

Updating the Church Directory

It's church directory time! This is the time of year when you see regular reminders to update your contact information and to make sure you've taken a picture at church or sent one in for our photo directory. Thanks in advance for helping out with this project! It is a great tool to get to know our church family, whether they be charter members or newer attendees.

To update your contact information, please check the directory listing printout found on the table in the fellowship hall. Add or correct any information as needed, or mark it "ok" if all information is correct. If you were not listed in the directory previously but would like to be, add your name and email address and I'll contact you for more information! And be warned—if you don't check your information, eventually you'll receive another email from me!

At Covenant, we don't put out a photo directory every year, but decided it's time to put one out again. Think of this part of the directory as a family album of sorts. We frequently give copies of our most recent photo directory to newcomers as a way to help them put faces and names together. And long-time attenders find the pictures helpful as well!

Thanks to Jo Alberda and Sherri Ten Napel for being our ever-willing church family photographers! Give them a great smile and a thank you when you see them!

-Sara Ploegstra

Courier

October 2021

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Connecting with Our Mission Partners

This summer many of us enjoyed visiting with our missionaries, the Crulls and the Ribbens, when they came “home” to spend time with family and supporting churches here. After those visits and after reading the interesting newsletters from Tricia and Ben Groenewold-Van Dyk, Gianni and Georgina Gracia, and Sos and Kara Maletoungou online or in the Courier, we feel even more grateful for the Gospel work they do in the place God has sent them. And we feel even more compelled to stay in touch regularly to convey our appreciation, support, encouragement, and, as we promised them, our prayers.

To that end, the Service and Missions (SAM) Committee has sought the assistance of pastoral groups to stay in monthly touch. Your elder and deacon team knows two months to which your group is assigned and they will, over the next year, encourage and organize communication from your group by way of notes or email, and they will keep alerting you of their specific needs for your prayers.

The Sunday School children will also be in touch with the missionaries, especially with the children, as their teachers direct.

To inspire your children and yourselves with stories of how God works in unique settings, how he equips his servants with courage and faith, how we should expect something other than comfort and security when we do God’s work, we recommend reading the missionary newsletters for your family devotions and pray specifically for each family.

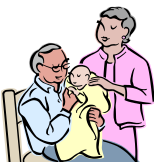
-Jeri Schelhaas (for the SAM Committee)

Thank You!

A sincere 'thank you' for the thoughtfulness and encouragement you have showered me/us with through cards, notes, emails, and prayers during these weeks and months of chemotherapy and radiation for my diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

We are scheduled to begin radiation on Monday, September 20, and so far the treatment results have been very encouraging. We know we are in the Lord's good hands and surrounded by communities of faith and family close by and farther away...thank you for being part of that...it's a real blessing to know we are not travelling alone. Thank you again!

Herm Van Niejenhuis (and Dee too)



Grandma Alert!
Grandpa Alert!

Congratulations to Steve and Pat Crull! Their first great-grandchild was born on September 11. Riggin John is the son of Grant and Jayden (Crull) Siemonsma, who live in Dell Rapids, SD. Jayden is their son Chad’s oldest daughter.

Serving at Covenant

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



Hello Covenant Family! In continuation of our local community focus, I'd like to share information about ATLAS.

From its website,

ATLAS is a faith-based non-profit community organization existing to:

- Help the hurting
- Equip the followers of Jesus
- Unite the community.

ATLAS strives to help those in our community who are hurting or are in need by:

- Providing a welcoming place of contact
- assessing needs
- Providing resources to meet needs and develop life skills
- Referring to other professional services as needed
- Sharing Jesus as the way to life and lasting change
- Providing a connection to a local church.

ATLAS works closely with the local churches to:

- Select Christians who are willing to serve as mentors
- Connect Christians with those who are hurting and in need
- Equip, encourage, and empower Christians to walk with others through life's situations
- Provide the necessary support and resources to keep these relationships strong.

ATLAS is supported by interested members who want to be part of what God is doing to help those who have spiritual, physical, and financial needs. Each contribution given to ATLAS helps strengthen those in need so that one day the person or family can be strong enough to strengthen, encourage, and financially bless others.

In our congregation, Wil Alberda and others have been mentors in the past. We encourage you to ask him about his experience next time you chat. We have ATLAS Mentoring brochures on the back table at church and if you're interested in volunteering, reach out to Tammy Zevenbergen by phone at 722-4900 or by email at mentors@atlasofsiouxcenter.org. 2nd Chance Depot is also a volunteer opportunity that assists ATLAS. The contact there is Michelle Boer at 722-0830.

Please reach out to the SAM committee if you're looking for more context or maybe a volunteer opportunity in the community that is a better fit for your particular gifts

-Eric Rowe

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Judah Hawley	13	David Westfall	25	Layne Vos
2	Ethan Brue Ava Landman	15	Mark Horstman Dan & Sandi Altena	27	Dave & Emily Kramer
3	Alleke Crull	17	Zoe Hoekstra	28	Julia Kramer Linda Vanden Hoek
5	Ed Brummel Anna Christians	18	Pam DeJong	29	Nick Breems Tina Dekker Jonathan Van Tol
7	Eric Rowe	19	Pat Crull Laura Janssen	30	Emilyn Smit
9	Steve Holtrop Kara Maletougou Samuel Maletougou Ed & Natalie Brummel	20	Esther Eppinga		
		21	Erin Eggebeen		
		24	Sophia Bailey Lydia Clark Marv Wielard		
10	Samuel Westfall				



Offering Schedule

October 3

AM General Fund

October 10

AM Christian Education Fund

October 17

AM Missions Fund

October 24

AM Tuition Assistance/Compassion Fund

October 31

AM To be determined

Covenant Church Retreat

Friday, October 1

7:00 PM

Saturday, October 2

7:30 AM

Oak Grove Lodge

Don't forget to sign up!

