

# Refugee Resettlement Update

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It looks as if we are finally going to welcome a family from Ukraine to the house that you have prepared for them! The family hopes to arrive on Wednesday, August 10, and after being empty for some time, there is a need to refresh the house and yard.

Thank you for considering this opportunity for service.

*-Len and Lee Rhoda*

On Monday, August 8, please consider coming to 214 1st Avenue SE to help ensure that all is ready for our new neighbors. We will plan to have the house open between 6:00 and 8:00 that evening to dust, vacuum, and wash windows. Four-year-old Heorhil would love to discover some toys, puzzles and picture books that your children have enjoyed and could give him. Perhaps you have a toy box we could fill. Nikita, 17-years-old, likes sports and would welcome age-appropriate items. Does anyone have a bicycle to share?

We understand that chocolate would be a nice way to say “welcome.” If people who come on this night bring a couple of small items of chocolate, we could have a full candy dish waiting for the family.

Perhaps you can think of other ways to offer a warm welcome to Illia, Olga, and their boys who have already gone through so much and are leaving their home country and all things familiar to them. If you have specific suggestions or questions, please contact us.



## Welcome, Jones!

Jones Henry Mellema was born at 2:12 AM on Sunday, July 10 to Lee and Jenni Mellema. He weighed 8lbs, 6oz and was 21.5 inches long. Auden and Alyda were happy to have a new baby brother while Rue was really hoping for a little sister. Mom and Jones continue to do well as we begin a new family of 6! Praise the Lord!



## Welcome, Isaac!

Hi, Covenant family! My name is Isaac James Hibma, and my mom and dad are Rachel and Dane Hibma. I was born in Sioux Falls on July 15 at 8:05 AM, weighing in at 5 pounds and 14 ounces and measuring 19 and 1/4 inches long. For the first nine days of my life, I hung out in the NICU getting help from really nice doctors and nurses with breathing and feeding. They also kept a close eye on my blood sugars and bilirubin count. Dad spent a lot of time with me (feeding me bottles and changing my diapers!), and Mom came whenever she could to say hi and snuggle with me. On Saturday, July 23, I finally got to go home to Sioux Center. Yay! I might be small, but I am told I am very, very handsome :-). I can't wait to meet you all! Thanks for praying for me and my parents!



# An Invitation to Pray with Jesus

On the evening of Wednesday, August 10, Covenant will host a gathering in which we will join Jesus in prayer. We will pray for the followers of Jesus to be one, as the Triune God is one; and we will pray that our loving unity will help the world to believe in Jesus as our Savior.

When I arrived at the Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations workshop, two of our neighbors here in Sioux Center were just departing from their workshop in the same location in southern California. Amy Westra and Alex Vasquez had met as part of a denominational ministry dedicated to race relations. When we

met for coffee a few weeks later, we discerned the Holy Spirit calling us to hold a community prayer gathering.

In this prayer gathering, Amy will tell some of her story having to do with race relations. Alex will share some of his experiences and insights, and then I will encourage participants to pray in the light of Jesus' prayer in John 17. We invite you to join us for this prayer time, which begins at 7:30 PM. If you have thoughts or questions, please let me know.

-Pastor Joel

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## An Opportunity to Help

We received this invitation to help with a community-wide drive to assist those struggling to meet their basic needs in Ukraine by partnering with Orphan Grain Train ([www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org)).

We invite you to participate in an exciting opportunity to collect specific items for Ukrainian people, and to share Christ's love in a tangible way as they continue in the struggle to have basic needs met.

**HOW?** Bring any of the following items to the donation trailer located in the Centre Mall parking lot in Sioux Center:

- disposable diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5)
- new washcloths and hand towels
- bars of soap toothbrushes
- disposable dishes (plates, bowls, cups, silverware)

- new socks and underwear (children and adults)

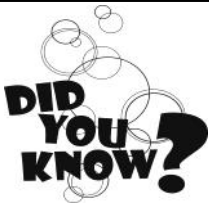
**WHEN?** Collection dates at Centre Mall parking lot are Thursday, August 11—Monday, August 15 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Please note: on Sunday, August 14 the hours are 1-5 PM.

