

# Resurrection Garden



The Formation Fellowship—the group who gathers to plan and discuss our evening gatherings—would like to invite you to join us on Palm

Sunday evening (April 14) at 5:00 PM to plant a Resurrection Garden. Each household will be able to plant one garden to take home, and it is our hope that as you anticipate your grass seeds sprouting and growing during Holy Week, you will also anticipate our new life in Christ which we'll celebrate on Easter. Look for more information to come.



## Holy Week Schedule

### Maundy Thursday Worship

April 18 ♦ 7:00 PM ♦ I Corinthians 11:23-26  
Joint service with Amistad Cristiana

### Good Friday Worship

April 19 ♦ 12:00 PM ♦ Psalm 22

### Easter Morning Worship

April 21 ♦ 10:00 AM ♦ John 20:1-18

### Easter Evening Worship

April 21 ♦ 5:00 PM ♦ Taize service

(Nursery will be provided for the Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday Services.)



*Making and bringing our quilt squares to the Table at the WE service. "So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King."*

Courier

April 2019

COVENANT  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

# Note from the Elders

Hello Covenant sisters and brothers. You probably know that the practice of “home visits” is a time-honored Christian Reformed Church tradition. In our congregation too, the elder-deacon teams of each pastoral group visit the members of their pastoral group regularly. Some of you may have recently had such a visit, or you may have one scheduled. During these visits, the elder and deacon want to demonstrate the love and concern of our congregation and of Jesus himself, for you, the members of our group, by listening to you; hearing what is going on in your lives; asking if you feel served by the body of Christ; encouraging you to serve as you are able; and, to pray with you. The elders and deacons are ready to meet and talk at any time you want to share thoughts or ask questions concerning our life together as a congregation.

Just as individual members and families within the church receive regular visits, so too, the particular churches within the classis (the group of CRC churches within a certain geographical area) receive visits from appointed pastors and council members. Covenant’s council received such a visit this past February 25 at a recent meeting. Here are the questions they asked us:

- If a person or a family moves to Sioux Center, why should they join Covenant?
- Elders and deacons, what are highlights as you serve the congregation?
- Pastor, how do you see yourself serving in this congregation?
- Council, how do you support your pastor?
- What is it that makes you a congregation in the Reformed tradition?

After the discussion, one of our church visitors remarked that he sensed that we are a congregation that knows Jesus and that seeks to share his love for his world and his people. The other church visitor read from I John 4:7-15, in which the apostle reminds his readers that love comes from God, whom we have never seen, but that when we believers love each other, God’s love dwells deeply within us, and indeed, his love becomes complete in us! (The Message) It is the desire of the council that all of our members are included in this bond of love. We see much love and care among you, brothers and sisters, in times of celebration and in times of great need. We are grateful for you and your love for each other. May the love of God, reflected from us, serve as a beacon for those who are in the dark.

-Sanneke Kok (on behalf of the Elders)

## Welcome, Emma!

Emma Otilia Rose was born to Alexa Castelan and Cesar Mercado on March 7 shortly after 5:00 PM. She weighed 7 lbs and was 19 inches long. Emma is blessed with two big sisters, Bryanna and Mia.



# Selection Procedure for New Council Members

The Council will submit a slate of candidates to the Congregation for approval (affirmation); the slate should include at least three names for each open position on Council. For 2019, there are two Elder positions open and three Deacon positions. Therefore, the Elder slate will include at least six names, the Deacon slate at least nine names. The congregation will have two weeks to consider the names on the slate.

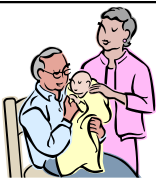
Members of the congregation will vote after the worship service on April 28. This year again we will use affirmation (approval) voting in the congregational vote: each member of the congregation may approve of none, some, or all, of the Deacon nominees, and none, some, or all, of the Elder nominees. The names approved by 2/3 or more of those voting will be eligible for drawing on the following Sunday, May 5. The ballots will have one box per nominee: to affirm, congregation members will check that box; a blank box on the ballot means “do not affirm”. It is possi-

ble that all the nominees could be eligible for the drawing on the following Sunday. The nominees approved by this procedure will be known only to the counters selected by Council.

