

Easter Celebration!

death and resurrection this Eastertide season, we wanted to share a few pictures of the Resurrection Garden assembly that took place on April 13. Hopefully these gardens were a beautiful picture of new life as you walked through Holy Week. We hope you enjoy the photos of this event scattered throughout the newsletter! And in addition to the photos, we encourage you to check out the SCCS Easter video by following the QR code on this page. As you listen to children share the story of Holy Week, we hope you will recognize the faces of many of our beautiful Covenant children in the video!



As we continue to celebrate the joy we find in Christ's



Micah & Shannon Schreurs work together assembling their Resurrection Garden.

Now the Green Blade Rises

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

J.M.C. Crum

Courier

May 2025

COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Salt Sale Recap



Salt Sale 2025 went very smoothly and we are very thankful for another year of safety on the roads for our drivers and volunteers. This was our fifth year collaborating with Bridge of Hope to sell and deliver thousands of bags of softener salt in our community.

Originally the softener salt sale was a fundraiser for Sioux Center Christian's PACE, however, in 2021 SCCS decided to eliminate PACE fundraisers and offered these opportunities to local churches. Nick Breems, David Kramer, and myself had all been original members of the PACE Salt Sale Committee and in conjunction with another original member from Bridge of Hope, Tina Folkerts, we believed our churches could successfully take over the fundraiser.

In 2021, our first year, we sold about 3000 bags of salt, and even though this was about half of what we sold when running the fundraiser for SCCS, it was still an incredible amount of salt for our two small churches to deliver. We wondered if we had enough people who owned trucks and trailers to make this happen in a timely manner that wouldn't exhaust our workers; we wondered if we had enough strong arms and legs to haul 3000 bags

of salt up and down stairs and into garages. Between Bridge of Hope and Covenant we managed to successfully deliver all of that salt in 2021 and still finish by noon!

Each subsequent year has provided its own challenges, but every year our members continue to show up to help in all the ways—hauling salt, driving trucks and trailers, providing sustenance, and ordering salt. We have been very fortunate to have such generous members as Duane Bajema, Steve Crull, Dane Hibma, Mark Horstman, Lee Mellema, and Jason Wyenberg, who all donate their time and gas to drive trucks and trailers year after year. These men are absolutely essential to the salt sale. In addition, Nick Breems has been responsible for creating all of our salt delivery routes since the very beginning and we would not be able to be as efficient and timely as we are without his hard work. Lastly, our volunteers have become many of the same individuals year after year who are healthy and strong enough to undertake the very physical task of hauling 40lb bags of salt, and I would like to say from all of us who can't do that for many various reasons, thank you for assisting our church in this way and we are grateful for you.

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Salt Sale Recap

(Continued from page 2)

I am waxing eloquent on salt sale history because this year was different from other years. WaterWerks has switched ownership, and we are very thankful that Joe Poppema from Joe's TV and Appliance was still up for making this fundraiser happen. However, our sales this year were the lowest we have ever had—around 1900 bags of salt. Though this allowed us to finish by 11:00 AM that Saturday



morning, it does cut into the profits. There are more softener salt fundraisers in the community than in 2021 when we began this fundraiser, and our water in Sioux County has changed for the better and people are using less softener salt.

This year our share of the profit was \$2,300, about half of what we made in 2023. However, working with Joe was as seamless as working with the previous owner, Stacy Jasper, and we anticipate continuing the salt sale fundraiser with Bridge of Hope for the foreseeable future. All of the money we raise continues to go towards meeting our Christian Education commitments.

Thanks again!

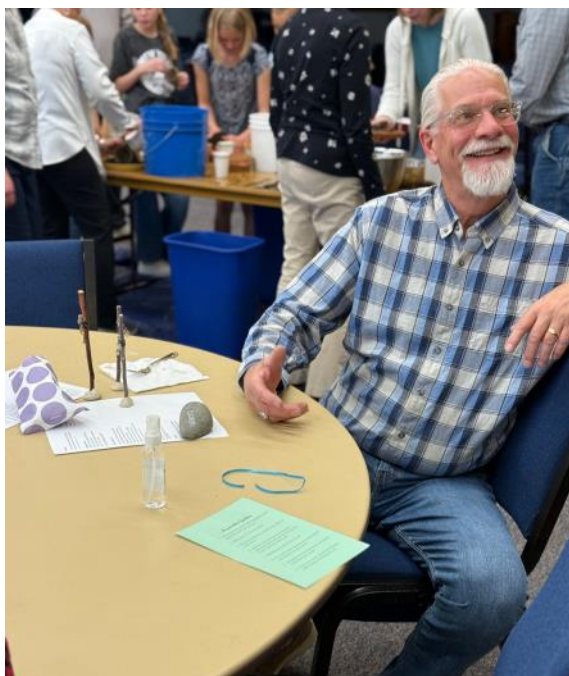
-Emily Kramer



Andrea, Emden, Hendrik, and Theissen work on their Resurrection Garden.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

