

*Covenant
Turns...*



50th Anniversary Book

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration, the Anniversary committee is asking each Covenant member/family to write a short story/reflection of 230 to 330 words to be included in a 50th Anniversary Book. These should answer one of the following two prompts:

1. How has God blessed you at Covenant?
or
2. Share a favorite Covenant story/memory.

When you have completed your story/reflection, email it to your pastoral group elder. These will be combined with your family/individual picture as part of a 50th anniversary book. Please complete and send these to your elder as soon as possible but no later than **November 27**. We will have a skilled editor review your submissions.

Upcoming Events

In spite of the rain, many of us enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship at both the “church campfire” on August 6 (the day after a weekend record rainfall of 10+ inches!) and the 70’s theme retreat on October 13. A big “thank you” to those who organized both events!

We’re hoping many of you will be able to attend our next 50th Anniversary Celebration Event, a meal of thanks and fellowship after the morning service on Sunday, **November 19**. We have asked church members to sign up if they are able to attend. Those who plan to attend will then be asked to bring a side dish or dessert. The church will provide the turkey, dressing/stuffing, gravy, and drink.

Looking ahead to December, a Christmas Candlelight Service is being planned for the evening service on **December 17**. This will be a special service, so we’re hoping many of you will be able to attend. Watch for more details as we get closer to that date.

-The 50th Anniversary Planning Team

Courier

November 2023

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Raise the Roof Progress

The purpose of the Covenant Renewal Campaign is to celebrate and steward our worship space.

Earlier this year total project costs were estimated at \$450,000. Of that, \$180,000 was budgeted to repair our roof. The **Raise The Roof** (RTR) goal was to collect \$180,000 in cash by January 1, 2024.

Here's the play-by-play:

- The contractor's bid of \$162,000 was less than we expected.
- To our pleasant surprise, no plywood needed to be replaced.
- New gutters (\$5,400) and a sloped roof over the organ (\$6,300) brought total project costs to approximately \$173,700—a nice chunk below the \$180,000 estimate!

As of this week we have received 54 RTR pledges and/or gifts totaling \$157,743. All but \$38,200 of the pledged total has been received in cash. The committee hopes to raise \$16,000 in new gifts before the end of the year so that RTR is fully funded.

The second phase of our campaign, **Raise Our Voices**, will begin in the first half of 2024. Phase II will provide funds for sanctuary renovation, an update of our sound and projection equipment, and improved lighting. This larger amount, approximately \$270,000, will be raised over a three-to-four-year period.

The Campaign Committee wishes to thank the many people who generously supported this effort. It was a joy to observe the deep affection many folks have for Covenant CRC. We praise God for His provision.

-Verlyn DeWit

From the Council

Covenant Committee Refresh

After a lengthy examination of Covenant's committee structure, with input received from the pastor, elders, deacons, church staff, and committees, the council has adopted some changes that it hopes will help us better address the essential callings of the church.

Covenant's committees are principally under the oversight of the Elders, the Deacons, or the full Council, as shown in the organizational chart given below. Council representatives on the committees serve as facilitator-liaisons, offering guidance and encouragement to the committee and providing two-way communication between the committee and the appropriate council body. Members

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Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!



Marty and Kris Vander Plaats are thankful for the arrival of their first grandchild, a girl. Beckett Louise was born to Jacob and Emily Vander Plaats on September 18. She weighed 9 lbs, 9 oz and was 21 inches long. All are doing well and are enjoying her immensely.

-Marty & Kris Vander Plaats



As we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary, let's see what you know about Covenant's history! Here is another set of question for you to research this month!

Covenant has had seven pastors during our 50 years of existence. Can you identify the specific pastors who fit the following descriptions:

1. Which three pastors were serving churches in Canada when they accepted calls to come to Covenant?
2. After leaving Covenant, which pastor became the Executive Secretary of an area service ministry and also often did long haul truck driving?
3. Which pastor was a very active member of Covenant's slow pitch softball team and a long distance runner?
4. Which pastor died in a tragic car/truck accident on the Dan Ryan Expressway in Chicago on his way to a CRC Classis meeting?
5. Which pastor really enjoyed preaching and sometimes would "practice" by preaching his whole sermon to an empty church early on Sunday mornings? He is retired but some Covenant members still hear him preach in Arizona in the winter.
6. Which pastor is presently Executive Director of Movement West Michigan?

Answers to this month's questions will be in the December *Courier*—but we encourage you to ask around and find out before next month!

And here are the answers to the questions that were printed in last month's *Courier*:

Q: Who were the beautiful hydrangea bushes on the north side of the church planted in memory of?

A: Anika Fritsch, Donna Brink, Russell Maatman, and Jean Maatman. All died while they were members of Covenant.

Q: What are the names of those who have served Covenant as church secretary?

