

# Pastoral Search Committee Update

From the time the Search Committee began its work in February to the recent visit to Covenant by Pastor Joel and Tricia Kok, the pastor search process has been supported by the prayers of God's people. Numerous prayers have been raised that God would lead and guide us to the pastor He has chosen for Covenant. The 96.3% affirmative vote Pastor Joel received Sunday morning is evidence that the Covenant congregation believes that he is the pastor God has chosen for us. We now ask for prayers that God will lead them to accept the call we have extended to them. If you would like to contact Pastor Joel and Tricia to encourage them to come, call them at 647-967-0995 or email them at joel.kok@willowdalecrc.com.

-Dennis Vander Plaats & the Search Committee

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## Welcoming our College Students

In Romans 12, after urging God's people to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, Paul lays out what love in action looks like. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13)

With a new school year upon us, we have the opportunity to practice hospitality by welcoming the new and returning Dordt College students into our body and our homes. One

way we can do this is by getting to know students during our fellowship hour after church!

If you want to take it a step further, please consider being a host family to a Dordt student or getting your name on a list to create care packages for students throughout the year. If you're interested, please contact someone on the College Relations Committee. (Mark Tazelaar, Dane Hibma, or Robin Fedders.)

Are you interested in being a part of the college relations committee? Talk to one of the members of the committee!



# From the Elders...

An eleven-year old girl in skirt, blouse, bobby socks, and scuffed brown oxford shoes sits uneasily on the edge of the chesterfield (sofa/couch). Her mum has organized her always-messy, straight blond hair into a part along one side of her head, with a bobby pin keeping her eyes and forehead clear of unruly strands. Along with a number of similarly dressed and coiffed younger sisters lined up beside her, she is waiting for the doorbell to ring. It rings. Dad, who is wearing his suit jacket goes to open the door while mum, in Sunday clothes, gives us a final look of inspection and rises to greet the visitors. Two middle-aged men—also wearing suits—are ushered in by my dad; they look very serious and we girls squirm. Thus begins “huisbezoek” (home visit) by the elders of the Second Christian Reformed Church of Rexdale, a suburb of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, my family’s home church.

That was 1958. Fast-forward sixty years and we are in Sioux Center, Iowa in 2018! If you are not a young immigrant family, you may not recognize the above tableau. Although, maybe if you are old enough and of Dutch heritage, living in Sioux Center now, it may sound a little familiar. If you are part of the fresh transfusion of non-Dutch-heritage believers into the Christian Reformed Church, you may be wondering what is going on. Well, the above anecdote has just been an introduction to the custom of annual home visits made by pastors, elders, and deacons to the members of the congregation, even to this day (Article 65, Church Order of the CRC). As school begins and a new season begins, so does the next round of pastoral home visits. As we are preparing to make schedules and

get in touch with the families of our pastoral groups, we elders and deacons are thinking, talking, and praying that the visits we make will be of service to the members of the congregation. Louis Tamminga, a retired minister of the Christian Reformed Church, wrote a small book, *The Elder’s Handbook* in 2009. Tamminga comments that in an increasingly individualistic society like the one we live in, people may wonder why a home visit is necessary. People may even think, “What business is it of yours to ask about my spiritual welfare?” (54). Others may feel that they are being evaluated or judged.

Here are some words from the “Ordination of Elders and Deacons,” which we use every time we install new elders and deacons and thank those who have served in these offices:

In the officebearers of the church we see the love of Christ for his people. As the Lord of the church he appoints leaders and by his Spirit equips them, so that believers may grow in faith, develop disciplined Christian living, serve others in selfless Christian love, and share with all the good news of salvation. He taught us the spirit of true leadership when he said, “Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant,

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Evening Worship Schedule

**September 2:** No evening worship

**September 9:** 6:00 PM service

**September 16:** No evening worship

**September 23:** 6:00 PM service

**September 30:** No evening worship

## From the Elders

*(Continued from page 2)*

and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28).

