

March Formation Sunday Evening Plans

We will continue our emphasis on Storytelling through the month of March. Here is the schedule for the month ahead:

February 24, 5:00 PM

Worship, stories, and songs with the Unity Christian Knightsounds

March 3, 5:00 PM

Pastor Joel will share thoughts and lead a dialogue on The Lord's Prayer—"Thy Kingdom Come"

March 10, 5:00 PM

Stories with the F.O.S.S.I.L group and others

March 17, 5:00 PM

An evening WE (Worship Experience) on the Lord's Supper and our stories of the bread and cup

March 24, 5:00 PM

Worship with the GEMS (with Faith CRC and Bridge of Hope)

March 31, 5:00 PM

Art and Faith with David Versluis

Note from Pastor Joel...

Beginning on March 10 (the first Sunday in Lent), Covenant CRC will take some steps down the Emmaus Way by practicing weekly communion through Easter Sunday (April 21).

As I've mentioned previously in the Courier, when we follow the Emmaus Way in worship, we look to Jesus to do every Sunday three things he did on the first Easter Sunday: first, walk alongside us to worship in a listening way; second, open the Scriptures in a way that speak to our hearts; third, make himself known to us in the breaking of the bread. (See Luke 24:13-35 for the Gospel story of the Emmaus Way.)

Since 2011, the policy in the Christian Reformed Church is that all baptized members are invited to the Lord's Supper. In other words, younger members who would like to participate in the sacrament can do so. The typical practice is for the children or younger members to talk with their parents and then meet with the Pastor and perhaps an Elder or two. In those conversations, we can explore the Lord's Supper as a way for our Lord to nourish us in faith. A baptized member's public profession of faith can come at some other suitable time. In the meantime, we encourage our children to participate in the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions or

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Courier

March 2019

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Note from Pastor Joel

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thoughts or requests in this regard, please get in touch with me (Joelekok@gmail.com).

On Sunday evenings, we will continue to meet at 5:00 PM for our formation gatherings. In these gatherings, we engage in various activities. Members share their stories; the Pastor or others do some teaching, or we explore other matters that play a role in our formation and in God's mission to the world. Our Formation Sunday Evenings so far have been very well received. Please consider joining us in upcoming weeks. On February 24, we will worship with the Knightsounds from Unity Christian High School. On March 3, I will teach from the Lord's Prayer. And for the remainder of March we will engage in more story-telling and dialogue. Once again, if you have questions, thoughts, or suggestions, please get in touch with me.

-Pastor Joel



Covenant folk enjoying a friendly game of Wits & Wagers on our first Warm Winter Wednesday.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes

March 6 | 6:30-7:00 PM

Nursery Available

Eat, Drink, Remember and Believe

As the congregation is aware, for quite some time the elders have been discussing the concept of weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper. The elders, in consultation with the worship and liturgy committees, have decided that we will celebrate communion for each of the six Sundays in Lent, starting on March 10, and continuing through Easter Sunday on April 21. The elders will consider this a trial run and seek feedback along the way. Openness to this concept was one topic that the Search Committee asked each of our pastor candidates about, and we are grateful for Pastor Joel's willingness to incorporate communion into the Sunday services in Lent.

-Steve Holtrop (on behalf of the Elders)

Thank You!

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank Jan Bajema, Pat Crull, Kathy DeWitt, Kurt Frisch, Shirley Matheis, and Nancy Vanden Bosch for donating their time and energy to make all of the candy for our chocolate fundraiser. We also would like to thank those who came to help assemble and fill boxes. We were delighted to have sold 143 boxes of candy to congregation members and people in our community and were able to raise \$2,245.



Serving at Covenant

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

Some years back some retired men from our church decided to take Mike Vanden Bosch out for coffee a few times a week. At some point I joined that group. After I got to know Peter Andersen, I invited him to join our group as well. Peter is a brilliant young man who, due to a genetic disease, is now confined to a wheelchair. He has a van with a ramp so he can drive his wheelchair into it and I drive his van to Casey's for coffee. If I am not available, Wil Alberda or Marv Wielard drive for him.

Our group discusses faith, politics, our community, sports, or whatever comes up in the news. Whenever we run into a technical problems, we rely on Peter to explain it. He previously worked as an engineer for Boeing in Seattle, WA. After sometime Pete Vander Plaats also joined our coffee group. We now have a real scriptural group since we have a First Peter and a Second Peter.

The time we have together is great for exploring ideas, developing relationships, and challenging each other to grow in faith and service. The baked goodies at Casey's help to sweeten our time together.

