

The Promise

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



July 2020

The Monthly Newsletter of
Covenant Lutheran Church
ELCA

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KEEP HOPE

Covenant Lutheran Church

Covenant is NOT opening until further notice, but have been working on the following policies and protocols for re-entry when it is deemed safe.

Covid -19 Task Force Notes

Meetings: May 29, 2020 & June 10, 2020

(Pastor Sara, Meghann Proper, JoAnn Gilbert, David Nelson, Thor Anderson)

During Phase 1 of the Badger Bounce Back Plan we have been discussing what the necessary steps are to safely re-open Covenant and during what phase.

As of Monday, we are now entering Phase 2. In phase 2, 50 people are allowed. Our question is – what do you tell the 51st person in line. (?)

Note: Some churches have already opened at 25% (which is 75 members for us indoors and 100 for outdoors)

At this time, we don't have adequate audio equipment to assist in having outdoor services and the parking lot is still in progress. There is also a risk involved in facilitating this gathering.

Phase 3 – we can have 100 people indoors and feel this may be our best option, if all policies, protocols and communications are in place for a safe opening.

We have identified safety measures and protocols for several areas of the church and have started to address them.

A: Cleaning protocols and needed sanitation supplies.

1. Orders for masks, hand sanitizer and automatic hand sanitizers have been placed.
2. The cleaning supplies that Mike H. has been using are approved by the EPA for Covid 19.
3. We are looking into touchless wastebaskets with lids and foot pedals.
4. We have a need for 2 vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters.
5. Recurring cleaning or safety supplies will need to be purchased, as many are consumables or unknown at this time.
6. Mike H. is looking into the air handler filtration system. HEPA filters are recommended. This may not be possible with our system. There is a need for consistent ventilation throughout building.
7. Mike is running the water systems and flushing toilets, at least twice a week, and opening windows to keep the building ventilated while closed.

B: Sanctuary, Narthex, Office preparations:

1. All soft surfaces have been removed – pew cushions, pew pads, hymnals, bibles, and the soft nursery. This will allow for easy cleaning and sanitizing.
2. Tables and chairs in Narthex have been removed.
3. All notices/liturgy will be projected, on the screen, in the front of the sanctuary.
4. Office spaces: cleaning of shared machines, phones, copy machine, desks. Plexi-glass partition around Mary's desk. Social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer etc.
5. We have not yet discussed the use or cleaning policies/protocols for any of the education rooms, choir room, Columbarium, kitchen, fellowship hall or quilters room etc., or specific walking routes to be marked throughout the building.

C: Signage:

1. There will be signage, at the entrance, that basically states that anyone entering the building will do so with full knowledge that they may be at risk for contracting Covid 19 and that we have prepared the facility for as safe an entry as possible.
2. Signage will be posted throughout the building directing people to go in a certain direction and in the use of masks, washing hands, coughing, sneezing sanitizing etc.
3. Warning signage - if they are feeling ill or have been in contact with someone who is ill or has Covid 19 they will be asked to please stay at home.
4. Quarantine guidelines will be posted.

D: Procedure for entering and exiting the building:

1. Greeters and ushers will need to be trained on procedures.
2. As the first contact, they will question those entering about their health, contacts etc.
3. Communication will be sent out on all procedures and expectations to members
4. Masks will be required for all church functions in the church. Worship, funerals, weddings, meetings. (Encourage people to use one from home)
5. We are leaning toward taking everyone's temperature as they enter.
6. Doors will be open; greeters will direct person or family unit to the "sanitation station" using social distancing method. They will be given a mask, if they did not bring one and use hand sanitizer.
7. Ushers will then take person or family unit to their seats filling the church from front to back.
8. Ushers will take attendance and the location of where they sat using a variety of methods. Video cameras, digitally - phone and or I Pad sign in. This is for contact tracing purposes, if someone tests positive for Covid 19.
 - a. May use Breeze to do digital attendance
 - b. T Task Force will look at this