A: Ardith Visser, Mrs. Robert Guis, Esther Nawyn, Jo Faber, Holly Eigenbrood, Ruth Ruter, Anne Maatman, Sara Ploegstra

Q: Who has served Covenant as Worship Coordinator?

A: Jill Friend, Rebecca De Vries

Q: When did Covenant overture Classis to allow our church to use the New International Version of as our pew Bible?

A: Covenant made an overture to use this version of the Bible in February of 1979.

Q: When did Covenant members help to establish the Coffee Break Ministry in Sioux Center and how long did this ministry meet in Covenant?

A: Coffee Break was a community-wide, cross-cultural small group Bible study with nursery and story hour that Sioux Center churches began in 1985. It continued meeting at Covenant until COVID prevented meetings in 2020. When meeting, Covenant was a very busy place with up to 100 women and children involved. Rin Goedhart was very actively involved in this ministry.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

From the Council

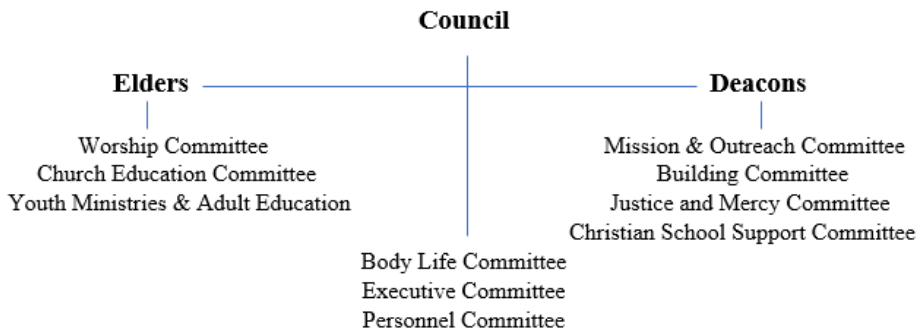
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are appointed by the council for staggered three-year terms and may serve a second term, if willing. Committee mandates are given for the new structure, and some typical

activities and responsibilities are listed (not all, due to space constraints). You can view the full document with more information about each committee at tinyurl.com/CovenantCommitteeRefresh

-Cal Jongsma

Covenant Committee Organizational Chart



November Scheduling



Greeters

Carol O, Les S, Linda V



Ushers

Rachel L, Beth VB, Laurey Z



Coffee Servers

Ed B, Alejandro C, Bob DS,
Tricia K, Jason W

Substitutes

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

Jan B, Lisa C, Steve C,
Jason H, Marcy H, Jake VW



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, **November 20** for the December issue.



Nursery

Nursery Monitor: Jenni M

November 5

AM Tom & Ruth C, Chris & Rin G

November 12

AM Jeff & Sara P, Lee & Jenni M

November 19

AM Ryan & Angela H, Bob & Rebecca DS

November 23—Thanksgiving Day

AM Rob & Megan H, Kurt & Sharon V

November 26

AM Marcy H, David & Emily K

December 3

AM John & Linda V, Lee R

Formation Sunday Evenings

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

November 5: Vespers

November 12: Vespers

November 19: Vespers

November 26: Prayer Gathering

Notes from the Deacons

The end of the year is in sight, and with that comes the holiday celebrations, family gatherings, and extra busy-ness that goes along with it all. The Deacons are also busy preparing a new budget for the 2024 calendar year, and this coming budget year has presented us with new challenges and opportunities.

We are in the middle of a building project campaign, and the response from Covenant members has been incredibly generous. To quote John Visser, our church treasurer, "It has been a banner year for giving." We want to thank everyone for their generosity in giving to the roof project to protect our building from the elements, hopefully for another 75 years. If you have not yet had the chance to speak with someone from the "Raise The Roof" team, we encourage you to do so as we are oh so very close to raising the full amount of funds to complete the roof payment this year. Soon, the fundraising team will begin the "Raise our Voices" campaign for the Sanctuary refresh project to start in the new year!

Next year has presented us with a unique opportunity in our budget in that our Christian Education commitments are drastically reduced. In light of discussions and comments

from council and church members, we are seeking to expand the mission outreach of our church with some of these freed-up funds. We know we are in the middle of a capital campaign, so we will continue to prayerfully and carefully navigate the best way forward as a church seeking to be a light in God's world. We are still working to figure out all the finer points of what the ESA program means for the rest of this year and how it will impact where we allocate gifts now and in the years to come. We ask that you pray and consider along with us how best to reallocate funds for missional work and Christian education in the world abroad.

Finally, we want to remind you that we would love to see ALL of you (yes—each and every one one of you!) at the congregational meeting in early December.