We elders and deacons are fellow redeemed sinners who want to get to know you better and to love you with the love of our Lord. We want to know what is going on in your everyday lives and what makes you happy as well as what worries and grieves you. With every individual or family we visit, this desire to get to know and love you better can take on a different form, but the motive is the same: to walk with you and to encourage you as you participate of the community of believers in Jesus and his already-coming kingdom, also in that small part of the Church that is the congregation of Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center.

-Sanneke Kok (on behalf of the Elders)



## Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Jan and Dave Ver-luis are thrilled to welcome Rory David DeYoung into their family. He was born on August 9 to Sarah and Andrew in Saint Paul, MN and weighed 7 lbs 11 oz. He joins big sister Maren.



**In a Small Group at Covenant you will find:**

- Members of All Ages
- A Lot of Great Food
- Engaging Bible Study
- Folks Who Care About You
- Praying People
- Deep Fellowship
- Talking and Laughing
- Genuine Community

If you are interested, sign up on the sheet at the welcome table, contact any small group leader, or talk to Bob or Rebecca De Smith.



Sunday School and Catechism for kids in grades 1-12 begins on Sunday, **September 9** at 9:00 AM!

The adults are welcome to come back to school too! Covenant Sunday Morning, a Sunday School time for adults will start at the same time, meeting in the Youth Room. (See page 8 for details about what they are studying this fall.)

Thanks to all the teachers who will be teaching our young ones this year!

# September Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



## Offering Schedule

### September 2

AM General/Building Fund  
World Renew: General Fund

### September 9

AM Christian Education Fund  
PM Family Crisis Center

### September 16

AM Missions Fund  
Safe Church Ministry

### September 23

AM Tuition Assistance Fund,  
Compassion Fund  
PM Farmer to Farmer

### September 30

AM General Fund: Ministry Shares

## Thank You!

Thanks so much for your recent donation to Promise Community Health Center. We are honored and humbled that you value our mission in the community.

Derrick Vander Waal  
Promise Community Health Center



We will kick off the start of the church education year with an all-church picnic at Children's Park following our morning worship service on **September 9**. Here are the food assignments by last name:

**A–K**—bring a large dessert

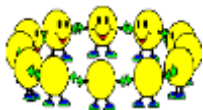
**L–Z**—bring a large salad

The council will be grilling burgers and brats, and chips and drinks will be provided. Please bring your own table service if you're able.

# September Assignments

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

Remember to wear your name badges!



## Nursery

Parents of the month: Luke & Sarah H

### September 2

AM INF Ross F, Sarah H

TODDLER Lisa F, Luke H, Laura J

### September 9

AM INF Eldon W, Val Z

TODDLER Marcia W, Ryan Z

PM Dave & Luanne G, Duane & Jan B

### September 16

AM INF Erik H, Deb H,

TODDLER Barb H, Daryl H

### September 23

AM INF Mark H, Erin E

TODDLER Sara H, Joe E, Barb T

PM Kris & Marty VP, Dave & Jan V

### September 30

AM INF Josue F, Sharon V

TODDLER Ana F, Kurt V

### October 7

AM INF Mark H, Dani W

TODDLER Cheri H, Jason W

## Thanks for serving!

Are you interested in serving in any of these ministries, but aren't currently on the schedule? Contact Sara in the church office—we'd love to add you in! ([covenant@mtcnet.net](mailto:covenant@mtcnet.net))



## Coffee Servers

Jenni B, Steve C, Rebecca DV,  
George F, John K, John V



## Greeters

AM Shirley T, Betty VP, Eldon W

PM Marge DB, Bernie DW, Jo F



## Ushers

AM Mark C, Erik H, Kurt V

PM Wil A, Rin G

## Substitutes

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

Paul C, Doug DB, Pam DJ,  
Cal J, Gidge M, Jake VW

### 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 24** for the October issue.

# Notes from the Deacons

Week 4—Tuition Assistance Fund  
 Week 5—Ministry Shares/Outreach  
 Commitments

## What About the PM Offerings?

Some of you may be wondering how this will work with the offering schedule now that there will be two evening services each month instead of four. With the idea of not having to cut the number of causes that we support, the deacons have decided to try the following plan.

