

HOSTESS SUPPER

Friday, May 3 ✦ 6:00 PM

A fundraiser for the Christian Education Fund supporting our Legacy Fund commitment.



Continuing the Conversation...

On three Sunday mornings, May 19, 26, and June 2, beginning about 30 minutes after our worship services, Pastor Joel will engage in further dialogue about the Emmaus Way and weekly communion. The gatherings will include biblical and church teachings and a chance for all members to be heard. If you'd like to attend and need child care, please let Pastor Joel know, and we will make arrangements. These gatherings will last about 45 minutes, and everyone is invited.

New Artwork in Church

We have some new artwork hanging on the walls of our church! We invite you to wander into the Children's Worship room to check out our three new photos by Kelly Crull. These were part of an exhibit in the Sioux Center Public Library last summer and were donated by the Walkie Talkies. Check out the new turtle, squirrel, and owls who are gracing the walls of our space!



save the date

Join us for a fellowship event on
Friday, May 24

Mac & Cheese & Bingo

Watch for more information to come!

Courier

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

May 2019

Note from the Elders

Hello, dear Covenant sisters and brothers! At the time of this writing, this elder is visiting family in the Netherlands and Germany, but when you read it, she will be back in Sioux Center, God willing. I want to share with you some information and my experiences of celebrating Resurrection Sunday in the province of Brabant, the Netherlands, a traditionally Roman Catholic area of the Netherlands, which is now very secular. We celebrated Easter in a small Protestant church in a small town, Someren.

A little background information on the *Protestantse Kerk van Nederland* or PKN. In the 1960's with a continuing decline in membership in all churches in the Netherlands, a group of Protestant churches formed a group called *Samen op Weg* or "going forward together." This was an ecumenical group that sought to unify the many different protestant churches in the Netherlands. In 2006, the PKN, as a result of the *Samen op Weg* movement, was established. It includes the Reformed churches, and the Lutheran churches. A number of orthodox and liberal Protestant churches did not join because of theological differences. According to a quick bit of internet research, in 2018, 9% of the Dutch population belonged to the PKN; another 9% belonged to other Protestant churches; about 21% were Catholic; and 5% Muslim. The rest of the population was agnostic or atheist. That's more than half of the population.

We arrived at the little 18th century church building, and our party of eight were able to squeeze in by ones and twos into the packed church. I think the church held between 75 and 80 people. We celebrated Christ's resurrection with beautiful trumpet and organ mu-

sic and a message based on the apostle John's account of resurrection morning. The pastor talked about how Christ's resurrection gives us all a new beginning—again and again. She spoke about the different responses Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John had to the empty grave and pointed out how very much like Peter, Mary, and John, we still are today! And this good news of the resurrection and the coming-again-in-glory of Jesus still motivates us this very moment, to live lives of love and gratitude and witness to our Redeemer for our world and our neighbour.

As I was looking into the make-up of religious affiliation in the Netherlands, my 14-year-old grandson asked, "Grandma, why can't we just all get along together?" Why, indeed? It's my prayer that my family, my church family, and all of God's children, look to Jesus for the fulfilment of that deep longing. Happy Easter—today and every day. He is risen indeed! dark.

-Sanneke Kok (on behalf of the Elders)



Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Canon Taylor Smith was born on Wednesday, March 27 in Denver, Colorado to Zach and Emily Smith. Grandpa Mark and Grandma Lisa Christians, Auntie Anna Christians, and Great-Grandpa Bernie and Great-Grandma Kathy De Wit are all very excited to welcome him to the family.



Weather Announcements

Summer in Northwest Iowa is approaching and with that comes the possibility of severe storms. Recently the Executive Council devised plans concerning postponing church services. Council decided that

- 1) Steve Holtrop, President of Council, will make the final decisions, in consultation with a few other persons.
- 2) The congregation will be notified via email, Facebook, and radio stations KDCR and KSOU. This notification will come before 7:30 AM for the morning service and 4:00 PM for the Sunday evening gathering.
- 3) In the case of a tornado WARNING for the area, services will be postponed. In the case of a tornado watch, the decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- 4) Covenant will consider any advice from the Sioux County Sheriff on weather matters.
- 5) For any weather situation, members should use their own wisdom and discretion when deciding to attend a service.

For the Council, Dennis De Jong



Emma Haan and her Resurrection Garden

How Does Your Garden Grow?

