

We're Workin' on a Building

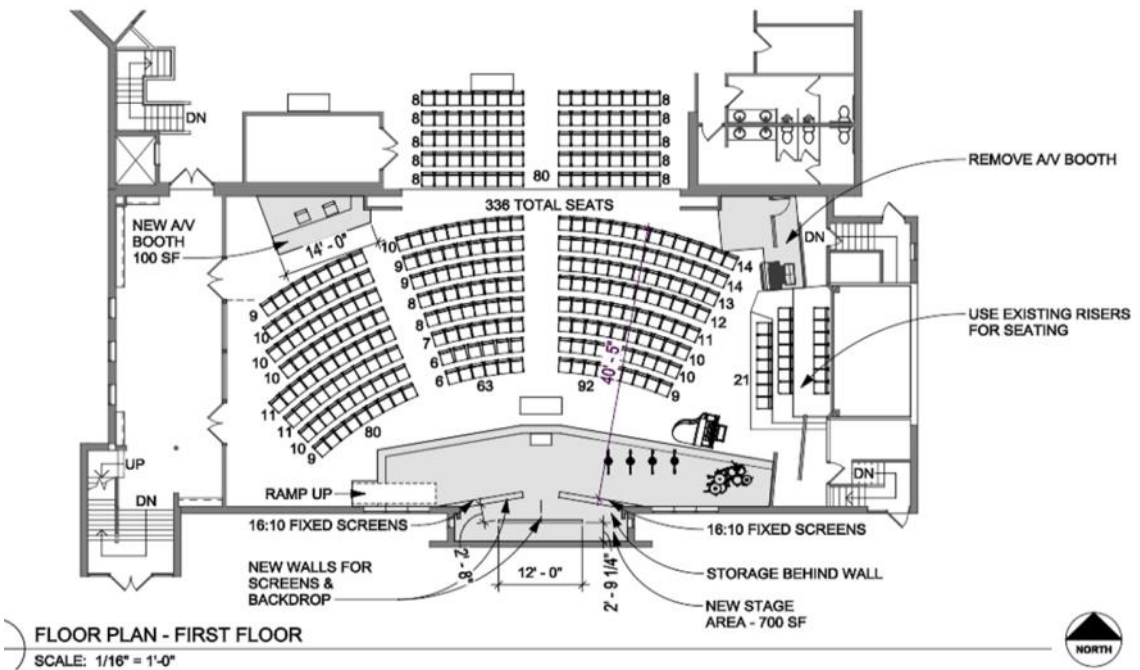
On Tuesday evening, April 25, the council made this motion regarding building and sanctuary updates: "Proceed with the implementation phase of the roofing project and the design phase of the worship space, A/V, and lighting improvements guided by the concepts presented and budget estimates provided for our fundraising, financing, and planning."

Council president Duane Bajema and clerk Ethan Brue led us through a healthy dialogue

that included the story of what brought us to this point, summaries of meetings with an architect, consultants, and various members of the congregation, and a breakdown of the financing needed for the project. If you were unable to attend the meeting, check out the powerpoint presentation [here](#).

We are very pleased to report that those present voted almost unanimously in favor of the

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Courier

May 2023

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday School News

This year the Sunday School and Children in Worship students have been collecting their offering for the Sack Pack program at the Hope Food Pantry. Our offering goal was to raise \$375 and we surpassed that goal by raising almost \$420 with a couple Sundays left to go. In April we had an opportunity to put our love into action by putting together the sack packs that get distributed to the local schools. We had a great group of both students and adults work hard to put together close to 1,000 bags!

-Megan Haan



The 3rd and 4th graders learned about the Emmaus Road story in Sunday School. In that story, the disciples saw Jesus, but they didn't recognize him. This photo is a reminder that we sometimes see Jesus in each other.

-Jenni Breems



Goodbye

Joe Eggebeen shared this letter with us before he left for his new job in Jefferson City, MO with the Missouri DNR, as an Environmental Specialist. He moved at the end of March and the rest of the family will join him there sometime this summer.

To the pastor, Council members, and Congregation of Covenant Christian Reformed Church:

For about 20 years, Covenant has been my home church. Covenant welcomed me as a visiting college student before I made Covenant my home church while at Dordt.

Covenant was there for us when Erin and I were dating. In fact, Pastor Herm worked through premarital counseling with us, as the pastor who led the marriage service was a 10 hour drive away.

Covenant was there for us for all our kids' pregnancies and births. From the first one with D to Zoey to the long slog of bedrest with the twins, Covenant cared for us, fed us, and generally showed us that God loves us.

Covenant was there when I felt called to join the Cadets as a counselor. Covenant was there for my girls to join GEMS, and Richard to join Cadets.