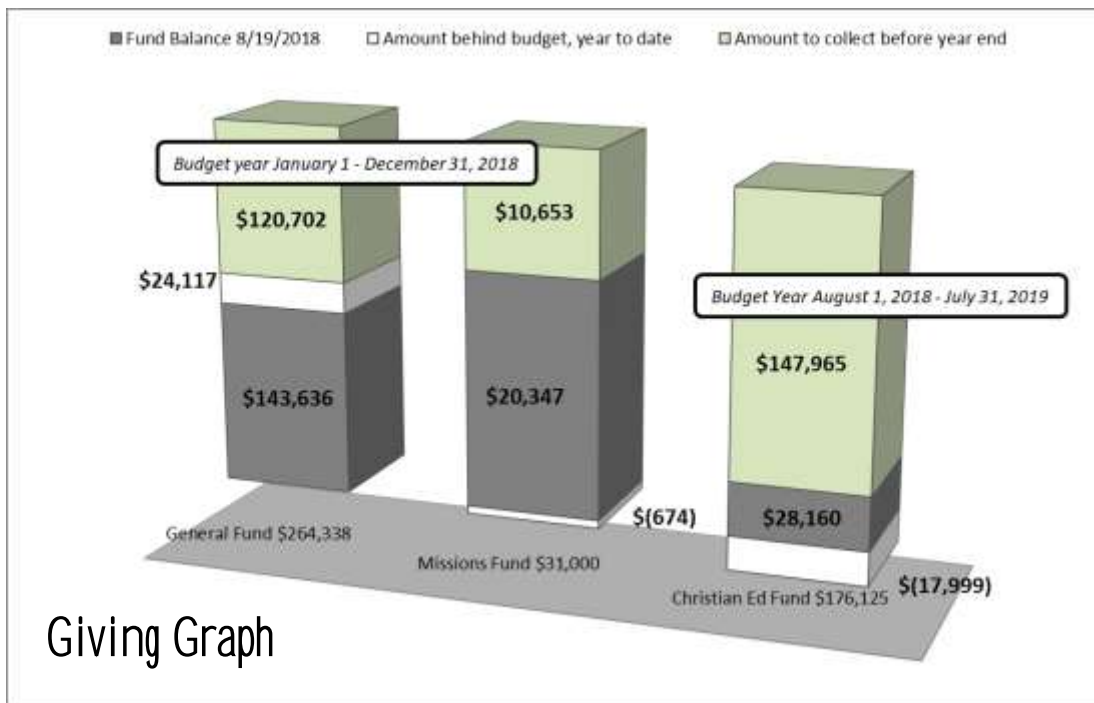
There will be two causes listed for each Sunday. The first cause will be the monthly offering for that particular Sunday of the month. Those causes include:

- Week 1—General & Building Fund
- Week 2—Christian Education Fund
- Week 3—Missions Fund

The second cause will be one of the causes that we give to annually. We collect one offering per year for many of those causes; for others we collect two or three offerings per year.

There are two ways you can give to both causes. Either designate on your check how much you would like to give to each cause, or you can use an envelope to indicate how you would like the money designated. If you need envelopes, they can be found in a cubby in the top left-hand corner of the church mailboxes. And, in case you were wondering, we will collect an offering when we have an

*(Continued on page 7)*



Giving Graph

\* Please note that the Christian Education Fund total on the graph is our commitment from last year. We haven't received numbers from each school so we don't have an updated total for this fiscal year.

# Serving at Covenant

*This is part of an ongoing series about the many ways Covenant members serve in our church, our community, and beyond.*

My name is Deirdre Eggebeen, and I was one of the people who volunteered to help the Sioux Center Library's Summer Reading Program, which ended August 9. I signed people up, answered any questions they had, and recorded when kids had earned and received prizes. When people were not there, I chatted with coworkers, read, or drew to pass the time.

I worked at the library, just inside the main entrance. There were 2-3 tables and plenty of signs set up just for the reading program, and always someone sitting there ready to help. People just walked up to us volunteers, and we helped them with the summer reading program.

