



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

### *Sioux Center Christian School*

Iliana Hickey  
Ava Landman  
Naomi Ploegstra  
Ella Visscher

### *Home School*

Blake Stiemsma

### *Unity Christian High School*

Elia Eppinga

Elia plans to take a gap year and work at Culver's.

Kiara Hickey

I plan to go to Dordt University to major in criminal justice and theology. I will be participating in cross country as well.

### **Eli Horstman**

Eli plans to go to Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, MN. He is planning to study business and be a part of the wheelchair basketball program.

### **Ezra Landman**

Ezra is planning to attend Dordt University for Biology or Business in the fall. He will also work at Interstates in the summer.

### **Stephen Schreurs**

I will be attending Dordt University studying Actuarial Science and Statistics and I plan to play soccer.

### **Jackson Visscher**

I'm going to Dordt University next year and planning to major in Digital Media Production. I hope to maybe be involved with the Dordt Media Network too.

### *Dordt University*

Faby Addink

Faby graduated from Dordt with a Master of Education degree with a specialization in curriculum instruction: teacher leadership.

Joya Breems

I graduated with degrees in Journalism and Community Development. I am sticking around Sioux Center for a few more years as I'm working at the Sioux Center Public Library as the evening circulation supervisor and working under Ruth Mahaffy in outreach.

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*Courier*

*June 2024*

**COVENANT**  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

# Happy 50th, Covenant!

One more note of thanks to all those who helped to make our 50th Anniversary celebration such a joyous occasion:

- Members of the 50th Anniversary Committee: chairs—Pat & Steve Crull, Lee & Jenni Mellema, Chris & Rin Goedhart, Rebecca De Vries, and Pastor Joel Kok.
- Artists Vaughn Donahue for his original print, Rob Haan for his graphic work, and Jo Alberda for the banner.
- Deb Hibma, Tricia Kok, and the Covenant Quilters for the Friday dinner table decorations.
- Ron Oostra for the flowers in the sanctuary Sunday morning.
- Those who put together our 50th Anniversary books: Bob & Rebecca De Smith, Sally Jongmsa, Erika Ver Steeg, and James Rylaarsdam.
- Our administrative assistant, Sara Ploegstra, for helping us keep everything in order.
- Rebecca DeVries and the worship planners, Jill Friend and our musicians (Gary Vander Hart even made a cameo appearance in the orchestra Sunday morning), readers, audio/visual volunteers, and all the volunteers who did their duties willingly and skillfully on Sunday.
- Pastor Joel for bringing us such good news as he does each Sunday.
- Those who brought cookies and bars on Sunday night.
- The visitors and former pastors who delighted us with their presence and reflections.

All glory be to God!





## Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Jonah Evan Mulder was born on March 22 in Sioux Falls to parents Cameron and Kari. He is welcomed home in Sioux Center by his older brother Lincoln and sisters Mayse and Haven. Grandparents are Brian and Cindy Groeneweg and he the 21st great-grandchild of the Apols.



*-Dallas & Carol Apol*



Vienna Kathryn Viet was born to Kate and Adam Viet. Thrilled first-time grandparents are Paul and Avonda Fessler.

*-Paul & Avonda Fessler*

## Senior Needs Committee

This newly formed committee has met several times and is eager to be of service in several ways to the seniors in our congregation. Following are some of the services we have started:

- We want to provide rides to Sunday services for those who are no longer able to do this for themselves and/or do not have relatives to help them.
- We have set up a valet service for Sunday mornings to help people in and out of their cars and park them if this is wanted and to help them into the sanctuary.
- We have compiled a list of people willing to drive those who need it, to and from appointments in or out of town.
- We would love to visit if you would desire some company, especially if you are unable to get out. We could possibly also arrange to have someone sit with you for a short time if your regular caregiver needs to leave.

We had an interesting and informative meeting last Tuesday night about many available services here in town, including Hospice services, and then a presentation about scams and how to avoid them. If you were not there and would like to know more, speak to someone on the committee about it.