We had a wonderful night assembling our Resurrection Gardens on April 21! Thanks to all those who planned the activity and provided the supplies for it. Hopefully your Resurrection Garden was a good reminder during Holy Week of the Easter promise of new life!



Above: Bob & Rebecca DeSmith work on their garden together.

Below: Ron Oostra's garden (Looks like the grass could be mowed by now!)



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

3	Luanne G	16	Annika Frisch	25	Mark & Lisa C
4	Ale C	17	Meghan V	26	Lewis C
6	Luke VT	18	Yazzie Bierma John-Patrick MC Ethan & Donna B	28	David H Erik & Barb H
8	Eldon & Marcia W			29	Steve & Pat C
9	Lisa C Len R	19	Mark & Barb T	30	Emily E Dan & Jeananne Kuiper
11	John & Becky S	20	Zoey E		
12	Rob & Megan H	21	Phyllis L	31	Mark H Joan MC
14	Lisa F Carol O Daniel T Tom T	22	Everett F Rowan H Jean Maletoungou Bernie & Kathy DW		
15	Will B	23	Kurt V		



Offering Schedule

- May 5**
AM General/Building Fund
- May 12**
AM Christian Education Fund
- May 19**
AM Missions Fund
- May 26**
AM Compassion Fund

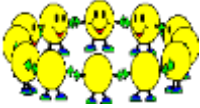
Formation Sunday Evenings

Our 5:00 PM Evening Formation Gatherings this month will include the following:

- May 5:** We will worship with the Knightsounds from Unity Christian High School; the service will include both a sermon and testimonies.
- May 12:** Pastor Joel will offer some teaching regarding the Lord's Prayer; the teaching will include dialogue.
- May 19 & 26:** Various members will lead us in a discussion regarding Climate Change; we will both exchange information and practice healthy civil dialogue.

May Assignments

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



Nursery

Parents of the month:
Tom & Ruth C

May 5

AM Andy & Rachel L, Emilyn S, Lee R
PM John & Linda V, Eldon & Marcia W

May 12

AM Alejandro & Isabel C, Laura J, Barb T
PM Dave & Luanne G, Bob & Rebecca DS

May 19

AM Ross & Lisa F, Duane & Jan B
PM Daryl & Deb H, Kris & Marty VP

May 26

AM Luke & Sarah H, Erik & Barb H
PM Dave & Jan V, Steve & Pat C

June 2

AM Ryan & Val Z, Josue & Ana F
PM Mark & Cheri H, Rob & Megan H



Coffee Servers

Jan B, Natalie B, Sharon D,
Jo F, Daryl H, Dani W



Greeters

AM Luanne G, Zoe H, Merrill MC



Ushers

AM Bernie DW, Trena VW, Kris VP

Substitutes

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

Duane B, Luke H, Cal J,
Gidge M, Jeri S, Del VZ



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, May 20 for the June issue.

Giving To Date

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/19-4/21/19) \$82,552	\$83,304	+\$752
Missions	(1/1/19-4/21/19) \$7280	\$11,027	+\$3,747
Christian Education	(8/1/18-4/21/19) \$130,735	\$133,632	+\$2,898

Notes from the Deacons

Dear Covenant Family,

First of all, thank you for your faithful giving over the past few months. So far we have been able to meet our financial obligations for both the General Fund and for Christian Education. What a blessing!

You should have found an envelope and a list of causes for our Spring Offering of Thanks in your mailbox. The spring offering for special causes is scheduled for the first Sunday of May, which falls on May 5 this year. This offering provides a way for us to continue giving to some of the special causes that we have supported in the past. Since we no longer have regular offerings for these special causes, the decision was made to only list causes that we have not included in our budget. However, if there is a cause that you would like to include that is not on the list, just note it on the envelope. We realize that there are many causes that you may want to support, but, we are asking that for this offering you try to limit the number of causes to four or five.

We want to thank Lisa Christians, Tom Clark,

and Lee Mellema, who have served as deacons over the past three years. Thank you also to those who were willing to have their name be put up for nomination to fill those positions. Please pray for each one of them as they seek ways to serve, whether as a deacon or in some other way.

For the Deacons,

-Pat Crull



Church Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 4 ♦ 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

Watch for more information from your pastoral group deacon about cleaning assignments.

Serving at Covenant

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

Volunteering opportunities living in a senior citizens' RV park in Mission, Texas are many. Parking cars, baking pies, serving donuts and coffee at the monthly craft show, setting up chairs for Sunday worship services or special events, driving neighbors to the hospital for treatments or appointments, keeping an eye on the lady who lives down the street because she has dementia, or the gentleman next door who's been falling and having seizures. There is always someone in the park who is sick or has lost a loved one who would love a visit or just a card.