October Scheduling



Coffee Servers

Marge DB, Dave S, Sharon V,
Jason W



Greeters

Bernie DW, Rockne MC, Betty VP



Ushers

Dan A, Marcia W, Linda V

Substitutes

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

Doug DB, Pam DJ, Bob DS,
Andy L, Gidge M, Beth VB

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)

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, **October 25** for the November issue.



Nursery

October 3

AM Ryan & Angela H, Chris & Rin G

October 10

AM Dave & Emily K, Tricia K

October 17

AM Bob & Rebecca DS, Andy & Rachel L

October 24

AM Laremy & Rebecca DV, Duane & Jan B

October 31

AM Eldon & Marcia W, Steve & Pat C

November 7

AM Alejandro & Isabel C, John & Linda V

Formation Sunday Evenings

Join us for our 6:00 PM gatherings this month!

October 3: Vespers

October 10: Vespers

October 17: Vespers

October 24: Formation Gathering
Dialogue on Family Wisdom

October 31: Joint CRC Service at Bethel,
Resonate Global Mission Director
Zach King preaching

Cornbread, Christian Education, and Pork 'n' Bands!

An update from the deacons at Covenant CRC

First of all, I encourage you, church family, to uphold all of our students in prayer in the coming months and years. We celebrate our commitment to help raise our children to know and serve the Lord and we thank you for partnering with families to help support our youth whether they are learning at schools or homes, public or private. This year, our church has 52 students from Covenant learning in 4 local Christian Schools (39 at the elementary schools of SCCS and OCCS, and 13 in the high schools of Western and Unity). We also have a number of children in our church community learning in their homes and at Sioux Center Community Schools.

I wanted to share an update from the Deacons regarding our Christian education commitments for 2021-2022. Covenant church has pledged \$161,525 for the school year, which averages to \$13,460.42 per month. We are grateful for the many contributors in sharing this responsibility. If you have any questions, please ask Ruth Clark, Kurt Vos, or Kris Vander Plaats.

Next, we joined on Saturday, September 18, in the Fruited Plain parking lot to enjoy live music from some Covenant church members and various local bands, pulled pork sandwiches by pit-master Dave Kramer, and delectable desserts by many Covenant members. It was a joy to serve with one another and to raise some money for Christian education. We served approximately 270 people and we raised \$2250 from the evening! Thanks for participating (by attending, donating food, or volunteering) in our first fund-raiser of this school year.

Finally, do you know what goes well with pulled pork? This cornbread has been popular at a couple of Covenant potlucks and I thought I'd share the recipe (received from friends years ago):

Cast-iron Skillet Corn Bread (10" round skillet)

Dry ingredients (mix well):
1 cup flour
2/3 cup sugar

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Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/21-9/19/21) \$202,990	\$171,762	-\$31,228
Missions	(1/1/21-9/19/21) \$17,290	\$14,951	-\$2,339
Christian Education*	(8/1/21-9/19/21) \$24,850	\$22,864	-\$1,986

Fellowship

(Continued from page 2)

1 cup cornmeal mix (like boxed Jiffy cake)
1/2 Tbsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt

Wet ingredients (mix well):

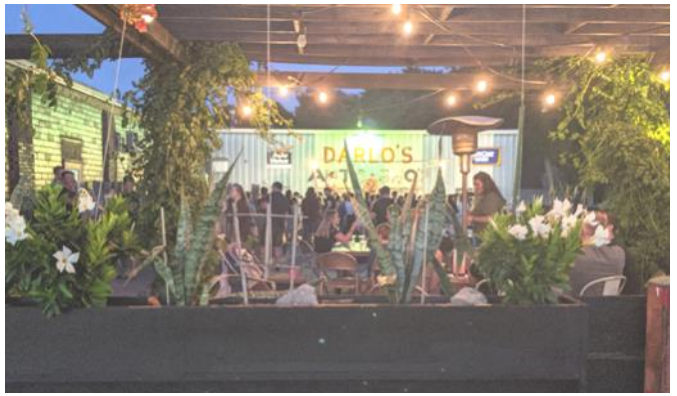
1 ¼ cup milk
2 eggs
1/3 cup canola oil
4 Tbsp. butter (melt in hot skillet, see below)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Put skillet in oven for about 8 minutes and add butter into skillet until melted (2-3 minutes). Mix dry and wet ingredients separately, then combine gently. Pour in half the melted butter from the skillet into the mixture, then pour all of the mixture into the hot skillet. Bake for 30 minutes, or until slight cracks appear on top and it turns a golden brown. Enjoy!

Note: I make 1 ½ of this recipe for a large, 12" skillet.

-Ruth Clark





GEMS Kick-Off

The GEMS enjoyed a beautiful night on September 22 for their kickoff event! They roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, painted theme shirts, and had some 9 square fun!

