

Water Softener Salt Sale Fundraiser

I have some exciting news to share! Due to a restructuring of PACE and fundraising events at Sioux Center Christian School, Covenant and Bridge of Hope will be jointly taking over the water softener salt sale formerly run by PACE. When it was decided to streamline fundraising at SCCS, all the area churches who contribute to the Legacy plan were given the opportunity to take over the salt sale as a way to raise funds for their contributions to the plan, and BOH and Covenant were the only takers. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to utilize an already established fundraiser that both myself and Nick Breems have been a part of for 4 years! Our new task force includes two members from Covenant, myself and Jenni Mellema, and two members from Bridge of Hope, Tina Folkerts—who was also a member of the PACE salt sale committee—and Derrick Postma.

Our hope is that we continue to build on the community support the fundraiser has received in the past. Last year the salt sale raised over \$11,000 for PACE, and although we don't foresee those kinds of numbers for our salt sale, I hope you can see the opportunity being presented. This year will be an experimental year—we will see how it works to coordinate a fundraiser between two churches, we will see if the time and energy dedicated to this fundraiser will be worth the

money brought in, and we will see if we are able to manage the man (and woman!) power needed to pull off this kind of labor intensive fundraiser. Hopefully this will be a chance for us as a church to have the kind of fundraiser that pulls from the community resources, while also providing a product and service.

Some of you may not be very familiar with the Water Softener Salt Sale! Now you get to know the very inner workings and closely guarded secrets. ☺ The sale is run in conjunction with Water Werks here in town. We take orders for 40lb bags of salt crystals, which Stacy Jasper at Water Werks then orders for us. We pay him an agreed upon price per bag, while we sell the bags at a higher cost. He kindly stores the pallets of salt for us and in previous years has let us use his shop as a distribution center on delivery day. When the sale was run through PACE, we sent home an order form with each SCCS family and were able to place single order forms in all the area church mailboxes. (You may remember



(Continued on page 8)

Courier

February 2021

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Online Faith Formation Opportunity

Since we will not be offering Covenant Sunday Morning during the winter/spring session, here is an online faith formation opportunity for you to engage in either individually or with your family. what is offered.)

We hope that engaging in these life-giving spiritual disciplines refreshes your life and nourishes your faith.

The Faith Formation Ministries of the CRC is offering a set of resources on Spiritual Disciplines that examines 12 faith formation practices. One new practice will be offered each month for one year (beginning in September 2020). This online study provides creative ideas for individual and communal practices, Scripture passages and articles to read, and several resources to explore each discipline in greater depth. You can explore the current Spiritual Discipline or a past practice.

Here is a link to the Faith Practice Project: <https://www2.crcna.org/FaithFormation/practices> (Click on the available Spiritual Disciplines on the right side of the page to see

-Covenant's Education Committee

Here is the schedule of the practices:

Sabbath: September 2020
Gratitude: October 2020
Generosity: November 2020
Hospitality: December 2020
Engaging Scripture: January 2021
Justice and Mercy: February 2021
Listening: March 2021
Celebration: April 2021
Prayer: May 2021
Wonder: June 2021
Remembering: July 2021
Service: August 2021

Covenant Sunday School

Sunday School at Covenant begins again on **February 21!**

We are looking forward to restarting our Sunday School ministry at Covenant. Students, please go directly to your classrooms when dropped off at 9:00 AM. Parents, students will be dismissed around 9:50. Please be at church for them to find you. Mrs. Clark will be available for questions. We highly encourage masks in attending Sunday School for helping our teachers and others stay safe!

-Ruth Clark

Sunday School & Children's Worship

Offering for February



Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta

COVID Recovery Iowa

We were recently made aware of this resource in the church office and would like to pass it on to the Covenant church family.

I am writing to you about COVID Recovery Iowa and what we can offer to you and your community.

COVID Recovery Iowa is a virtual counseling and outreach program that I have been involved with since May of 2020 when the state of Iowa was awarded a FEMA grant due to the pandemic. We provide counseling, virtual activities, referrals, and help finding resources to any Iowan seeking assistance during the pandemic, as well as those that might have been affected by the derecho in August. All assistance is free and confidential.

It's been a tough year, that's for certain. While there is an end in sight, it still may be some time before things really get back to normal. We're doing our best trying to keep everyone's spirits up until that happens. Because this is a virtual outreach, most of that is done via social media.

We would love it if you checked out what we have to offer on .Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, all under COVID Recovery Iowa. We have a website as well, which is www.covidrecoveryiowa.org.

Our hope is that by reaching out to you, perhaps you or someone you know might benefit from what we have to offer. We know often times people do not want to ask for help, but at the same time, we can't think of a better time to ask for it.