2	Julian Addink	15	Will Breems	26	Lewis Clark Quinn Jewett
7	Shannon Schreurs	17	Meghan Vos	27	Sevriena Postma
8	Eldon & Marcia Westra	18	John-Patrick McCarthy Ethan & Donna Brue	29	Sam Janssen Steve & Pat Crull
9	Lisa Christians Len Rhoda	19	Mark & Barb Tazelaar	30	Emily Eppinga
11	John & Becky Stevenson	22	Rowan Haan Jean Maletoungou	31	Joan McCarthy
12	Rob & Megan Haan	23	Hendrik Dieleman Theissen Dieleman Kurt Vos		
13	Matt Jewett Ella Visscher	25	Mark & Lisa Christians		
14	Carol Oostra Daniel Tazelaar				



May Scheduling



Greeters

Cheri H, Marty VP, Michael VP,



Ushers

Sally J, Jake VW, Marcia W



Coffee Servers

Sharon D, Jeremy H, Mark MC,
Dennis VP, John Z

Substitutes

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

Wil A, Rebecca DS, Sarah H,
Marcy H, Sherri TN, Trena 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, **May 19** for the June issue.



Nursery

Nursery Monitor: Erika VS

May 4

AM Jason & Sara H, Alejandro & Isabel C

May 11

AM Mark & Cheri H, Luke & Sarah H

May 18

AM Channon & Joni V, Laremy & Becca DV

May 25

AM Ryan & Val Z, Marcy H

June 1

AM Jason & Dani W, Ron & Carol O

Formation Sunday Evenings

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

May 4: Vespers

May 11: Vespers

May 18: WE Service (following our morning worship service)

May 25: Vespers with Communion

Covenant Swap Meet

We hope you join us for our Covenant Swap meet on Saturday, May 3, organized by our Missions and Outreach Committee! This is an opportunity for you to bring things you no longer need or want and share them with those who would be able to use them and give them a new home! Best part? It's all free!



Here are some details:

8:00-9:00 AM

bring your unwanted stuff to church

9:00 AM—12:00 PM

take home whatever you can use!

Thing to bring:

- household goods
- furniture
- linens
- kitchen gizmos
- lawn and other tools
- sporting goods
- bicycles
- toys & puzzles
- books

Things not to bring:

- clothing
- broken items
- garbage

This event is open to the community as well.

The committee would love to have some volunteers to help set up at 8:00 and clean up at noon. Can you help?

-Dwight Van Tol

Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/25-4/21/25) \$106,378	\$122,056	+\$15,678
Christian Education	(8/1/24-4/21/25) \$36,969	\$59,769	+\$22,800
Refresh Building	(1/1/25-4/21/25) \$22,892	\$28,018	+\$5,125



Here are some ways to be praying for some of the missionaries we support.

Sos & Kara Maletoungou

Thanksgiving and Prayer Items

- Praise God for a sustained quiet awakening through the movement of Christian education in Africa.
- Pray for safety and protection over the participants and speakers who will be traveling to Bangui for the national conference in April.
- Pray for renewed strength and insight on the Teacher's Garden team as it responds to many ministry demands from local schools and churches.
- Pray for increased financial resources needed for the Teacher's Garden operating costs.

Benjamin & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk

Answers to prayer:

- We thank God for smooth travel and a wonderful retreat near Rome over Spring Break. It was refreshing and encouraging to gather with Resonate partners from around Europe who have answered the call to partner with God in his work in this region.
- We are thankful that the details of our summer plans have fallen into place incredibly smoothly.
- We praise God for many sunny days in March, and also more energy.
- We are thankful for the wisdom of the Board in their feedback on the institution-

al governance reformation that LCC is working on.

Prayer requests:

- Please pray for the students in our Contemporary Communication major, which has not been re-accredited (primarily because not enough of the professors in the program had PhDs, apparently) and will have to come to an end. Fortunately, we have received approval for a new Global Business and Public Engagement major under the umbrella of our Business program, which will meet the needs of many of the Communication students. However, the transition will not be simple for many of them, and there is much sadness about the end of the Communication major.
- Pray for safe travel and meaningful interactions at the International Network for Christian Higher Education conference we will attend next week.

WE Service

Please mark your calendars for May 18, our next WE service—an intergenerational, informal worship gathering around the tables in the fellowship hall. We will gather immediately after the morning service for a meal (provided by church) and then explore the faith practice of Service. Chris Schoon, former director of Thrive Ministries, defines service as "a response to God's love for us in Jesus Christ that teaches us to live like Jesus through specific, tangible actions that contribute to the dignity and well-being of the people we serve." All are welcome to learn, share and celebrate together. Look for a sign-up soon.

-Rebecca DeVries

Thinking He Was the Gardener

Thinking he was the gardener,
she did not recognize him,
eyes blurred with tears, the weight
of grief breaking her heart.

Now, all these centuries later, we find
her misidentification of him as gardener
happily apt.
For he is the gardener
of our lives and our salvation—
planter, waterer, weeder, feeder,
completer.

He is the gardener
of all green and growing things, of
grasses, flowers, and trees. The great sequoias,
redwoods, and cedars of the world bow down to him
who bends to tend the almost invisible lettuce seeds
planted this morning in my garden.

He cares for all creatures, plants
the conies, those “feeble folk,”
in houses of stone to protect them, gives
water for the wild donkeys, delights
in the antics of leviathan.

Before time was, he cast stars
like seeds into the endless
furrows of space and still
charts their growth over seasons
that linger on for eons.

Dear, sad Mary, one word and she knew him,
yet all eternity may not be time enough
for her to comprehend him.

-Dave Schelhaas