

The Promise

The People of Covenant are called to:
Gather, Grow and Go Serve... With God's Love!



August 2020

The Monthly Newsletter of
Covenant Lutheran Church
ELCA

KEEP HOPE

Covenant Lutheran Church

Inside This Issue

- 2: Message from Pastor Sara
- 4: Memorials
- 6: Money Matters
- 7: Covenant News
- 8: Education News
- 9: Blood Drive
- 10: Social Justice
- 14: Contact Information

Ministry during a pandemic has provided challenges and interesting learning opportunities. One thing that is paramount is the need for communication. Communication takes more effort when there is a disruption from the norm. How we are communicating becomes an interesting dynamic. There are many unknowns and uncertainties, but I will try my best to communicate well to the congregation.

A COVID Task force was formed to research and process information in the decision-making process. This task force has thought through details of safety, policy and procedure in regards to worship, gatherings, and outdoor groups using the Covenant building. I am very proud of the work of this task force and have shared their policies and procedures with other congregations.



Update from Pastor Sara Rabe

PASTOR SARA'S WEEKEND MESSAGE

20 Minute Worship Service

Sermon Transcript

In Home Worship Devotional

Worship continues to be online. Alex Thiessen has been using his cell phone to record the services on Tuesdays each week. We continue to test other alternatives and options for optimal quality. (Thank you, Alex, for your patience with your mother!!) Michelle Osterhaus and Meghann Proper alternate playing the hymns while I attempt to sing those high notes. I must admit, not singing much has wreaked havoc on

the vocals 😊 Once the service is recorded Donna Tarpinian and or Mary Chandler spend some time editing the video by adding liturgy and final touches to be ready for the email blast on Friday. I am proud of the quality of service and am aware of many other people around the state and Midwest that view our service. I even heard from a few friends in southern IL- my first call- who appreciate having the service online. This has been a rich blessing that has come from these alternative times, and even when we eventually return to in-person worship, the online worship will remain. People who aren't feeling well on Sundays, or in climate weather, can now participate in worship in their homes. This is a good thing. Speaking of weather, we are planning a one-time drive-in worship service at Covenant in the near future. We are waiting for the completion of the Solar Array. Once that is completed we will have an outdoor-staying in your car drive-in worship to reveal the significant projects that have happened around the church this summer, while participating in a brief joyful worship. Everyone will be required to remain in their cars and wear masks. I will keep you posted when this will happen. A couple things are still in the air.

Christian Education at Covenant. This is the most unknown area of programming at the moment. The Stoughton Area School District is having online school this fall. This decision guides our decisions as we think about Sunday School and Confirmation. Though many conversations have yet to happen, we are looking at alternative ways to engage the students in Christian Education learning. We are making considerations of time, and other emotional and stressful components of kids lives in what they are dealing with. Please pray for our youth. Please pray for their well-being and ways we can support them, for it is uncertain what is best right now.

Something important: The Racial Equity team is an active group that meets to think about ways to address the issues of racism. With an honest approach they are having conversation and heart felt prayerful dialog about how we can do better in addressing these issues that hurt so many due to hate and prejudice.

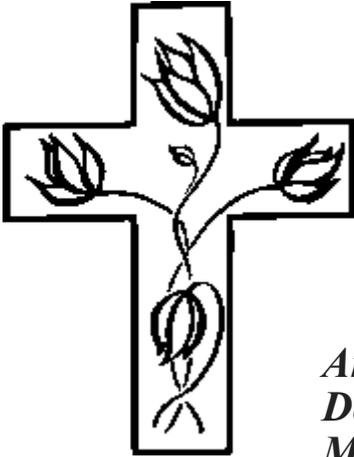
Something new: Since March we have had an online community of Covenant folks who meet on Zoom at Noon on Thursdays. During that time we support one another where we can be honest about the struggles of living right now. The something new, is an opportunity to meet with me on the church courtyard or on your lawn for catch up and conversation. If this is something you would enjoy, please email pastorsararabe@covluth.org, or call 873-7494 and we will set something up. I know I would enjoy visiting with you. Obviously we will keep safe distance and follow safety protocols.

I thank you for your patience and continued support of Covenant and the ministries through the last few months. Please drop me a note to let me know how you are doing. I would enjoy hearing from you.

