

Word, Table, and Timing

As our Lord works “to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,” (Eph. 3:20) we seek to participate in such a great salvation as fully as we can. One expression of our participation will take place from First Advent Sunday (Nov. 28, 2021) through Pentecost Sunday (June 5, 2022). During that time in the church calendar, Covenant will practice weekly communion. We will do so in accord with God’s revelation regarding worship in the Emmaus story in Luke 24. As we listen to Christ from the pulpit, we will follow Jesus “opening the Scriptures to us.” (Luke 24:32) As we receive Christ in the Lord’s Supper, we will follow Jesus making himself “known to [us] in the breaking of bread.” (Luke 24:35)

As the Council sought to follow our Lord in making pulpit and table central to our worship, we sought also to exercise wisdom regarding the flow and the length of our worship services. Therefore, during this time of weekly communion, we will seek to practice our “Joys and Concerns” form of prayer in other times and settings. For example, we will set aside time for Joys and Concerns in some of our evening worship services and also in some gatherings focused on Jesus’ ministry of healing. We will pray in this way with gratitude for the sharing time in Joys and Concerns and also with recognition that we cannot predict its length of time.

Please know that our Council and worship leaders welcome your prayer requests. To bring prayer matters to the congregation on Sunday mornings, please send messages to your Elder or Pastor Joel or to the Covenant church office. (Please note that the church office email is not usually monitored Friday through Sunday.) Jesus “lives to make intercession for [us],” (Hebrews 7:25) and our prayers together are another way in which we can participate as fully as possible in the gracious work of our saving God.

-Pastor Joel



Jake Van Wyk gives Liam Clark a few drawing tips at the church retreat.

Courier

November 2021

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Covenant Jeopardy

Some of you may have missed the lively game of Jeopardy at the Covenant Retreat—and we didn't get through all the questions, so we thought we'd offer you the opportunity to see how you would score. Answers are on the back page!

What's My Line

- 100—While he's not the new sheriff in town, he is a member of Covenant CRC.
- 200—Name three Covenant members currently employed by Premier Communications.
- 300—Name a Covenant couple who long ago ran the Auto Dine restaurant—"You auto dine with us!"
- 400—Name two Covenant members who keep bees in Sioux Center.
- 500—Years ago he was a bus driver in Omaha.
- 600—Covenant has the most members teaching at the college/university level in which discipline (content area)?
To double your points: Who are they?

Covenant People

- 100—Who is the youngest member of the Covenant Fellowship?
- 200—Who are the church custodians?
- 300—Who is the regularly attending Covenant family who lives furthest from Covenant?
- 400—Who is the oldest member of Covenant?
- 500—If this game has Brains and Strategy, Brawn and Skills, name two of three Covenant members whose initials would make them a shoo-in at this game.
- 600—This Covenant member was a basketball coach to Dave Schelhaas and Steve Crull.

Exploring the Park

- 100—An avian sign of spring often seen at Oak Grove before sightings in Sioux Center.
- 200—What is the largest bird seen running through the woods at Oak Grove?

- 300—A rare visitor to Oak Grove and its largest carnivore.
- 400—What management tool has the park used to preserve prairie remnant areas?
- 500—Where was the original campground located at Oak Grove?
- 600—How many years ago did the state purchase 101 acres to form Oak Grove State Park? (Credit for answers within 5 years of actual answer.)

Bible

- 100—The last word in the Bible.
- 200—Name three books of the Bible that begin with the letter 'L'.
- 300—Which one of the following is not mentioned in Hebrews as a hero of faith: Enoch, Gideon, Jael, Rahab.
- 400—The fruit of the spirit mentioned in Galatians is:
- 500—According to Jesus, which was the first commandment?
- 600—Name three of the four women that are mentioned in the lineage of Jesus in the book of Matthew.

Extra Category Questions: CRC

- What are the three forms of unity in the denomination?
- The Heidelberg Catechism is divided into how many Lord's days?

-Chris Goedhart



Eden Hawley manages to put on a frozen t-shirt with help from her teammates at the retreat.

Serving at Covenant

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

The Sack Pack Program

The Sioux Center Sack Pack Program began in February 2010 sending home 25 bags of food each week to children in the public school. The goal of this new community program was to help children in Sioux Center have a better chance to be successful in school by providing nourishing food over the weekend. Research shows that hunger affects learning. Schools provide hot lunches during the week (and the local public school provides breakfast), but some students were not getting regular meals over the weekend for a variety of reasons. They were coming to school on Monday morning hungry, unable to focus, and too lethargic to participate in normal school activities. The Sack Pack Program attempts to meet this need.

