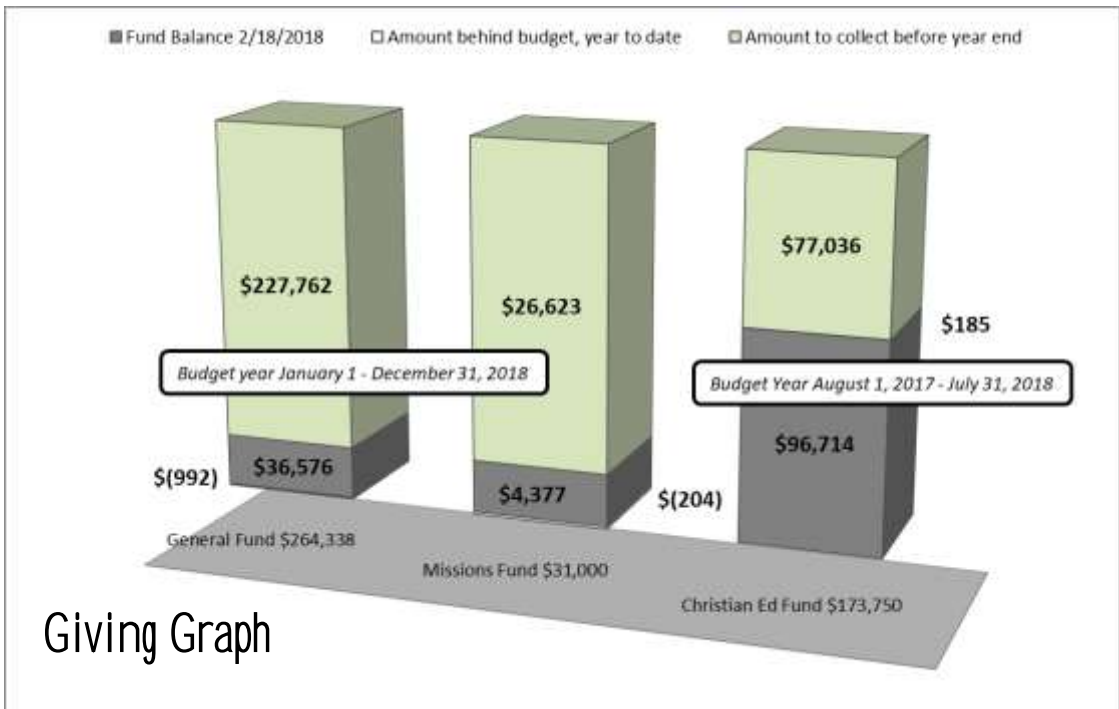
Some of you may be asking that question. One important reason is that the goal of our Christian schools is to educate the whole child—mind, body, and spirit—which is reflected in their mission statements. The mission statements of our local Christian schools include phrases such as “Biblically based education,” “God-centered education,” and “discipl(ing) God’s children by equipping them with a knowledge and understanding of Christ and His creation,” all with the goal of teaching their students how to serve God and others in whatever they do. Covenant supports the idea of putting God at the center of our children’s education and has made a pledge to help the families in our congregation meet their Christian school tuition costs through our Christian Education Fund.

How Are We Doing?

According to the Legacy Plan at Sioux Center Christian School, families with school-age children are expected to come up with 60% of each child’s tuition, with the help of TRIP and NICSTO contributions. The supporting churches are asked to make a pledge to cover the remaining 40%. Covenant made a pledge of \$150,000 for the ’17-’18 school year, which was lower than the amount requested. The local Christian high schools ask the churches to come up with 30% of the total tuition costs.

If you add the amount left on our pledge to SCCS and the balance of the 30% owed for our high school students, we need a total of \$88,147.50 to complete the payment for those pledges in July. That means we need \$17,629.50 each of the next five months.

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Notes from the Deacons

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What Can You Do to Help?

First of all, take time to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider what you personally or as a family can do. Thank you again to those who faithfully give to our Christian Education Fund. Your financial support is a blessing and very much appreciated. If, for various reasons, you have not been giving to our Christian Education Fund, please do consider how you can contribute. Maybe you can come up with some creative options! Have you been a willing volunteer for the Christian education fundraisers? Would you be willing to help plan a fundraiser for Christian education? Can you make a contribution to the auction coming up in March? We, as a church family, all need to do what we can to help meet the pledges we have made.

In last month's Courier, Tom Clark (treasurer of the deacons) suggested some general guidelines that may help you in knowing how you could break down your "tithes." Those guidelines suggested 55% to the General Fund, 35% to Christian Education, 7% to the Missions Fund, and 3% to the Building Fund.

So as you think about how much you will be giving to our Christian Education Fund over the next few months, think about it as an investment in the lives of our covenant children as they are prepared to "obediently serve God and others as they work and play." Our hope is that you will be able to joyfully and generously share the blessings you have been given.

-Pat Crull

for the Deacons

Representing at Unity...

Congratulations to Rylan Brue and Joya Breems for representing their classes for Unity Christian's Homecoming 2018! Joya was the sophomore class representative and Rylan was officially "knighted" as the senior class representative.

Here is a part of Rylan's statement which was printed in Unity's Homecoming Bulletin:

"Christian education has always been a part of my life. From my earliest memories of listening to stories before bed and learning how to shape a capital G through my high school years, my education experiences have been "God-soaked." For me one of the greatest blessings of Christian education has been to realize that Christ's resurrection has significance not only for human souls, but also for

mathematics and hockey games. Through Christian education, I've been infected by God's contagious delight for creation and excited by the implications of Christ's kingship.

One of my favorite verses comes from a familiar Psalm. Psalm 23:6 where David proclaims, "Surely your goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." I like that idea of good ol' goodness and mercy in active pursuit. God is not content with letting his goodness and mercy passively amble behind me as I walk through life, but instead goodness and mercy are right behind me—hot breath on my neck—doggedly pursuing me, not willing to let me get far away for even a moment! As I look forward, I am reassured by the Good Shepherd's tireless pursuit after me and the whole creation, determined to let goodness and mercy have the last word."

Chili & Cinnamon Roll Cook-Off Recap

The Chili and Cinnamon Roll Cook-off at Covenant on January 26 was a smashing success! Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for all their hard work and planning to make it happen! The tables were full of delicious food, we feasted and fellowshiped, and all the kids (and maybe a few adults) ate way too many cinnamon rolls.

Our master chef for the evening was Cheri Horstman, who won the chili contest, and the master baker award went to Kris Vander Plaats for the best cinnamon rolls.



January Series on DVD

Did you miss some of the January Series lectures here at Covenant and wish you could have seen them? We have received DVDs of all of the lectures from this year which were not under contractual restrictions for recording. You are welcome to borrow them! Contact Sara in the office if you're interested.