Be well, God Bless, and Stay Safe,

Pastor Sara

Memorials



For Wilma Baumbach

Given by:

Anonymous
Dorothy & Robert Beckstrand
Monte & Carol Brekken
James & June Bunting
Eugene Coleman
Mark & Linda Everson
Elizabeth Gardner
Roger & Lois Golhlke
Mark & Angela Halverson
David & Ann Nelson
Jack & Eileen Nelson
Michelle Osterhaus
Marion Schreiber
Judy Roy
Past Syttende Mai Royalty
Kent & Judy Schroeder
Melissa & John Seamonson
Marcia Trentz
Roger Utermark
Tamarine Westrand

Memorials

Covenant members who passed away in the month of July



Mae Doris Hoel, age 99, died on Thursday, July 16, 2020, after a brief illness. Mae was born on May 1, 1921, to Carlos and Bertha (Lee) Martin in Dane County, Wis. She graduated from Stoughton High School and trained as a secretary.

In 1944, Mae married Carl Hoel and they had three sons. After the boys were off to school, Mae resumed her work as a secretary and was proud to maintain her position with the Wisconsin Department of Banking until she turned 70. Mae loved to travel, venturing to many places, including Greece, Italy and China. She checked other things off her list into her mid-80s, including hiking to see petroglyphs in New Mexico and attending an Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia.

Mae was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Carl; brothers, Carlos and Roger Martin; sister-in-law, Marjorie Martin; nephew, Roger Lee Martin; and niece, Bettie Jane Martin. She is survived by her sons, Carl (JoAnn), Kim and Cort; grandchildren, Carl, Linda and Tyler; sister-in-law, Janice Martin; and nieces and nephew.

Mae's friends and family knew two things about her: she fiercely loved her sons, and she loved to give elaborate parties for her many friends. She will be dearly missed. Memorials may be made to Agrace HospiceCare and Planned Parenthood. Online condolences at www.gundersonfh.com.

MONEY MATTERS...REPORTING ON COVENANT'S FINANCES

The first half of 2020 presented challenges none of us expected. Covenant remains healthy financially thanks to all who have contributed. The table below summarizes June and YTD:

ITEM	JUNE 2020	JUNE 2019	Year-to-date (YTD) Actual	YTD Budget	YTD 2019
Contributed income	16,848	20,596	130,524.73	129,987.52	140,044.06
Other income	-14.53	650.09	10,629.44	29,979.98	6,681.25
TOTAL INCOME	16,833.47	21,206.09	141,154.17	159,967.50	146,725.31
<i>Partnerships</i>	<i>1,685.80</i>	<i>3,751.80</i>	<i>13,176.84</i>	<i>13,548.73</i>	<i>13,989.62</i>
<i>Salaries & Benefits</i>	<i>9,515.36</i>	<i>10,738.54</i>	<i>80,008.93</i>	<i>109,071.98</i>	<i>83,925.72</i>
<i>Program Ministry</i>	<i>923.19</i>	<i>-270.03</i>	<i>5,891.86</i>	<i>6,199.96</i>	<i>5,861.86</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>103.59</i>	<i>125.02</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>505.11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>547.86</i>	<i>500.02</i>	<i>520.94</i>
<i>Social Ministry</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>200.96</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Worship and Music</i>	<i>566.36</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3,273.78</i>	<i>3,037.50</i>	<i>1,671.18</i>
<i>Building Operations</i>	<i>2,608.76</i>	<i>886.79</i>	<i>20,129.34</i>	<i>27,249.98</i>	<i>54,500.00</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,804.58	15,107.10	123,333.16	159,733.19	153,936.90
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,028.89	6,098.99	17,821.01	234.31	7,201.59

Contributed income decreased on a weekly average compared to earlier months. Other income is below budget primarily due to no income for facility usage by Weight Watchers. Our income exceeds expenses because of reduced staff hours, elimination of Director of Christian Education as well as less expense in operating our facility since we are not gathering for worship or meetings and have no mortgage in 2020. We are in a healthy position financially.

Covenant extends our outreach to people in need of God's love in tangible ways by supporting ministries globally, nationally, and locally. Every month we pass along 6% of contributed income to the **South-Central Synod of Wisconsin** and the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. In June we also distributed another 4% percent of contributed income to support **Lutheran World Relief** and **ELCA World Hunger** as well as local ministries, **START** (**ST**oughton **A**rea **R**esource **T**eam) and **HATS** (**H**ousing **A**dvocacy **T**eam of **S**toughton). All the partnership ministries we support express deep gratitude for our generosity.