Outside our fenced community, however, the needs and opportunities are many and different. At the Mission hospital, 160 babies are born each month. All babies leave the hospital with a blanket (many come to have their babies taking nothing with them). Most blankets are crocheted or quilted and donated by winter Texans. I challenge myself to make 10-15 each season (a mere drop in the bucket). I also make smaller, soft blankets for babies who do not survive. These babies are wrapped in them to be buried in. I call them my "Joseph of Arimathea" blankets (John 19:38-40). They never tell me if I make too many or not enough and maybe I don't want to know.

A group of women also get together to make stuffed animals for the Mission hospital. This past season we made and donated a little over 600 stuffed animals to be given to babies and kids.

We have workshops each season to make mattresses. They are made of upholstery fabric

and each are stuffed with 900-1000 plastic bags. These are given to kids who attend Bible School at a mission called "His Hands Ministry." To receive a mattress, they are required to attend each of the 6 days Bible School is held and know the daily Bible verse in both Spanish and English. These kids sleep on the floor, so they treasure having a mattress. We also give them to an orphanage in Mexico. The beds there are made of wood, so the mattresses make them a little more comfortable. This year, while ringing bells for the Salvation Army, we got to know the commander and he was excited about our mattresses, so we added them to our list of recipients. When their facility is full, they must send the homeless away to go sleep in the park nearby. They are happy to be able to give them a mattress to at least get them off the ground to sleep.

Three years ago we adopted a family of five who live in McAllen, Texas. The father is African-American and the mother is from Mexico. We met James while he was working at Wendy's. He was a real character and we pretty much fell in love with the guy. When asked if we could adopt him and his family to be part of ours, he readily agreed. Since then, their family has grown by two (two more boys). They now have four sons and one daughter. They moved to Mission because they had a house fire in McAllen. Five of the seven family members have birthdays in the four months we are there and they invite us to celebrate with them. The past two years they have also invited us to have Christmas with them, so that has been fun. They have a small Christmas tree, but no gifts under it. That makes our hearts sad.

This past year we befriended a man who appears to be homeless. When asked, he said he had no address, but does have a PO box num-

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Serving at Covenant


(Continued from page 7)

ber. He is a small, unshaven little man who wears the same very worn, not so clean clothes all the time. We have been meeting with him at Whataburger on Saturday nights to share a meal and good conversation. Ask Ed about Harold. It's an interesting story.

God has blessed us by giving us many opportunities to volunteer plus good Christian friends, and even friends who claim they are ordained priests of Satan. They complain about all the praying we do at the park, but have been coming back for 12 years now. Maybe one of these days they will give their hearts to Jesus. We pray that will happen. God is good.

-Natalie Brummel


Kids Activity Page



On the Road to Emmaus

Luke 24, 13-38

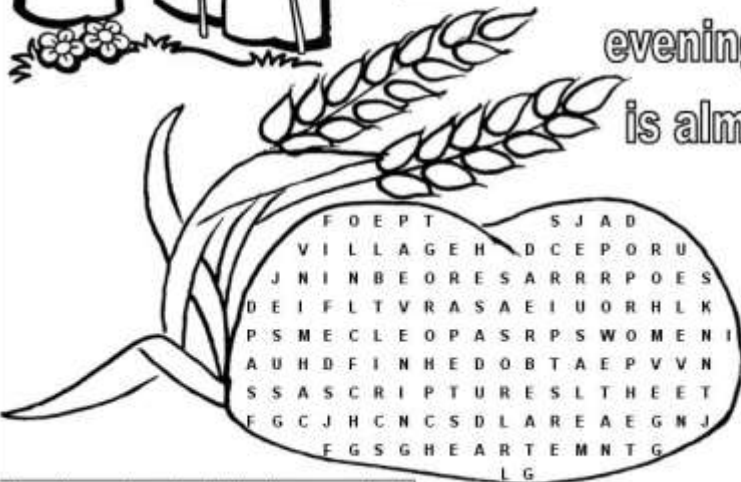

Find the hidden words



Village
Jesus
Prophet
Cleopas
Scriptures
Women
Heart
Table
Evening
Bread
Eleven
Jerusalem

BIBLE KIDS · EU

Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.

Clue: the words are in all directions — vertical, horizontal, diagonal, even backwards!