We have two phone numbers where we can be reached:

- Iowa Concern: 1-800-447-1985 where someone will answer your call 24/7
- Iowa Warm Line: 844-775-WARM where someone will be available from 12:00-10:00 PM daily.
- We also have a Spanish line: 1-531-800-3687.

You can speak to whomever answers the phone or you can call and ask to have a counselor call, text, or email you back!

-Jeremy Rucker



Ash
WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17
6:30–7:00 PM

Join us for a brief service of worship, reflection, and the imposition of ashes to begin the season of Lent.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2	Deirdre Eggebeen	14	Marilyn Mouw	26	Dan Altena Sandi Altena Ross Feikema
3	William Lappinga	15	Sanneke Kok		
7	Wil Alberda	17	Jim Schaap	28	William Henreckson Lila Janssen
9	Jane Taylor	18	Joe Eggebeen Ryan Smit		
12	Robbin Eppinga Les Sybesma	19	Dennis DeJong		
13	Dale Brands Mimi Kamp	23	Karl Hoekstra		
		24	Joey Horstman		



Offering Schedule

February 7

AM General/Building Fund

February 14

AM Christian Education Fund

February 21

AM Missions Fund

February 28

AM Compassion/Tuition Assistance Fund

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, **February 22** for the March issue.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

We've received so many notes of thanks from various organizations for the Thanksgiving offerings that were distributed in December. There are too many to print here, but organizations like the Family Crisis Center, Genesis House, The Gospel Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Haven, The Luke Society, and New Life Treatment Center have all expressed gratitude for the gifts given last year. Thank you for your financial gifts which help each of these ministries serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.



February Scheduling

February Worship Schedule

January 31: Pastoral Groups 1,4,6 (Friend/
Eggebeen, Brue/Vos, Rhoda/Sybesma)

February 7: Pastoral Groups 2,3,5
(Ploegstra/Janssen, DeSmith/
Feikema, Schaap/Rowe)

February 14: Pastoral Groups 1,4,6 (Friend/
Eggebeen, Brue/Vos, Rhoda/Sybesma)

February 21: Pastoral Groups 2,3,5
(Ploegstra/Janssen, DeSmith/
Feikema, Schaap/Rowe)

February 28: Pastoral Groups 1,4,6 (Friend/
Eggebeen, Brue/Vos, Rhoda/Sybesma)



A Family Update from the Maletoungous:
We ended the year 2020 with a special note for praise. Kara graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education (with 4.0) following five years of part-time studies while serving in full-time ministry. The boards of the National Association of Evangelical Schools and the Teacher's Garden jointly conducted a celebration and prayer time with us. Looking forward, Kara feels led to focus her ministry on developing programs for preschool and elementary teachers as she serves on the Teacher's Garden team.

Sos has been making progress in writing his Ph.D. thesis. It focuses on teacher pedagogy in the context of private secondary classrooms in Guinea. Our family enjoyed a refreshing week of vacation at a lake. Our two

(Continued on page 8)

Formation Sunday Evenings

Join us for our 5:00 PM gatherings this month! We will devote our February Gatherings to communicating with God through the Psalms. Pastor Joel will offer a teaching time on February 7. We will explore other perspectives on the remaining Sundays.

Giving To Date

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/21-1/24/21) \$21,367	\$17,226	-\$4,141
Missions	(1/1/21-1/24/21) \$1,820	\$2,485	+\$665
Christian Education	(8/1/20-1/24/21) \$95,393	\$92,345	-\$3,048

Notes from the Deacons

The last several months have been a challenge for the deacons. In October, Luanne Goslinga submitted her resignation. Kurt Vos' name was drawn to replace her. We thank Kurt and the others who allowed their names to stand in order to fill that position. Then in December, Adam Fedders submitted his resignation. Because we will soon be collecting names for new deacons, it was decided to not fill the position vacated by Adam. Kurt has graciously stepped into the roll of treasurer.

We continue to meet each month. The current deacons have the following committee assignments: Joe Eggebeen—Youth Ministries, Building; Ross Feikema—Elderly/Disability, Christian Education, Vicar; Mike Janssen—

Worship, Secretary; Eric Rowe—SAM; Les Sybesma—Tuition Assistance; Kurt Vos—Treasurer, Executive; Kris Vander Plaats—Chair, Executive. Along with their committees, each deacon has a Pastoral Group they are to connect with (with the exception of the treasurer and chair). If you have a need or concern, reach out to your pastoral group deacon. If you are unsure who your deacon is, the lists are in the Covenant Directory.

The elders and deacons will be gathering names for new council members in the near future. We welcome suggestions and if you are approached to let your name stand, please prayerfully consider. Finally, continue to pray for our entire Council as we try to discern God's calling for Covenant.