September has traditionally been a big re-start of several ministries and activities at Covenant and other congregations. Due to COVID-19 plans are still being formulated. I, like many of you, wish there was an easy answer to the many questions the situation presents. I urge you to pray for Covenant's Council, ministry teams, and Pastor Sara. We each can share our ideas and issues via phone calls or emails or texts. Together we will move forward as each of us offers ourselves—time, skills, and funds—for the good of our ministry. Each of us can be the “somebody will do it” person! Our continued giving is one important way to support our ministry together. Mail-in contributions or convenient online giving at our website (www.covluth.org) helps keep Covenant's witness strong. Thanks for your commitment to Covenant's ministry!

Submitted by George Carlson, treasurer

Covenant Chuckles

Church ladies with typewriters



These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Education News

Covenant Council has approved the hiring of a part-time coordinator for Children's Ministries. In addition we are hiring three Sunday School Teachers. If you know of someone interested in the job, please check it out [here](#).



The Hiring Team consisting of Cindy Pietruszynski, Tim Strandlie and Pastor Sara, are pleased to announce the hire of Kathy Andruz as Covenant's Confirmation Coordinator. Kathy states, "I would bring to this position my vision to further these goals with periodic, simple projects to strengthen youth connections with one another and with others within Covenant. "

Kathy has a Bachelor's of Arts degree, with distinction, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Comparative American Religion, a self-generated independent major. She also brings many years of involvement in the youth and confirmation program to which will be an asset to Covenant's Confirmation Program.

Welcome Kathy!

Blood Drive

WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
Together



Blood Drive **Covenant Lutheran**

1525 Van Buren St

Tuesday, September 15,
2020 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Questions?

Contact: Stephen Peterson

Phone: 608-480-0525

stevep72@yahoo.com

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org

Sponsor Code: Covenant

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

©2020 The American National Red Cross | 287501B

Blood Drive

Covenant: We need your help! As you can imagine we are getting new updated information multiple times a day hosting blood drives right now. We will continue to communicate when we receive new information. The upcoming blood drive is more important now than ever. Here is the most current information regarding hosting a blood drive:

The June 29th blood drive was a big success! Our team registered 43 total donors, collected 48 pints of blood and recruited 4 first-time donors. Your efforts have helped boost the community blood supply and ensure hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need.

Here are some points to share about blood drives at the moment:

- Two federal agencies are urging people in the United States to continue donating blood during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Food and Drug Administration and US blood banks are urging blood donations and trying to calm fears. They said in a statement that coronavirus **does not pose any known risks to blood donors during the donation process.**
- “We need people to prevent the blood supply from getting depleted. We need it not to get to the point that surgeries are having to get canceled,” Marks said. “That’s something we absolutely do not want to have happen. To ensure an adequate blood supply we need people to come out and donate blood.”
- The FDA said there “have been no reported or suspected cases of transfusion-transmitted coronavirus and the virus poses no known risk to patients receiving blood transfusions.”
- “It is safe to donate blood,” said Admiral Dr. Brett P. Giroir, assistant secretary for HHS. “Part of preparedness includes a robust blood supply. Healthy individuals should schedule an appointment to donate today to ensure that blood is available for those patients who need it.”
- Kate Fry, chief executive of America’s Blood Centers, which collects close to 60% of the nation’s blood supply, urged people to donate before things get worse.
- “Blood donors are needed now more than ever. We cannot wait for the situation to intensify further before taking action,” Fry said. The blood supply cannot be taken for granted and the coronavirus only heightens the need for a ready blood supply.”volunteers or staff members are taking the donor's temperature. The temperature will not be recorded in EBDR and is not part of the regulated process therefore any staff member or volunteer can perform this task. If the temperature is greater than 99.5 °F or the donor refuses to take their temperature they are not permitted to enter the blood drive
- Enhance disinfecting by placing hand sanitizer at Check-In, HH, and Canteen area. Ask donors to use hand sanitizer prior to touching the tablets or laptops.
- All presenting donors must read the 2019 Coronavirus Stop Sign prior to obtaining the pre-screening temperature. This will allow the donor to self-defer prior to taking their temperature.
- Both volunteers and staff should use gloves throughout the donation process and change them in between every donor.
- All staff, volunteers, and donors are required to wear masks



Remote locations, but near in heart

Covenant family members have met the challenge to work on projects from home during these weeks of isolation. Thanks to Alyssa Christensen, Ashley Harbort, Judy and Matthew Heil, Marijo Vols, Meghann Proper, Rhetta Hanson-Cook, a dozen fleece blankets have been delivered to needy families in Stoughton through **S.T.A.R.T.** (Stoughton Area Resource Team). Tied up with love, these blankets will share hope and courage during times of homelessness or transition for area families.