-Stan Vanden Berg

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



Offering Schedule

March 3

AM General Fund

March 10

AM Christian Education Fund

March 17

AM Missions Fund

March 24

AM Compassion Fund

PM GEMS

March 31

AM Building Fund

Covenant Sunday Morning Schedule

March 3: The CRC and Race Relations
(Jenni Breems)

March 10: The CRC and Worldly Amusements
(Dave Schelhaas)

March 17: The CRC and War (Dave Schelhaas)

March 24: The CRC and Climate Change
(Dave Schelhaas)

March 31: The CRC and Ecumenism (Pastor Joel)

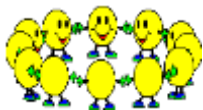
Dear Friends and Prayer Partners at Covenant, thank you for your contributions and partnership with our ministry. We are encouraged to have you walking alongside us as we serve Christian schools and teachers in West Africa. We returned to the field on February 2 and are settling back into life here. It's been a joy to reconnect with various school leaders and teachers since our return.

—Sosthene and Kara Maletoungou

March Assignments

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

Remember to wear your name badges!



Nursery

Parents of the month: Fednel & Kara T

March 3

AM Laura J, Laura L, Dave & Luanne G

PM Bob & Rebecca DS, Eldon & Marcia W

March 6—Ash Wednesday

PM Luke & Sarah H, Duane & Jan B

March 10

AM Ryan & Val Z, Dave & Jan V

PM Daryl & Deb H, Barb T

March 17

AM Joe & Erin E, Josue & Ana F

PM Marty & Kris VP, Steve & Pat C

March 24

AM Erik & Barb H, Rob & Megan H

PM Mark & Cheri H, Ethan & Donna B

March 31

AM Kurt & Sharon V, Ryan & Angela H

PM Adam & Robin F, Jo F

April 7

AM Ron & Carol O, Jason & Dani W

PM Mark & Lisa C, Doug & Marge DB

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 25** for the April issue.



Coffee Servers

Wil A, Mark C, Marilyn M,
Shirley T, Marty VP, Kurt V



Greeters

AM Mark MC, John V, Jason W



Ushers

AM Jo A, Rockne MC, John Z

Substitutes

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

Marge DB, George F, Rin G,
Mark H, Sharon V, Eldon W

Pastoral Group Dinner Schedule



February 24—Hibma/Eggebeen
March 3—Ploegstra/Haan
March 24—DeSmith/Wielard
March 31—Kok/Christians
April 7—Jongsma/Mellema
April 14—Tazelaar/Oostra

Notes from the Deacons

This month, our three outgoing deacons are sharing a few thoughts about their time serving as deacons these last three years.

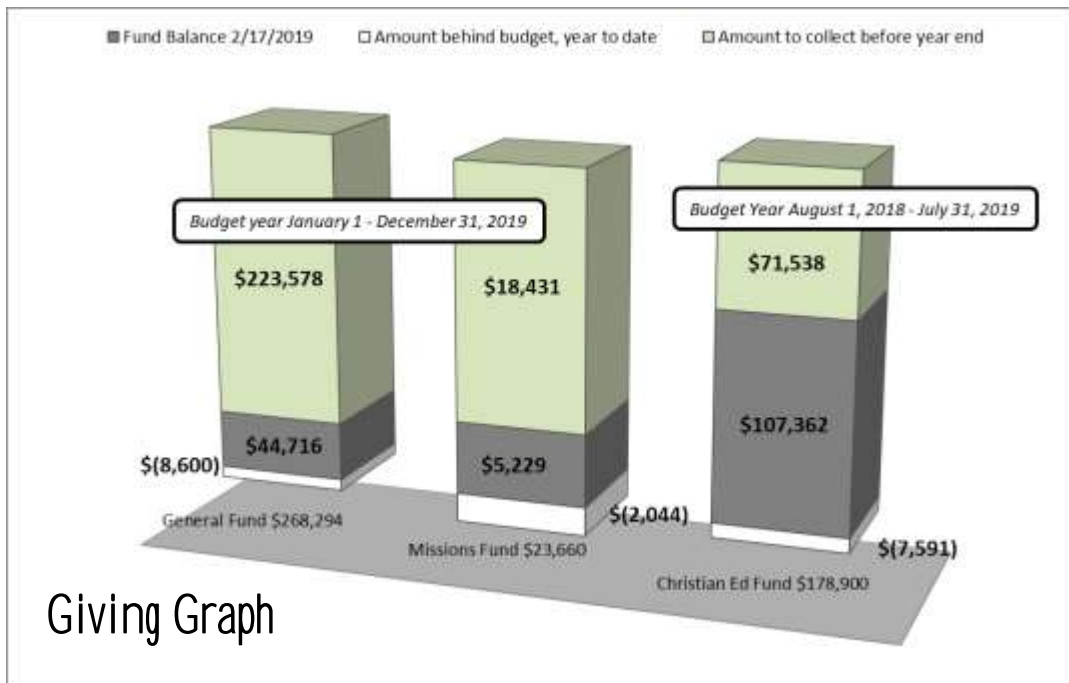
I have had the privilege of serving as a deacon at Covenant twice. As I look ahead to finishing my current term as a deacon in June, I also look back on the experience of serving. One of the greatest joys has been working alongside my fellow deacons and watching them care for Covenant members with such love. It has also been a delight to watch the younger deacons grow in their role of leadership and service.