-Kris Vander Plaats

Vaccination Registration

If you are in Phase 1B and would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccination, we encourage you to fill out the registration form on the Sioux Center Health website. They will contact you when the vaccine becomes available. You can find the form here:

www.siouxcenterhealth.org/vaccination-registration/

The Phase 1B Priority Group includes:

- Persons aged 65 years and over.

Or, the following populations vulnerable to high risk of exposure or severity of illness (listed in order of priority):

Tier 1

- First Responders
- PK-12 staff, early childhood education, childcare workers

Tier 2

- Frontline essential workers in food, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors who live or work in non-social distanced settings
- Individuals with disabilities living in home settings and their direct care staff

Tier 3

- Staff and individuals living in congregate settings not covered by previous Phase or Tier
- Government officials, including staff, engaged in business at the State Capitol

Tier 4

- Inspectors responsible for health, life and safety

Tier 5

- Correctional facility staff and individuals incarcerated

Serving at Covenant

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



Many people recognize Justice for All as a place to bring their stuff for someone else to use. With how long the ministry has been in operation (over 40 years in some capacity) it is more than likely the most common thing everyone knows. We are still receiving donations and are grateful for what everyone brings to the warehouse.

Another common thought is that basically everything gets shipped somewhere else around the country. While we do ship semi-trailer loads of goods to different ministries around the country, we also work with many local partners in this area to distribute those donations. Love INC, Center of Hope, Kingdom Boundaries, ATLAS, the Union Gospel Mission, are just a few of the partners who see some of these donations after volunteers have sorted them.

For example, in the past couple of weeks, through two of our partner ministries, JFA has helped a young family and a recently released inmate with some furniture for their new places. The young family is from Winnebago, NE and is expecting a newborn. They didn't have a crib, bed, basic kitchen items among

other things to use as they moved to a new apartment. Kingdom Boundaries also had come to us with someone exiting their program and looking to establish a new residence of his own, but he didn't have the ability to furnish his apartment. He stopped by to get a bed, dresser, chair, and kitchen items to furnish it. In both instances, each were extremely thankful and very grateful for the ability to pick up used items to help them as they start in a new place.

While tracking the volume of items that are donated and exactly when and where they end up can be difficult, we can estimate that approximately 35% of things that come in end up distributed through local ministries to those in need.

Justice for All does not have a store front and does not sell the items we receive as donations, but generous gifts allow the ministry to continue to operate and perpetuate the lasting relationships we have developed, while cultivating new ones God places in our path.

-reprinted from the Justice For All newsletter



Here's a prototype of the cookie jars that will be assembled on January 30 and shared with Covenant's neighbors.

Water Softener Salt Sale Fundraiser

(Continued from page 1)

your own yellow order form from years past.) We won't be able to do that this year—now we will be placing order forms in each of your mail boxes and asking you to help sell the salt. SCCS will definitely advertise for us and we will continue to advertise in the community as we have in the past, but Covenant (and BOH) will be responsible for drumming up orders and receiving community orders.

In addition, if you have ordered softener salt in the past, you know that part of the attraction of this fundraiser is that we deliver the order of salt to a family or individual, and not only that, we also haul it wherever they would like the salt to go. This can mean a basement, a garage, a shed, or any other difficult to reach place! We will need strong backs and knees to haul these 40lb bags of salt. Youth group, we will need you! We will also need drivers to drive trucks and trailers of salt pallets on delivery routes. Again, we don't expect the volume of bags we have had in the past—usually over 5,000 bags were delivered on a Saturday morning! But if we want to make money on this fundraiser we will need to sell bags of salt.

There are many details that will continue to be worked out by our Salt Sale task force but please save Saturday, **April 10** on your calendar as this is our planned day for delivering salt.

A thought for you to consider—how can I contribute to this fundraiser? A lot depends on the volume of salt we sell, but hopefully we will need trucks and trailers. We will need to sell salt to neighbors, family, and friends. We will need to contact area dairy farms and other businesses who have bought large orders of salt in previous years. We will need people to deliver salt on April 10—in the past we used close to 80 workers on delivery day. We will probably not need that many this year, but you get the idea.

As I said, this will be an experimental year. But it is convenient to have a fundraiser dropped in our lap that has already been somewhat established and that members of our church have had experience with. Let's run with it!

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please contact me or Jenni Mellema.

-Emily Kramer

Missionary News

(Continued from page 5)

youngest, Isaac and Samuel, surprised us by swimming for the first time without their life vests during that trip.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Items

- Praise God for healthy collaboration with the Gift of God school complex and other local schools, teachers and administrators in West Africa.

- Thank Him for increasing ministry opportunities for the Teacher's Garden.
- Pray for financial provision toward our Christian education ministries' fundraising goals (the base ministry and the Teacher's Garden project).
- Pray for our friend Mrs. D. who has been going through many challenges. Pray especially that her heart and mind would be opened to experience the love of Jesus.