Your donations will be taken to Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE, and then transported to OGT ministry partners in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and other countries for distribution to the hurting Ukrainian people. The above list of items is the request of OGT and their on-the-ground ministry partners according to current and ongoing needs in the area.

Thank you for caring and praying for the Ukrainian people. Your questions are most welcome. Contact Loralie Wiese, on behalf of the Caring for Ukrainians Team ([loraliewiese@gmail.com](mailto:loraliewiese@gmail.com) or 712-441-2371)

# August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Marge DeBoer	8	Rin Goedhart Ron Oostra	19	Steve Crull
2	Ruth Clousing Pat Eggebeen		Carlene Van Schouwen	20	Barb Mellema Shaun Stiemsma
		9	Ron & Carol Oostra		
3	Rob Haan Sos Maletoungou Faith Van Schouwen Laurey Zwart	11	Dani Wyenberg Robbin & Sara Eppinga	22	Jemmie Dyk
				21	John & Linda Visser
		12	Benjamin & Tricia Groenewold-Van Dyk	23	Chris Goedhart John Zwart
4	Verlyn & June De Wit Ryan & Angela Hannigan	13	Kathleen Van Tol	26	Connor Visscher Len & Lee Rhoda
5	Caden Zonnefeld	15	Deb Hibma Ryan & Amie Smit	28	Elise Stiemsma
6	Ezra Landman Lee Mellema	16	Blake Stiemsma John & Laurey Zwart	29	Shonna Plasier Dave Schelhaas
7	George Faber Jeff & Sara Ploegstra	17	Jake & Trena Van Wyk	30	Melissa Bailey
		18	Del & Lois Vander Zee		



Did you know that you can buy gift cards and raise money for our church's Christian Education Fund at the same time? We encourage all to use the TRIP (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) program at Sioux Center Christian School. Local and national stores and restaurants are donating money to TRIP and it doesn't cost you a thing! You buy the gift cards through school, 100% of your purchase can be used at stores and restaurants, and the businesses donate a portion back.

If you have kids attending a local Christian school, you may already have an account set up that is designated for their tuition, but for

those of you who don't have a child in school, you can choose to designate the money to Covenant's Christian Education Fund and it will help meet our annual obligation for our Covenant students. All you need to do is go to the TRIP office at SCCS (use the main doors, the office is on your left) and say that you would like to buy some TRIP for Covenant. You walk out with a gift card and the business donates a percentage to our account.

If you have questions, ask any family with kids at SCCS or check out information on the school's website:

[www.siouxcenterchristian.com/support/tripinfo.cfm](http://www.siouxcenterchristian.com/support/tripinfo.cfm)

# August Scheduling



## Coffee Servers

Dan A, Joan MC, James R, Dani W



## Nursery



## Greeters

Mark MC, Barb T, Kris VP



## Ushers

Lee R, Marty VP, Marv W

## Substitutes

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

Dennis DJ, Rob H, Jason H,  
Dennis VP, Channon V, Kurt V

*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, **August 21** for the September issue.

### August 7

AM Laremy & Rebecca DV, Barb T

### August 14

AM Ross & Lisa F, Ethan & Donna B

### August 21

AM Mark & Cheri H, Laura J

### August 28

AM Channon & Joni V, Ron & Carol O

### September 4

AM Shaun & Sarah S, Jason & Sara H

## Formation Sunday Evenings

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

**August 7:** Joint CRC worship at First CRC,  
Pastor Joel Kok preaching

**August 14:** Vespers

**August 21:** Vespers

**August 28:** Vespers

**September 4:** Joint CRC worship at  
Bethel, Pastor Kurt Monroe  
preaching

# Notes from the Deacons

The Deacons have been working hard to serve the church in a number of ways over the last few months. We are exploring new ways to make giving your offering easier and more streamlined while maintaining a high level of stewardship with your gifts. We are making progress with the problem of what to do with replacing the old roof over the sanctuary and how that project affects other building projects needed in our worship space.