The council has advised that if you are in need of help of any kind that it is best if you first ask the elder or deacon of your pastoral group and they will pass it on to us in an appropriate way. But know that the members of our committee are also always available to hear you. Our committee is a facilitator, but we also will be hands and feet along with other volunteers. We have already been

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# June Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



## Senior Needs Committee

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asked to help in several ways.

Thank you to several of you who have already volunteered to assist with various things, but we can use more helpers, especially for the valet service. We also would value your comments or suggestions as we move forward with this committee.

*-Mary Ploegstra*

On behalf of the committee: Dennis VanderPlaats (chairman), Duane and Jan Bajema, Mary Ploegstra, Jeri Schelhaas (council liaison)

thank you

Thank you to our Covenant Church family for all your care and prayers for our family in the last months.

*-The Hummels*

# June Scheduling



## Greeters

Ed B, Sally J, Jason W



## Nursery

Nursery Monitor: Sharon V



## Ushers

Carol O, Linda V, John Z



## Coffee Servers

Marge DB, Jeremy H, Shirley M,  
Dennis VP, Kris VP

## Substitutes

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

Donna B, Steve C, Megan H,  
Luke H, Daryl H, Don TN



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 24 for the July issue.

## June 2

AM Laremy & Rebecca DV, Barb T

## June 9

AM Mark & Cheri H, Jason & Dani W

## June 16

AM Luke & Sarah H, Ron & Carol O

## June 23

AM Marty & Kris VP, Chris & Rin G

## June 30

AM Jeff & Sara P, Marcy H

## July 7

AM Bob & Rebecca DS, Lee & Jenni M

## Formation Sunday Evenings

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

June 2: Vespers

June 9: Joint CRC Worship Service  
(at Covenant)

June 16: Hymn Sing

June 23: Vespers

June 30: Vespers with Communion

# Note from the Deacons

In a beautiful demonstration of faith in action, our church recently joined together for clean-up day, embodying the spirit of Christian love and service. Over a span of just 90 minutes, the volunteers rallied together to breathe new life into our place of worship.

From outdoor pick-up to meticulous bathroom cleaning, from dusting the sanctuary to revitalizing the fellowship hall, every task was approached with enthusiasm and purpose. Even the often-overlooked balcony and basement received the tender care they deserved. Windows gleamed, the kitchen underwent a thorough deep clean, and worn-out chairs were repaired. Cookies were expertly eaten and coffee/juice was consumed during a time of fellowship after cleaning was completed.

Each sweep of the broom, each wipe of the cloth, was a testament to our shared commitment to stewardship and community. As we worked side by side, we were reminded of the words of Ephesians 4:16, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

To all who selflessly devoted their time and

energy, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your dedication not only renewed our physical surroundings but also strengthened the bonds of Christian fellowship that unite us.

*Josh Van Schouwen*

On behalf of the Deacons  
& Building Committee

# Church Cleaning Treats

Here's proof that church cleaning is more than cleaning... it's also about fellowship and enjoying coffee together! This is the coffee-cake recipe served at church cleaning day from Trena Van Wyk which several of you requested:

## Blueberry Almond Coffee Cake

- 1 ½ cups butter, room temperature
- 3 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 Tablespoons almond extract
- Pinch of salt
- 2 cups blueberries
- Sliced or chopped almonds

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# Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/24-5/19/24) \$131,027	\$152,358	+\$21,331
Christian Education	(8/1/23-5/19/24) \$77,442	\$97,377	+\$19,935
Refresh Building	(1/1/24-5/19/24) \$28,615	\$41,112	+\$12,497

# 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 Justice and Mercy Committee at its inaugural meetings this spring explored how Covenant's congregation could be regularly engaged in serving our local community. Over the years Covenant members have participated in service projects that been meaningful to both our members and people in distant communities. The new committee would like to expand those efforts by establishing an ongoing commitment to serving people in our own community. We originally spoke with staff at Atlas and at the Hope Food Pantry to learn about ways we might get involved in the name of Covenant CRC.