The reasons why I did it was I felt I wanted to help people out and maybe learn some new skills. The library is sometimes really busy,

and I helped the librarians by volunteering and helped the participants to earn prizes, encouraging more reading. I also had fun helping out. I do think I made a positive impact being a volunteer. I made some new friends last year, and this year I got to work with them again. It is nice to meet new people with similar interests, and work with them toward a similar goal.

I did learn some things like socializing and communicating as well as record keeping. I also improved my handwriting a lot and practiced art skills while I waiting for someone to help out. I also learned how if we were asked something we did not know, we could direct the enquirer to the front desk. This will be helpful later in life when I do not know about a subject and can find somebody else who does have knowledge of the subject.

I am really thankful that I did this this year and last year. I made friends, improved skills like socializing, and I helped people out. All in all, I do feel like doing it again next year. I hope to see you all reading next summer!

-Deirdre Eggebeen

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## Notes from the Deacons

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evening service, which will be the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

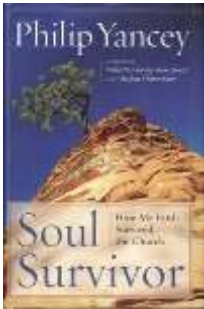
We've also made the committee assignments for the coming year. They are as follows: Tuition Assistance—Lisa Christians, Elderly/Disability—Marv Wielard, Young People—Joe Eggebeen, Christian Education—Megan Haan and Lee Mellema, Service & Missions—Carol Oostra, Building—Lee Mellema, Worship—Lisa

Christians. Tom Clark is our church treasurer, and Pat Crull is the chairman of the deacons.

If you have questions, please contact one of the deacons. And please pray for us as we assess needs and resources and try to promote stewardship and justice. We are here to serve.

For the Deacons,  
-Pat Crull

# Covenant Sunday Morning This Fall



Covenant Sunday Morning will begin this year with discussions of the book *Soul Survivor* by Phillip Yancey. *Soul Survivor* has as its subtitle *How My Faith Survived the Church*, and it contains twelve essays by Yancey that examine the lives and writings of well-known liter-

ary and religious figures each of whom contributed to Yancey's faith. In the opening essay, Yancey explains that he grew up in a virulently racist church and gradually moved from the positions of that church to more mainstream Christian attitudes and beliefs. He shows how he was assisted in this process by a number of people such as Martin Luther King, Dr. Paul Brand, Frederic Buechner, Annie Dillard, and others.

Each chapter focuses on the life and writings of one of these people, and every Sunday morning a different member of Covenant will lead a discussion of one of these chapters. Please join us as we explore this exciting book.

Here is the schedule:

**September 9**—Dave Schelhaas on Chapter 1: "Recovering from Church Abuse."

**September 16**—John Visser on Chapter 4: "Detours to Happiness" Dr. Paul Brand

**September 23**—Mark Tazelaar on Chapter 3: "Relics Along the Seashore" G. K Chesterton

**September 30**—Davey Henreckson on Chapter 2: "A Long Night's Journey into Day" Dr. Martin Luther King

**October 7**—No class

**October 14**—Ruth Clark on Chapter 5: "Tender Lives and the Assaults of the Universe" Dr. Robert Coles

**October 21**—Mark McCarthy on Chapter 6: "Chasing Grace" Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky

**October 28**—Jeri Schelhaas on Chapter 10: "The Splendor of the Ordinary" Annie Dillard

**November 4**—Emily Kramer on Chapter 8: "Serpents and Doves in the Public Square" Dr. C. Everett Koop

**November 11**—Mary Dengler on Chapter 9: "As He Lay Dying" John Donne

**November 18**—Bob De Smith on Chapter 11: "Whispers from the Wings" Frederick Buechner

**November 25**—No class

**December 2**—Ethan Brue on Chapter 7: "Echoes in a Strange Land" Mahatma Gandhi

**December 9**—Luke Hawley on Chapter 12: "A Place for Traitors" Shushaku Endo

**December 16**—Barb Hoekstra on Chapter 13: "The Wounded Healer" Henri Nouwen

Copies of *Soul Survivor* can be purchased for \$6 at the church office.

-Dave Schelhaas