Director of S.T.A.R.T., Cindy Thompson expresses to Covenant, “Thanks so much for thinking of START. It’s awesome!! What a FANTASTIC donation!”

Heartbeats and Finger-prints will translate to caring expressions of Welcome to NEWBORNS!

Sergers, sewing machines, scissors and nimble fingers will be put into action on pin-less diapers, shirts from onesies, and receiving blankets during the month of August. The goal is to assemble 50 Newborn Kits to send through Global Health Ministries (GHM) to partners in ministry at Lutheran clinics and hospital in several African countries. These 50 KITS will be part of the South-Central Synod of WI offering at its Assembly on August 29, 2020.

Considered a faithful partner with GHM, Covenant has been a part of KIT-making and bandage-rolling for more than 25 years. Covenant’s offering will also include dozens of rolled bandages made by youth and adults on various occasions over the past year.

A few items are still needed for the kit: 40 bars of Ivory soap (the BATH-SIZE, larger); 18 onesies (new or gently used). Also, needed is someone to serge or hem 30” x 30” flannel fabric for 20 receiving blankets. CONTACT Solveig Carlson, 608-576-1747, if you wish to donate either the items or your time in hemming blankets.

Thanks to all who have contributed in any way to these GOOD GIFTS for well-being!!

Social Justice News



Housing Advocacy Team of Stoughton, Inc.

1525 N. Van Buren St., Stoughton, WI 53589

July 15, 2020

Covenant Lutheran
1525 N. Van Buren Street
Stoughton, WI 53589

Dear People of Covenant,

We who serve on the board of the Housing Advocacy Team of Stoughton, tip our hats to you for your generous benevolent gift this past month. To be included in your tithe to the world, is not taken lightly by each of us. We are deeply touched by the gift.

HATS' first affordable housing project is coordinating the building of a 4-unit apartment building for four local families in need. We are meeting an affordable housing need for children and families at risk in the Stoughton community. Along with building, we have secured case management to address concerns of employment, health needs, and other barriers. We set our goal to raise an additional \$75,000 in order to keep the rental costs low for these families at risk. Your gift is another validation of this dream that will break ground soon! So your tithing gift encourages us to continue our efforts to make sure all people have a place to hang their hat.

We are honored in this community to have such incredible partners like you to collaborate with. Your partnership and willingness to offer your financial support so that we may have a quality product did not go unnoticed! In the long run it will be a gift that keeps on giving to four families in our community.

Thank you, People of Covenant, for your greater vision in the community of Stoughton.
We are grateful for the gift.

Your HATS Advocates,

Linda Muller, President; Joyce Kaping, Secretary; Mark Petersen, Treasurer

<https://www.hatsofstoughton.org>

Social Justice News



Post Office Box 84
Stoughton, WI 53589

info@stoughtonfoundation.org
StoughtonAreaFoundation.org

July 7, 2020

Covenant Lutheran Church
1525 N Van Buren St
Stoughton, WI 53589

Dear Covenant Members;

Thank you for your donation of \$375.00 to the Stoughton Area Community Foundation.

The SACF is committed to enriching the lives of those who live in our community. We distribute funds annually through grants to a wide variety of organizations in the Stoughton community. In addition, we also manage and distribute scholarships to qualified recipients graduating from Stoughton High School each year from endowments which were set up to support higher education for our youth.

Our mission is to make a difference in the lives of area residents through charitable donations. Your gift helps us accomplish this. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Knutson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

Kent Knutson
SACF Board Member

The Stoughton Area Community Foundation exists to accept and distribute charitable donations that will build a better Stoughton area and enrich the quality of life for its citizens.

All donors share a common interest: to make a long term impact on community enrichment.

The Promise—August 2020

The monthly newsletter of Covenant Lutheran Church—ELCA

Covenant Lutheran Church—Pastor Sara Rabe
1525 N. Van Buren St.
Stoughton, WI 53589



Phone: (608) 873-7494

Email: covlutheran@covluth.org

Website: www.covluth.org



Like us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

*The next issue of “The Promise” will be published in September 2020. The deadline for submitting items for the **September** newsletter is **Friday, August 28.***

Please submit to form [here](#) or to covlutheran@covluth.org.

Thank you!

Covenant Lutheran Church
1525 N. Van Buren St.
Stoughton, WI 53589