In Christ,

-Deacon Dane Hilma

On behalf of the Covenant Deacons:
Ruth Clark, Pam DeJong, Kristi Hummel,
Lee Mellema, Josh Van Schouwen,
Dwight VanTol, John Visser

Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/23-10/22/23) \$265,833	\$253,998	-\$11,835
Christian Education	(8/1/23-10/22/23) \$22,126	\$32,387	+\$10,261

Serving at Covenant

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

Dear Covenant Family,
We have been blessed with a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn about and serve the local communities in Tanzania this Christmas! Along with learning about a new culture and experiencing a beautiful part of creation (one that is very different from Sioux Center), we will be sitting in on surgeries, helping out in the hospital however we can, learning about the local medical care, and serving in the orphanage and village. Our goal is to get experience in a different culture and learn about how medicine is used in a place of much less privilege than here. We strive to bring the love of Jesus to the local people in Tanzania and to help and serve in any way we can.


We have committed to be part of a group at Dordt called AMOR (A Mission Outreach). For nearly two decades, Dordt has participated in international vision/mission projects throughout the world. This year, our group will be going to Tanzania in December during Christmas Break, leaving on December 20 and returning January 10.

For this trip, we will be partnering with STEMM, a local US non-profit agency that ministers in areas of education, medical care, and community development, mainly for children, from a decidedly Christian viewpoint. STEMM is an interdenominational Christian ministry whose main focus is developing a relational bridge between Siouxland and Tanzania by addressing the priorities of spiritual growth, medical care, and educational opportunities. You can learn more about STEMM

and even ways that you can become involved in this ministry at stemm.org.

There are expenses associated with such a project. Each member of the team needs to raise approximately \$4,500 to cover costs related to travel (this is the biggest cost by far), food, and materials to be used at the work sites. We are writing our friends and family to ask for your assistance in a couple of ways. First, please pray for us as we prepare for this project, for the ministry that we will assist, and for safety in travel. Secondly, if you are able and willing to contribute financially to this ministry, we would be very grateful. Even a small amount would be such a blessing!

Giving can be made in one of two ways:

1. You can give online by scanning the QR code or visiting www.dordt.edu/giving/give#

 - Scroll down to “Other Ways to Give”
 - Scroll down to AMOR: Click “Give Now” In the comments box type both names: Emily and Sam Eppinga. Your gift will go directly toward our personal fundraising.
2. You can also give via check. Checks can be made out to Dordt University and sent to the address below. Recognition and thanks of your contribution will be recognized via Student Services upon receipt and for donations in excess of \$250 the business office of Dordt University will send you a separate charitable contributions receipt. (If writing a check, include both of our names in the memo line so they know it’s for us.)

Dordt University
Att’n: Student Services - AMOR
700 7th St. NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

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Missions & Outreach Committee Updates

The Missions and Outreach committee (formerly SAM—Service and Missions) has a few offering opportunities for you to participate in as we head into Autumn and Winter. Because we have been blessed by our Father we are called to be a blessing to others.



First up is World Renew's World Hunger 2023 drive. The children will be working on collecting money in their Peter Fish, but as a family you can also participate in the "Dinner for Good" campaign. Make a dinner date, perhaps invite some of your friends, but instead of going out, prepare a simple meal to share at home and then donate the money you would have spent to end hunger in the world. Ideas and recipes can be found by visiting the Dinner for Good link on World Renew's website: www.worldrenew.net/dinnerforgood



Second, we want to encourage you to participate in the reverse food offering for Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. After the service on two upcoming Sundays, we will be handing out slips with suggested non-perishable food items and hygiene products. The food pantry at Mid-Sioux is a necessary resource for many struggling households in our community and it needs a good restocking as we approach the holiday season. Please consider grabbing a few or a handful of slips from the baskets located near the offering boxes in the rear of the sanctuary. If you didn't get an opportunity to grab a slip you can still drop off non-perishable food items like canned vegetables or fruit, boxed dinners, pasta and pasta sauce, dried beans or rice, pancake/waffle/cake mixes, ketchup/mustard/pickles or oth-

er condiments, cereal/oatmeal/breakfast bars, etc. Please drop off your food items to the boxes in the back of the West Lobby by the bulletin boards.



Finally, soon you will again find the Christmas Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall. This is another Mid-Sioux Opportunity campaign to provide Christmas gifts to under-privileged families, elderly people with limited resources, and disabled persons in Sioux County. The Giving Tree will be in the Fellowship Hall during November, so please grab some slips and return the wrapped gifts with the slip taped to the outside of the wrapping to church by December 8. Last year Mid-Sioux Opportunity was able to brighten the holidays for almost 100 households because of the generosity of people like you, so a big thanks if you have participated in the past and/or are willing to give this season.

-Dwight Van Tol

Sewing at Covenant

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If you have any questions or would like to know more, please feel free to contact us by email or phone:

Emily: mlyppng22@dordt.edu
712-441-6545

Sam: smlppng21@dordt.edu
712-441-9373

Thank you!

-Emily and Sam Eppinga