Covenant has given us many opportunities for service, as a deacon, a roofer, or a sheetrock-installer. We have given car rides, cooked meals, and baked goodies when they were called for.

Covenant is my home church. Leaving Covenant may well be the hardest part of this upcoming transition. I have met plenty of people over the years I count as friends, brothers, and sisters in Christ. Leaving a family of

believers is never going to be easy, however necessary it may be.

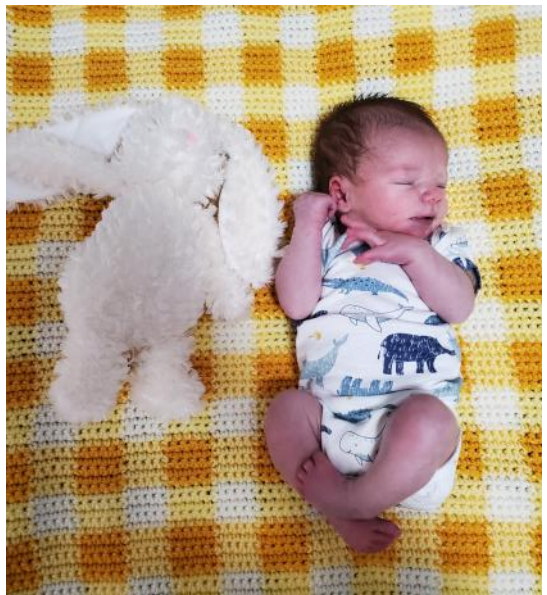
And yet this isn't the end. As I head south for the new job, I leave behind my family in Covenant's capable, loving, caring hands, knowing that if they need anything, Covenant can provide. In the same vein, I leave my mom behind as well, in Covenant's hands. And until I find a new church home in Missouri, Covenant shall hold my membership.

Thank you.

-Joseph Eggebeen, M.E.S.

Welcome, Gavin!

Gavin William Ver Steeg was born at 11:30 PM on April 13 to Daniel and Erica Ver Steeg. He weighed 9lbs, 1oz and was 21 inches long. After a five-day stay in the NICU in Sioux Falls, this new family of three is happy to be home together!



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | Julian Addink | 14 | Lisa Feikema Carol Oostra Daniel Tazelaar Tom Tazelaar | 22 | Rowan Haan Jean Maletoungou Bernie & Kathy DeWit |
| 3 | Adria DeKruyf | | Chris & Jemmie Dyk | 23 | Kurt Vos |
| 8 | Eldon & Marcia Westra | 15 | Will Breems Chris Dyk | 25 | Mark & Lisa Christians |
| 9 | Lisa Christians Len Rhoda | 17 | Meghan Vos | 26 | Lewis Clark Quinn Jewett |
| 11 | Eden DeKruyf John & Becky Stevenson | 18 | John-Patrick McCarthy Ethan & Donna Brue | 29 | Sam Janssen Steve & Pat Crull |
| 12 | Rob & Megan Haan | 19 | Aniah DeKruyf Mark & Barb Tazelaar | 30 | Emily Eppinga |
| 13 | Matt Jewett Ella Visscher | 20 | Zoey Eggebeen | 31 | Joan McCarthy |

Thank You!

Thank you to all who were able to help with the salt sale delivery day! Thank you to Emily Kramer (and Tina Folkerts from Bridge of Hope) for all your preparation and organization in making this fundraiser happen. Thank you to those who brought food and drinks to keep the workers going throughout the morning. And thank you to all who offered their muscles to bring over 3000 bags in and out of garages and up and down stairs! Well done! And as a result, we look forward to receiving a nice check to benefit our Christian Education Fund soon!



A group of volunteers (including 2 willing Dordt students!) delivers their last load of the day and Dave Kramer shows off his forklift driving skills.

May Scheduling



Greeters

Natalie B, Tim K, Ryan Z



Ushers

Dan A, Paul C, Verlyn DW



Coffee Servers

Marge DB, Rebecca DS, Mark H,
Dennis VP, Marty VP

Substitutes

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

Wil A, Dennis DJ, Deb H,
Rock MC, Sherri TN, Del VZ



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, **May 22** for the June issue.



