

Congratulations, Covenant Graduates!

Congratulations, Covenant graduates! May God be with each of you as you begin the next phase of life!

Sioux Center Christian School

William Breems
Corrie DeVries
Zoey Eggebeen
Esther Eppinga
Benjamin Ploegstra
Layne Vos

Unity Christian High School

Sam Eppinga

I will be attending Dordt to play soccer and plan to major in Engineering with an environmental emphasis.

Levi Landman

Next year I plan to attend Dordt University and am planning to study Biology. I also plan to run cross country and track.

Jane Taylor

I'm planning to attend Oberlin College in Ohio this fall, and I'm still undecided on a major. I am looking forward to participating in student organizations, taking a variety of classes, and meeting new people! I would also love to be part of the study abroad program.

Connor Visscher

Next year I plan to attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and am planning to study Math and/or Computer Science.

Dordt University

Rylan Brue

I graduated with degrees in Theology and Philosophy. I am moving to Grand Rapids to attend Calvin Seminary in their MDiv program. Hopefully this means having an excuse to buy more books and read some of them.

Zoe Hoekstra

I am graduating with a bachelor's degree in Public Relations and will be moving to Denver, Colorado to work for the Colson Center after I get married to Micah Brands in June!

Caden Zonnefeld

Caden graduated with a degree in Statistics. He will be working as a Data scientist at DriveTime in Phoenix.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Caleb Smit

I'm receiving a Bachelor's degree in Percussion Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and will be returning next

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Sunday School Wrap-Up

We completed our Sunday School year on Sunday, May 1. It's been a good year.

1st/2nd grades deepened their understanding of Old Testament Bible stories (Jesus Story-book Bible curriculum).



The 3rd/4th grades curriculum aligns with the lectionary (Whirl from Sparkhouse), so students got a preview of the Scripture passage each week.



5th-6th grades studied about the Christian faith and did a unit on Justice (Dwell, Dive from Faith Alive—interested in learning more about this curriculum? Click here: <https://>

www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/036320/dwell-year-3-68dive-unit-2-young-teen-resources.aspx?bCategory=CYMS



We sang hymns from the LUYH, we prayed, we recited our Psalm with 5th and 6th graders leading us, and we got to know one another.

Also, this year, our Sunday School pledged to support one student to attend Tesoros De Dios (Treasures of God) school in Nicaragua, choosing a ministry "a way away" (according to Aidan). Back in September, Kathleen Van Tol came in and shared about this ministry and school.

Throughout the year, we've read the calendar updates each month of the services and education that Tesoros de Dios provides for children with differing abilities. Our offerings often lagged, and our "pencil" goal crept along very slowly. I wasn't sure that we'd complete our goal, especially needing \$30/month for May, June, and July all by May 1.

But, we did it! With a final week of incredible generosity, we totaled our year of giving with \$370.56, slightly exceeding our goal of \$360. While I share with you the story of offering, I would be amiss if I didn't include the beauty

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Sunday School Wrap-Up

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of these kids thinking about other kids in another place being cared for, the 3 quarters here and 8 dimes there and 2 dollars here being updated each week toward achieving our goal.

Thanks, parents, for your support. Great work 1st-6th grade students, and thanks to PreK



and 7th-8th grade for their contributions! See you back in September!

*-Ruth Clark
Sunday School Superintendent*



Felix, Hugo, and Charlie do some "wondering" at the WE service on May 22.

Joint CRC Summer Evening Worship

The CRC churches plan to join together for some evening worship services this summer.

Here is the schedule:

June 5: worship at Faith, Pastor John Lee preaching

July 3: worship at Covenant, Pastor Bob Pollema preaching

August 7: worship at First CRC, Pastor Joel preaching

September 4: worship at Bethel, Pastor Kurt Monroe preaching

Congratulations, Covenant Graduates!

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year to begin my Master's degree in Technology and Applied Composition.

University of Oklahoma

Joe Eggebeen

I graduated with a master's degree in Environmental Science: Hydrology and Water Security.

University of Nevada, Reno

Derek Friend

I graduated with a PhD in Geography from the University of Nevada, Reno. I'll continue working for the university through July, but after that I'm not sure what's next. I'm currently looking for jobs.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 2 Daryl & Deb Hibma
Mark & Cheri Horstman | 12 Lee & Jenni Mellema
Les & Lila Sybesma | 24 Alexa Mercado
Tom & Ruth Clark
Vaughn & Becky Donahue
Verne & Gidge Meyer |
| 4 Sherri Ten Napel
Dallas & Carol Apol | 13 Joya Breems
Terry & Jill Friend | 25 Logan Hannigan
Barb Tazelaar
Bob & Rebecca DeSmith |
| 5 Jo Faber
Joe & Erin Eggebeen | 14 Cal Jongsma | 26 Rachel Landman
Nick & Jenni Breems
Laremy & Rebecca DeVries
Rockne & Joan McCarthy |
| 6 Corrie DeVries
Naomi Ploegstra
Jake Van Wyk | 15 Faby Addink
Kurt & Sharon Vos | 27 Steve Holtrop & Sharon
Bouma
Jim & Barb Schaap |
| 7 June Brands | 16 Marv & Mary Wielard | 28 Gaby Castelan
Sally Jongsma
Alyda Mellema |
| 8 David & Anna Westfall | 18 Dale & June Brands | 29 Ryan Hannigan |
| 9 Jeri Schelhaas
Don & Sherri Ten Napel
Marty & Kris Vander Plaats | 19 Daryl Hibma | 30 Andy Landman
Mary Wielard |
| 10 William Clark
Sarah Hawley
Mike & Megan Ribbens | 20 Ryan & Laura DeKruyf | |
| 11 Amira Ribbens
Ross & Lisa Feikema | 21 Duane Bajema | |
| | 22 Donna Brue | |
| | 23 Isabella Hannigan
Stan & Beth Vanden Berg | |



Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

I have a joy to share with my Covenant family—actually two separate but related joys. During this month, my family has expanded to include two more great-grandsons. Jax Timothy born to Eric and Katie Anderson from Sioux Falls, and Leo Bradley born to Jacob and Sara Zomermaand from Ireton. Everyone is doing fine!!