We have designated funds to assist our own missionaries, the Crulls, as they transition their family back to Iowa. Their estimated moving cost have increased because of recent global inflation; as an example the shipping container that they had already filled and sent on its way with most of their belongings ended of costing \$2600 more than they were initially quoted and the cost of airline tickets increased. If you would like to personally help the Crulls with some of their other needs you can read their newsletter (see the next article: Serving at Covenant) and check out [tinyurl.com/crullfam](http://tinyurl.com/crullfam) to see the list of items that can be dropped off at Pat and Steve Crull's home (2935 400th St., phone: 712.722.1041).

*-Deacon Dwight Van Tol*

# Serving at Covenant

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

*Here is Kelly and April Crull's latest newsletter with more information about how we can serve them as they transition back to the United States.*

We have gathered so many incredible stories of God's provision for our family and ministry during our time in Spain. Our upcoming move to the US has been no exception. Thanks to many of you who have reached out to let us know you are praying for us and to offer help. Here's an update on how things are going.

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

The first thing most people ask is, "How are you doing?" We knew moving a family of five and a dog to another continent would be a big undertaking, but we had no idea. (It's probably better we didn't know!) We've been busy with farewells, emptying our house, preparing a shipping container, and house hunting in Des Moines. Our official moving date is August 2nd.

We are finding time for our bucket list. Last weekend we visited cave paintings near our

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# Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/21-7/25/22) \$182,221	\$181,202	-\$1,019
Christian Education	(8/1/21-7/25/22) \$161,525	\$178,524	+\$16,999

## *Serving at Covenant*

*(Continued from page 6)*

house that we hadn't seen before. The kids have asked to keep their school and social schedules as normal as possible. Still, we are all dealing with high levels of stress and sadness about leaving mixed with excitement about our next adventure.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

**One-time Gifts:** Our greatest need right now is one-time gifts to cover our moving costs, which include our flights (\$5,000), our shipment (\$6,500), furniture and other household items (\$5,000), and cars (\$15,000). Would you consider giving an end-of-the-year gift now, so we can cover these costs?

**Donate Household Items:** Most of our belongings will stay in Spain because it's too expensive to ship them or they won't work in the US (like most electronic devices, for instance). Visit [tinyurl.com/crullfam](http://tinyurl.com/crullfam) for a list of items we need. If you would like to donate something, email us at [crulls@gocommunitas.org](mailto:crulls@gocommunitas.org).

**Used Cars:** We will need three cars since Aleke will be turning 16 and driving to school. If you have a used car that you would be willing to donate to our family or you have expertise in buying used cars, please let us know. A

**Place to Land:** If you've heard anything about the housing market right now, you know it's tricky. We're working with a real estate agent to buy our first home, but it won't be easy in our price range. Do you know anyone in the Des Moines area that might be able to offer us a place to stay while we're looking for a home?

**Prayer:** I'm sure you also have many stories of how God has provided what you needed at the

right time in a way that you never would have imagined and in a way only He could do. We already see God at work through this transition as we experience His care, the love of the church, new opportunities and friendships, and an invitation to trust in new ways.

Here are some specific prayer requests:

- Pray for our kids as they finish their last school year in Spain.
- Pray that we would finish well as we say goodbye to friends and colleagues, in particular at our mission organization's gathering in July.
- Pray for wisdom as we choose new schools for our kids.
- Pray for a new church home in Des Moines.
- Pray for a new home in Des Moines near schools and April's sister and her family. (Ruben is praying for his own bedroom!)
- Pray for financial provision to cover our moving costs.
- Pray for our staff and churches in Spain through this transition.

*-Kelly & April Crull*



## Children and Worship

Ever wonder what it looks like downstairs after we have shared a mutual blessing with our young Covenant family members and have seen them hop, skip, and hold hands as they wander downstairs for their own worship time? These pictures give a little glimpse into what happens in the multipurpose room.



It is wonderful to see that even our youngest members can participate in meaningful worship on Sunday mornings.

Thanks to the teachers and helpers who make this worship time happen each week and to Cheri Horstman for coordinating this ministry.

And young ones, may God bless you as you worship!