The Food Pantry conversations led us to conversations with staff at the facility that will open in June at the former Kosgrove Estates. The new facility, Talitha Koum, is described as a healing campus for women and children who need to find a new way to move forward in their lives. It will offer transitional housing to women and their children who have experienced domestic abuse. Some members of the

committee, with a few additional Covenant volunteers, recently prepared about 200 feet of existing raised beds on the property that can be used by the residents to grow their own vegetables as they eat and cook together. Thanks to dozens of seedlings grown by second graders at Sioux Center Christian, the gardens are planted and will be ready for residents' when they begin to move in in June.

We hope to find other ways for Covenant folks to engage. At this point we expect there may be specific projects or tasks that we will put before the congregation to participate in on behalf of Covenant. At this point, in response to a suggestion from Marianne Sjaarda at Hope Food Pantry, we are committing to staff the Food Pantry distribution once a month during the summer, when the colleges are out and finding volunteers is a bit more difficult. As a congregation with many people involved in education, we are hoping we can find enough people (age 12 and older) to staff two -two hour shifts the second Wednesday of June, July, and August. We also would love to be able to provide a needed bilingual volunteer for each shift. The online volunteer sign-up for Hope Food Pantry currently says "Covenant CRC," partly as a practical matter but also to demonstrate our congregation's commitment to serving.

But we need specific names. Please contact Sally Jongsma (email [jongsma@mtcnet.net](mailto:jongsma@mtcnet.net) or text 712.441.7020) to volunteer or ask questions. We need five volunteers from 1:30-3:30 and four volunteers from 3:30-5:30 the second Wednesday of each summer month. Ideally we would have a bilingual volunteer for each slot as well. Please consider this opportunity to participate in a rather amazing program for people in our community who are often food insecure.

## Church Cleaning Treats

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Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and beat. Add flour, vanilla, almond extract, and salt. Mix well. Gently fold in blueberries. Pour in a greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with sugar and nuts. Bake at 350 for 40-45 minutes or until golden brown. Check for doneness using a toothpick, don't overbake.

*-Trena Van Wyk*

*-Sally Jongsma*

## *Celebrating our Graduates*

*(Continued from page 1)*

### **Jocelyn (Zonnefeld) Garcia**

I graduated with a degree in Data Science, Mathematics, and Statistics with a Kuyper Honors Minor. I am starting a PhD in Computer Science at Tufts University this fall, where I'll be doing Computational Biology Research. My husband, Gabriel, graduated with a degree in Actuarial Science. He will begin as an Actuarial Assistant at John Hancock in Boston, Massachusetts in July.

### **Hannah Landman**

I graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Environmental Science. This fall, I am entering an Environmental Microbiology PhD program at Montana State University!

### **Joya Schreurs**

I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Theology with a minor in Music Performance. Starting in August, I will be attending Duke Divinity in Durham, North Carolina for a Master of Theological Studies.

### **Emilyn Smit**

I graduated with a Bachelors degree in Psychology and plan to get my Master's in Psychology through Dordt (online).

### **Elise Stiemsma**

I graduated with a degree in English: Literature and a minor in KHP and Theatre. I plan to work at Yinghua Academy in Minneapolis teaching English Language Arts.

### **Lucas Stiemsma**

I graduated with a Bachelors degree in Theology with an emphasis on Youth Ministries. I plan to keep doing what I have been doing for now—working for Hope Haven and with our youth group.

### **Michael Vander Plaats**

I graduated with a degree in Business: Information Systems with a Statistics minor. I will start at Interstates in late May as part of the internal data team there. I am getting married in mid-July to Adeline Bergstrom (who graduated from Dordt last December)!

## *Western Theological Seminary*

### **Anna (Christians) Mooers**

I received my Masters of Divinity from Western Theological Seminary. I'm now working as a hospital chaplain at St Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and the Mayo Clinic both in Phoenix!