The Sack Pack Program is available to students at the preschool, Kinsey, the intermediate and middle schools, the high school, and the Christian school. Parents may sign up anytime throughout the school year without hav-

ing specific income restrictions. We are currently sending home about 280 food bags per week. The past two summers, we have been able to offer food bags throughout the summer, as well as during the school year.

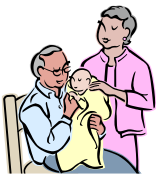
This program is funded entirely by donations from individuals, families, businesses, churches, and through the Hunger Free Kids Auction. Because of God's rich blessings, we have always had enough money to buy the food we need.

The Sack Pack Program relies completely on volunteers. We have people who count the individual food items for each week, other groups who come in to pack the food into bags, and we have 5 delivery teams who bring tubs of food bags to each school every week. The 5th grade students at Sioux Center Christian School volunteer their time by double bagging plastic grocery bags for packing the food.

I have been on the Sack Pack Board for the past 8 years and have been blessed by the many volunteers, by the generosity of people and businesses in our community, and by the opportunity to serve the students in our schools through this simple act of love.

If you are interested in learning more about this vital community program or would like to volunteer, please contact me.

-Rebecca DeSmith



Grandma Alert!
Grandpa Alert!

Congratulations to Steve and Pat Crull! (Two months in a row!) Their second great-grandchild, B'Elanna Sabri Trujillo, was born in Arvada, Colorado on October 1. Her parents are Morgan (Crull) and Armand. Morgan is the daughter of their son, Chad.

Thanksgiving
Service

Thursday, November 25, 10:00 AM

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Jan Bajema Clark Stiemsma	16	Mia Mercado Castelan Lauren Vander Plaats Joni Visscher	26	Georgina Gracia David Taylor
3	Natalie Brummel Mary Ploegstra	18	James Rylaarsdam	27	Tim Kamp Ryan Zonnefeld
5	Rue Mellema	20	Verne Meyer Courtney Rylaarsdam	28	Neil Collins McCarthy Doug & Marge DeBoer
8	Rebecca DeSmith		Duane & Jan Bajema Paul & Ruth Clousing		Channon & Joni Visscher
10	Anna Westfall	21	Cambri Zonnefeld	29	Laremy DeVries Hannah Landman
13	Sophie Visscher		Alejandro & Isabel Castelan		
14	Sharon Bouma Mark Christians Nancy Vanden Bosch	23	Bob DeSmith Sadie Landman	30	Esteban Gracia Jocelyn Zonnefeld Ed & Mary Dengler
15	Teo Crull	24	Louisa DeVries Titus Westfall		



Offering Schedule

November 7

AM General Fund

November 14

AM Christian Education Fund

November 21

AM Missions Fund

November 25

AM Thanksgiving envelopes (with all other offerings going to the General Fund)

November 28

AM World Renew

4

Thank You!

Dear Friends at Covenant CRC,

Thank you for your recent contribution to our ministry of Christian education in West Africa. Through your partnership, we're able to support, coach, train, mentor, and encourage Christian teachers and schools in this part of the world. We give thanks to God that just last month, after 3 years of training with us, 19 new teachers graduated from the Educational Care program. Please join us in praying for them as they live out what they learned in their classrooms and communities.

Together in Christ,

-Sosthene and Kara Maletounjou

November Scheduling



Coffee Servers

Rebecca DS, Lee R, Courtney R,
Marv W



Greeters

Deb H, Carol O, Sarah S



Ushers

Paul C, Barb H, Sherri TN

Substitutes

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

Jenni B, Daryl H, Jason H,
Joan MC, Marty VP, Jake VW

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, **November 22** for the December issue.



Nursery

November 7

AM Alejandro & Isabel C, John & Linda V

November 14

AM Daryl & Deb H, Mark & Lisa C

November 21

AM Dave & Jeri S, Barb T

November 25: Thanksgiving Day

AM Ross & Lisa F, Laura J

November 28

AM Doug & Marge DB, Jo F

December 5

AM Mark & Cheri H, Ethan & Donna B

Formation Sunday Evenings

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

November 7: Vespers

November 14: Vespers

November 21: Vespers

November 28: No evening gathering

Notes from the Deacons

Giving Report Through September 2021

Giving to the General and Christian Education Funds has not kept up with our budgeted amounts for this fiscal year. The General Fund receipts are \$33,292 behind budget through the end of September. The expenditures for the General Fund are \$2,3921 lower than what was budgeted through the end of September. This presents a shortfall of \$9,371 through the end of September. If this shortfall is not made up, we risk not having enough funds to pay out all of our commitments. Through the end of September, we have paid $\frac{3}{4}$ of our Classical and Denominational ministry shares.