Nursery

Nursery Monitor: Mark & Lisa C

May 7

AM John & Linda V, Ethan & Donna B

May 14

AM Ross & Lisa F, Laura J

May 21

AM Jason & Sara H, Channon & Joni V

May 28

AM Mark & Lisa C, Mark & Cheri H

June 4

AM Luke & Sarah H, Barb T

Formation Sunday Evenings

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

May 7: Vespers

May 14: Vespers

May 21: TBA

May 28: Vespers with Communion

Notes from the Deacons

Church Clean Up

If you're like me, then winter felt like it lasted forever! But, besides having just celebrated Easter, there's good news; it seems that spring has finally arrived! That means it's time once again for the Church Spring Clean-up. On May 6 we would love to have all of you who are able come and join us at the church at 9 AM to some spring cleaning tasks: clean the dust off the windows, patch up and clean the chairs, use some elbow grease in the kitchen, tidy up the outside from the winter, and also spend some time with your fellow Covenanters over coffee and treats. The Building Committee will be meeting to arrange all of the final details soon, so you should be getting emails from your pastoral group deacon about the tasks that will be assigned to each group. Hope to see you Saturday, May 6!

Thank You!

In addition, we want to thank everyone who was able to attend the congregational meeting on April 25 and give their support to the Stewarding of our Worship Space project that has been in the works for some time now. We hope it will prove to be an exciting project where we can put some TLC into our worship space and equipment, and create a more inviting space in which to worship. And as for

me (and the Building Committee), it will be wonderful to install a new roof over our heads!

-Deacon Dane Hilma

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 Service and Missions Committee is conducting a non-perishable food and household items drive for our local Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. organization. Mid-Sioux offers programs, services, and resources to local families that find themselves facing financial or housing emergencies. Their goal is to help lift families and especial children out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

One of their programs is a food bank that is available to those that need help feeding their families, and our congregation has always been a part of this service by collecting non-perishable food items and household/hygiene items to restock their shelves every spring. The representative that I talked to said that the current economy has been hard on many local families and their food pantry is getting bare.

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Giving Graph

| Fund | Budgeted | Received | Difference |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| General | (1/1/23-3/19/23) \$105,097 | \$119,928 | +\$14,832 |
| Christian Education | (8/1/22-3/19/23) \$139,069 | \$135,578 | -\$3,491 |

Sewing at Covenant

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SAM committee members will be handing out reverse offering slips on Sunday, May 7 at the back of the aisles as we exit the service. We encourage you to take as many of the slips as you would like and purchase those items to return to the table in the fellowship hall by May 21. You may also just choose something from the following list and drop it off at church.

The items needed the most are:

- Cereals (any kinds)
- Any other breakfast items (oatmeal, pancake/waffle mix, breakfast bars, etc.)
- Canned fruits and vegetables

- Soups of any kind
- Peanut butter/jelly
- Boxed dinners (hamburger helper, tuna helper, mac & cheese, etc.)
- Potatoes (boxed, bagged/instant)

Hygiene/Household Items:

- Toothpaste
- Dish soap
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap/body wash
- Garbage bags
- Any hygiene/household items really!

-Dwight Van Tol

GEMS Wrap-Up

our Act.Love.Walk. theme. Our theme verse was based on Micah 6:8 which is the GEMS Aim. Our year was spent on Bible lessons, learning to sew and braid, learning about proper etiquette, making laundry detergent for the Hope Pantry, packing sack packs, listening to missionaries, decorating cookies and cupcakes, and so much more! Thank you for covering our club with your prayers as we met on Wednesday nights.

Northstar GEMS has wrapped up our year with an end of the year roller skating party. It was a fun way to end as we focused on

-Valerie Van Beek (GEMS Coordinator)



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motion. So as the old Spiritual says, ["we're workin' on a building, hallelujah!"](#)

The Building Committee will contact the roofing company soon to schedule the tile removal and replacement. Then we will establish a Project Coordination Team who will guide the design-phase for A/V and lighting as well as guide space renovation design and construction planning. And we will establish a Fundraising and Financing Team to work alongside Treasurer John Visser and the deacons.

As Ethan wrote in the letter to the congregation emailed out last week, "Celebrating our past and cultivating our future corporate worship is at the heart of this proposal. Its modest aims intend to pass along the age-old worship traditions while giving space for the next generation to unfold new celebrations of

God's goodness within these same walls." The goal is to complete the project in 2024 as one of the many ways we will celebrate the year of Covenant's 50th anniversary. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

-Rebecca DeVries



** The pictures included are some pre-design renderings from the architect and are meant to give a sense of the plans, but are not necessarily set in stone at this time.*



Congratulations to Eli Horstman, Coach Mark, and the whole Siouxland Lightning team on winning the sled hockey national championship in St. Louis in April!

May Events

Here are some things to put on your calendar for the month of May!



Covenant Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 6 | 9:00 AM

Help spruce up our church with some spring cleaning!



Covenant Swap Meet

Saturday, May 13

8:00 AM—bring your stuff

9:00 AM—take anything you can use for free!

Toys, books, household, perennials, etc. (but no clothes please!)