On May 5, the final selection will take place. The names of the two new Elders and three new Deacons will be drawn by lot. All Deacon nominees affirmed by the congregation will be available for this drawing, and likewise, all Elder nominees affirmed will be available for the drawing.

The Council judges that this method has these advantages: members of the congregation have input, both by recommending names and by voting (on April 28) to affirm and/or not affirm persons nominated; this method minimizes the popularity contest aspect of other methods: all names on the slate could be affirmed and be eligible for drawing on May 5.

For the Council, Dennis De Jong



## Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Congratulations to Chris and Rin Goedhart on the birth of two new grandchildren!

Betsy Jo Halpert, daughter of Lisa and Morgan, was born on February 20. We had a great visit at the beginning of March!

Caleb James joined the Nietz family on March 5. He has a big brother Lucas. His parents, Jennifer and Jim, are delighted

to have Caleb in the family. Opa and Oma Goedhart are thrilled as well.



# April Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Auden M Marty VP	11	Sara E	22	Stella Ribbens
2	Becky D Brian & Barb M	14	Sharon B	25	Eden H
3	Rebecca DV	15	Justin B	26	Alejandro C
6	John V	17	April Crull Eli H Dylan K	30	Jacob VT
7	Megan H	20	Jennifer Kuiper		
8	Sam E	21	Ruben Crull Adam F Jonas F Nathan Maletoungou		
9	Sharon D				



## Offering Schedule

**April 7**  
AM General Fund

**April 14**  
AM Christian Education Fund

**April 21**  
AM Missions Fund

**April 28**  
AM World Renew

## Covenant Sunday Morning Schedule

**March 31:** The CRC and Climate Change  
(Dave Schelhaas)

**April 7:** The CRC and Ecumenism (Pastor Joel)

*Schedule Note: April 7 will be the last Covenant Sunday Morning time until fall. Sunday School and Catechism will meet through April 14.*

## Formation Sunday Evenings

**April 7:** Mark Stephenson, CRC Disability Concerns

**April 14:** Resurrection Garden Activity

**April 21:** Easter Taizé Service

**April 28:** Testimonies

## Pastoral Group Dinner Schedule

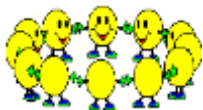


March 31—Kok/Christians  
April 7—Jongsma/Mellema  
April 14—Tazelaar/Oostra

# April Assignments

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

Remember to wear your name badges!



## Nursery

**Parents of the month:**

Mike & Laura J

### April 7

**AM** Ron & Carol O, Jason & Dani W

**PM** Mark & Lisa C, Doug & Marge DB

### April 14

**AM** Dave & Emily K, Paul & Ruth C

**PM** (no nursery)

### April 18—Maundy Thursday

**PM** Jeff & Sara P, Lee & Jenni M

### April 21

**AM** Jake & Trena VW, Tom & Ruth C

**PM** Dave & Jeri S, Kathy DW

### April 28

**AM** Pam & Dennis DJ, Nick & Jenni B

**PM** Laremy & Becca DV, Chris & Rin G

### May 5

**AM** Andy & Rachel L, Emilyn S, Lee R

**PM** John & Linda V, Eldon & Marcia W



## Coffee Servers

Isabel C, Rob H, Barb H,

Dave G, Rachel L, Marcia W



## Greeters

**AM** Joan MC, Merrill MC, Jake VW



## Ushers

**AM** Paul C, Sherri TN, Beth VB

## Substitutes

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

Ruth Clo, Bob DS, Chris G,

Cheri H, Dave S, Linda 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, April 22 for the May issue.



# Giving To Date

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Amount Behind Budget
General	(1/1/19-3/24/19) \$61,914	\$62,519	(\$605)
Missions	(1/1/19-3/24/19) \$5,460	\$8,112	(\$2,652)
Christian Education	(8/1/18-3/24/18) \$116,973	\$122,316	(\$5,343)

## Notes from the Deacons

Deuteronomy 12: 5-6

“But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.”

Covenant CRC, this building, is a place where we gather to seek the Lord. While Covenant is a meeting place every Sunday, it’s also a building used to begin a new marriage, a shelter for Warm Winter Wednesday nights, a place to gather family for a baptism, and an architectural structure of stained-glass windows that houses beautiful music. Covenant CRC is many different things and the building itself needs care and attention too.