There are times when it is heartbreaking to hear of the hardships members in our congregation are facing, but along with that comes the blessing of being able to walk alongside

them and to provide support for them. One of my assignments as a deacon has been coordinating with families who are in need of tuition assistance. Being able to help relieve some of the stress of tuition payments during a tough financial time is such a joy. I am continuously astonished at the generosity of so many in our congregation who give financially and in other ways to help other members.

I am also the deacon liaison for the worship committee. This has opened up my eyes to the many things that go into providing meaningful worship at Covenant. The sensitivity to all aspects of worship, including our worship space, are strengths of the worship committee members. I have been humbled at the gifts of the members on the committee and their attention to details that I would never notice. What a blessing that each member of Covenant has a gift unique to them that builds up and edifies our entire body.

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Note from the Deacons

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For those of you asked to let your name stand for deacon, I want to strongly encourage you to give thoughtful consideration to the call. Is being a deacon time-consuming and at times frustrating and worrisome? Yes, but the benefits and blessings of serving far outweigh any of the negatives. Getting to know the hearts of the people I serve with and the hearts of those I serve has been one of my richest experiences at Covenant. I love this Covenant body and thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a deacon.

-Lisa Christians

As I conclude my time serving as a deacon I'm reflecting on the oft-quoted line from Bill Shakespeare—

"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts."

It's true of course, we take on roles, some of which we chose, others are chosen for us, in this case ordained, literally. There's a lot of good work that is done by our deacons, and plenty more to do. I'm so very proud of the people I've served with. I've gotten to know and respect them deeply. Especially those whom I may not otherwise really have known but have come to. There's work to be sure, but often the work isn't difficult, it's passing the bags, counting offerings, and bringing the deposit to the bank; a meeting here and there where consensus carries most decisions. But it's so important, so valuable. Our deacons through sound practices are incredible caretakers of the church building and the offerings, minimizing the potential for embezzle-

ment which is unfortunately too common. Budgets are prayerfully put in place to guide our decisions against whim. So if you find a letter calling you to serve, I recommend taking up the part. The powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse.

-Tom Clark

Being a deacon was another experience I won't take for granted. It has its pros and cons. It is well-known that being a deacon is time-consuming, there are plenty of responsibilities, your eyes are open to congregation members struggles, and you're asked to make tough decisions. None of those responsibilities are to be taken lightly. On the other side, it becomes evident how well our church supports its members and the communities both in prayer and monetarily. In my time as a deacon I became closer to those who I thought I wouldn't, cherished conversations, and learned more about the inner workings of the church. Ultimately, I will never take for granted those who are willing to serve in the council. With that, I leave you with a proposition: if you are asked to serve on council, please take strong consideration before answering "yes" or "no."

-Lee Mellerna

A few words about deacons from the form for the ordination of officebearers:

"Deacons serve by leading and equipping the church to minister to its members and the world in a rich diversity of ministries, awakening compassion, demonstrating mercy, seeking justice, and collaborating with God's Spirit for the transformation of persons and communities."

Here are some ways you can pray for Kelly and April Crull, along with their children Aleke, Teo, and Ruben, as they serve in Spain.



colleague David as he presents the book and *Comunitas Española* at various seminaries in Spain over the next few months.

- Pray for our local church planting team as we work on aspects of our church's identity over the next few months.
- Praise God that the church planting guidebook *Dynamic Adventure* will be coming out in Spanish next week. Pray for our
- Pray for guidance and wisdom as we continue to seek out new partners for church-planting in Spain and across Europe.
- Praise God for a Church-Planting Consultation held here in Asturias in November. Pray that new leaders will step up into starting new churches.

Kids Coloring Page