-Dennis Vander Plaats

Doug and I became Great Grandpa and Great Grandma on Monday, May 16. Aidyn Renae Kelderman weighed in at 6 lbs, 3 oz. and was 19” long. Parents are Mykle and Andrea, Grandparents are Glenn and Lisa Kelderman.



-Doug & Marge DeBoer

June Scheduling



Coffee Servers

Jo F, Rock MC, Linda V, John Z



Greeters

Ed B, Dave S, Sherri TN



Ushers

Marge DB, Rin G, Cal J



Nursery

June 5

AM Jeff & Sara P, Jake & Trena VW

June 12

AM Eldon & Marcia W, Kurt & Sharon V

June 19

AM Ryan & Angela H, Chris & Rin G

June 26

AM Nick & Jenni B, Lee R

July 3

AM Dave & Emily K, Steve & Pat C

Substitutes

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

Wil A, Mark C, Steve C,
Deb H, Marcy H, Andy L



Thanks for serving!

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, **June 20** for the July issue.

Formation Sunday Evenings

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

June 5: Joint CRC worship at Faith CRC,
Pastor John Lee preaching

June 12: Vespers

June 19: Vespers

June 26: Vespers

Notes from the Deacons

Spring Clean-Up

On Saturday morning, April 30, Covenant members gathered, buckets, rags, and cleaning products in hand. Many family members used tools to tighten screws on sanctuary chairs, others cleaned the kitchen from top to bottom, still more tidied classrooms (shout out to Viola S. and Auden & Alyda M.), washed windows, and picked up debris and trimmed bushes outdoors (until the rain began).

But, overwhelmingly, the morning was filled with smiles, laughter, some wet socks, conversations between old and new friends, and I received the sweetest hug from one of our young Covenant members, Benjamin Westfall. Precious! Many hands, and much work got done. Additionally, older members and younger members worked together, tips about the best sink cleaning product were shared (ask Lila), and conversations among church family members happened over coffee or near mop buckets. On behalf of the deacons, "Thanks, y'all."

-Ruth Clark



Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/21-4/17/22) \$127,554	\$126,379	-\$1,176
Christian Education	(8/1/21-4/17/22) \$133,569	\$153,087	+\$19,518

Wandering in Creation

I remembered my trip to the Luray Caverns while I took part in an activity in our church. It was part of the WE service which gets various aged people together to focus on faith practices. We were asked to think about something that made us experience the “wonder” of God and His abilities. Other adults and children contributed something that made them wonder and I thought of something from my past.

It was on a Girl Scout’s trip that we took to Washington, DC. This was the only time we took such a long trip. I grew up in northern New Jersey, in the town of Saddle Brook. My father worked in New York City at that time, first in the Empire State Building and then in the now defunct Twin Towers. He had a distance to travel each day, but we settled in New Jersey because of the lower prices of houses.

On the trip we stopped at Luray Caverns which is a beautiful sight of stalagmites, stalactites, and flowstone formed from limestone

into interesting forms. This struck me as being magical and could only be made by our God. A God who is so powerful and creative who puts you into a web of amazement of His wonder. Luray Caverns was known



to Native Americans for a long time but was undiscovered by white men until 1878. It consists of about 1.5 miles of paths underground and is in the Shenandoah Valley west of Blue Ridge Appalachian Mountains in Luray, Virginia. Some of the forms are white but others have color because of the minerals in the limestone. Iron makes the forms red, manganese dioxide makes them black, and copper gives a blue and green tone. It has been made into a National Natural Landmark.

-Dann Adams



This is from a Facebook post, reprinted with Anna's permission. Anna is a "Covenant kid" and a current student at Western Theological Seminary.

First unit of Clinical Pastoral Education complete—aka being a chaplain intern.

It's hard to put into words all that the past four months have been. Four months of ministering to patients, families, and staff; of experiencing the depths of pain and suffering; of becoming familiar with the medical world and especially the ins and outs of the neuro-ICU; of learning about myself, my pastoral identity, and how to care for people emotionally and spiritually in a clinical setting. As my supervisor says, CPE also stands for Courageous Personal Examination.

I consider the past four months a gift: a gift because God led me to this internship in a time when I was wondering about my call. I've always known I've wanted to do ministry, but it wasn't until I began interning as a chaplain that I felt drawn to a particular vocation and the character of it.

Here are four reflections (out of thousands) from this unit:

- We don't have answers to the "why" question, but we do have the ability to



make meaning and find meaning out of our circumstances.

- Storytelling is powerful—pitching a tent next to someone and listening to them is being a healing presence.
- The world is full of tragedy and deep pain. Each day I am reminded that things are not as they ought to be—come, Lord Jesus.
- The world is full of God and deep beauty. Each day I am given a taste of God's grace and action in the world—praise be to God.

One unit down—a few more to go!

Anna (Christians) Mooers