Giving to the Christian Education Fund is currently running about \$500 behind budget. The shortfall on this fund means that we cannot pay our share to all of the schools on time.

As noted during the morning service a couple weeks ago, giving to the Building Fund has already surpassed what was budgeted for the full year. The deacons encourage you to shift your donations for the Building Fund to the General Fund through the end of the year.

As always, we encourage you to designate your offerings "Use where needed" and the deacons will add your offerings to the fund which is most in need.

-Kurt Vos (Treasurer)

Mid-Sioux Gift Baskets

This is a reminder that Covenant has committed to be involved in the Mid-Sioux Christmas Basket gift program again this year. Your deacon will supply you with the details later in the month, but we just want to encourage everyone to participate if you are able.

Each basket is very specific to the needs, ages, and interests for each family member and in the past have been much appreciated by the households that qualify for this program.

From Mid-Sioux, "Thank you for helping us to share the joy of the holidays with Sioux County's underprivileged families!"

-Carol Oestra



The Building Committee has been hard at work doing some "de-construction" on the parsonage. Watch for some "re-construction" to come!



Forecast: Shower!

We are so privileged to welcome Oliver Timothy Moss, who recently joined his parents, Micah and Sarah, as new members of Covenant Church. It has been a long time since we could follow our tradition of celebrating the birth of the first child in a family with a baby shower. Now it will happen!

On Sunday, December 12, Oliver will be baptized; and we are adding something special to that day. Immediately after our morning service, Micah and Sarah will be asked to find a

place in the fellowship area so the congregation may greet them and meet little Oliver as they leave our sanctuary. We hope everyone takes this opportunity to say hello and stay briefly for coffee and treats.

For the shower: There will be a table near the piano in the fellowship hall where gifts may be placed to serve as a tangible welcome to this newest Covenant member. Gifts from the congregation may be brought to church anytime during the previous week, and there will be a box in the church office to receive gift cards. As they open these gifts at home, Micah and Sarah will enjoy the thoughtfulness of the congregation.

-Lee Rhoda & Pastoral Group #6

Coming Up . . .

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Christmas pageant
by the Covenant Sunday School kids
in 1st–8th grades
(with music by the Children in Worship kids)
at Covenant CRC on December 12, at 6:00 PM

What you should know:

- Rehearsals for 1st through 8th grades will be held during the Sunday School hour December 5 and 12.
- Extra rehearsals for groups of 6th-8th graders will be held on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00 PM on October 31, November 7, 14, & 21, and on Saturday afternoon, December 4, from 4:00–5:00 PM.

-Jeri Schelhaas



Sabine Feikema is hard at work making leaf creatures. Thank you to Sara Ho for leading the kids in this activity at the retreat!

Jeopardy Answers

What's My Line

100—Dan Altena

200—Brian Mellema, Lee Mellema, Les Sybesma

300—Ed and Natalie Brummel

400—Andy Landman, Chris Goedhart

500—Roger VandenHoek

600—Education

To double your points: Who are they?

Barb Hoekstra, Ryan Zonnefeld, Steve Holtrop, Lila Sybesma, Kathleen VanTol (The answer provided by the creator of this content was a bone of contention at the Retreat. Some argued that Ryan Zonneveld is a full-time administrator this year and shouldn't be counted. Ryan did admit to giving a guest lecture this semester. Case closed!)

Covenant People

100—Oliver Moss

200—Dale and June Brands

300—The Wyenbergs

400—Tina Dekker

500—Barb Schaap, Blake Stiemsma, Becky Stevenson

600—Bernie De Wit

Exploring the Park

100—Robins

200—Turkey

300—Cougar

400—Controlled burns

500—In the lowest level of the park along the left side of the road nearing the boat ramp

600—97 years ago; (1924)

Bible

100—Amen

200—Leviticus, Lamentations, Luke

300—Jael

400—Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

500—The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

600—Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba

Extra Category Questions: CRC

- Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and Canons of Dordt
- 52



Above: Bob DeSmith and Corrie DeVries work on their drawings in the breakout session led by Jake Van Wyk.

Below: Ben Ploegstra, Will Breems, and Ross Feikema listen to some poetry by Dave Schelhaas.