As a deacon on the building committee it is my responsibility to inform the congregation of what is in store to help keep the building operational. The building committee recently put a list of tasks with estimates together to help understand the financial needs associated with all these projects.

- \$1,900 in a recent snow removal bill
- \$2,000 estimate to fix our SW entrance (This is now completed and looks wonderful.)
- \$3,000 estimate to recaulk and paint our stained-glass windows
- \$3,000 estimate for new gutters on the south side of the building
- \$20,000 estimate to finish off the flat roof repairs (A 7-10 year plan is in the works to help pay for this expense, while understanding potential leak fixes will require immediate attention.)

These are all projects to expect in the coming months that go above and beyond our monthly expenses. Please consider this list when planning your monetary giving.

-Lee Meltema



*Thank you for sharing your gift of song!*

# Serving at Covenant

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

This past summer we had the opportunity to volunteer at Royal Family Kids Camp. The primary purpose of Royal Family Kids Camp is to give children, ages 6-12, who are or have been in the foster care system, a week of positive memories and royal treatment in a Christian camp environment. From the moment campers arrive at camp and walk the red carpet to meet their guides, the love for them is evident.

Campers are assigned to a guide who they spend the majority of their time with during the week. A very special relationship develops between the campers and their guides over the week and through the years as returning campers often have the same guide year to year. We were moved by the love and service of the guides to these kids. It can be an exhausting job, but they were so positive and served these kids so selflessly.

We served in the role of Grandpa and Grandma for the week. We supported the guides, did activities with the campers, shared meals with them, participated in chapel time, read books, and put the campers to bed each night. I cherished those bed times rubbing backs, singing songs, and reassuring campers who were scared. One little girl asked me to sing "King of Kings" for her every night.

Part of the daily schedule included chapel time where some of the campers were exposed to the love of God for the first time. The campers were told and shown over and over during the week that God loves them and

that they are a unique and special child of God. On the last night of camp, there was a birthday party to celebrate every camper. Each camper was given birthday cake and a present, which included an MP3 player with all the songs learned over the week. That night and the next day as the campers headed home, you could see headphones in most of the campers' ears listening to the songs reminding them of God's love for them.

The hardest part of the week was watching the campers say goodbye to their guides and riding back with them to Carmel Church where they met back up with their caregivers, which might be foster parents, adoptive parents, or their biological parent(s). While the ride to camp was loud and full of excitement, the ride back was subdued and filled with tears.

It was so hard to say goodbye to the kids at the end of the week. We knew some of these kids were heading back to really hard places. One little girl didn't want to leave my side and shrunk back as her foster mom came up to get her; some couldn't stop crying. However, there were also those welcomed back by great foster and adoptive families, which was reassuring. There was so much brokenness in these kids' lives, and we felt privileged to be a small part of their lives, offering love and healing.

There are many ways to help at camp for the week. If you are interested or want more information, please feel free to talk to us. You might also enjoy a video about camp found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATofRe6Kgw4&feature=youtu.be>

-Mark & Lisa Christians

# When Things are Falling Apart

*Several weeks ago, pastor Joel mentioned that a member of our congregation asked for prayer because this person's life was "falling apart." I want to share a paraphrase of Psalm 6, written by a pastor, Leslie F. Brandt. David's prayer for relief and mercy in a time of great trouble is also our prayer.*

-Sanneke Kok

## Psalm 6

O God, don't clobber me in disgust  
or chastise me in anger.  
But the fact is, I'm falling apart.  
I am distraught and confused.  
I am in deep trouble  
and I don't know how long I can take it.

I can only beg You to enter into my conflict,  
to extricate me from this incessant battering,  
to demonstrate your love  
in deliverance and salvation.  
Otherwise I'm going down the drain;  
and how, then, could I either praise or serve You?

I am fed up with this continual agony;  
I can no longer endure these perpetual defeats.  
I am becoming increasingly discouraged  
about my human frailties and fallibilities.

If only I could be sure  
that You know about my anguish,  
that You discern my cries for help,  
that You also feel and understand,  
that You will never let me go.  
Then I could stand firm even in defeat  
and rise victorious even over my failures  
and make even my human weaknesses  
serve You.

-Leslie F. Brandt