D: Procedure for entering and exiting the building (*continued*):

9. Ushers will seat people/families 6'+ apart alternating pews etc. Families may sit together. Some pews will be blocked off.
10. There will no singing, no sharing of the Peace.
11. No bulletins or passing of the offering tray
12. Communion procedures to be determined
13. Precautions for Pastor and speakers was discussed – separate microphones, social distancing, small group of singers. Etc.
14. People will remain seated until ushers dismiss them from back to front using social distancing.
 - a. No greeting by the Pastor, at the back of the church
 - b. There will be no social hour after services.
 - c. People will leave the church immediately.
 - d. Custodian will sanitize the sanctuary, narthex after waiting 24-72 hours after each use.
 - e. Door handles, light switches, restrooms, elevator, stair railings to be cleaned daily/ several times each day as needed.

E: Communication and documentation

1. Emphasis is on the importance of keeping the congregation informed on expectations, what is being done and next steps.
2. Weekly e-mail blasts and letters to non-e-mail members
3. Emphasis on documentation: Protocols, policies and contact tracing
4. Staff training

F: Church Mutual Insurance

1. We have insurance coverage for Cyber Liability and the proper coverage for illness and medical occurrences. This is exclusive of loss due to viruses, which is typical of all policies.
2. At this time, there is no yes or no answer as to how we will be covered, if someone becomes ill, with Covid 19, and places the blame of exposure on Covenant. They would have to prove Covenant was negligent. The Insurance Company recommends signage stating “Enter at your own risk” at the front door and providing policy and procedure documentation. This shows Covenant’s intent to protect anyone entering the building.
3. Church Mutual has several detailed checklists, on their web site, concerning Covid 19.

G: Church Committee use and outside group usage of church

1. We feel there are too many risks at this time.
2. Cleaning and sanitizing are on-going issues
3. Encouraging the use of Zoom

H: What to do if employee or member is exposed to or has contracted Covid 19:

1. Neckerman Insurance Company has a protocol to follow

I: Resources

1. Church Mutual Insurance
2. CDC
3. Public Health Madison and Dane County
4. US Department of Health and Human Services
5. Neckerman Insurance Co.
6. Wisconsin Council of Churches
7. ELCA Resources

Message from Pastor Sara

Matthew 7: 3 “Why do you see the speck that is in your siblings’ eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

Changing the scope. I would like to reflect a bit about the racial injustice issues that have arisen from the death of George Floyd. Now before we shut down, scroll past, or completely avoid this topic all together, please pause to consider a perspective. I am a white woman. I was taught to fear black and brown people and I learned this behavior from a very young age when my family would visit my aunt in a Milwaukee suburb. While on the highway, once we saw the first black person, my dad would lock the doors of the car. From that instance.

Even after many years of study, reflection, reading books, personal friendships and education, I have within me racism that I continue to dialog within my being. I have now engaged my passion to be an anti-racist. One who promotes beliefs, actions, movements and policies to oppose racism. This will be a life-long work, one for which I am committed to be engaged in because it is the promise I made at my Baptism to “resist oppression and evil.”

Racism within our country has been named as America’s original sin. I continue to process this truth and am coming to new understandings of the deeply seeded issues of racism. I am being forced to change my scope, and I am ready to learn and grow in this capacity. In conversations with family members, I hear that there is some resistance to understand how white people have benefitted in our society just by the sheer reality of our white skin. Comments of disgust are talking about the change in products like Aunt Jemima and Uncle Ben’s. Historical monuments are being removed because this misrepresents a challenging history for our nation. All of these happenings in recent weeks come with a new lens of perspective. Listening to the meaning and perspectives of images and symbols and how they impact the African American population of our country, it makes sense why these figures are offensive.

Changing the scope means that we listen and see through the eyes of those who are oppressed and hold no power to change the system on their own. Changing the scope means that there is dialog and willingness to see from another’s point of view. We often stop the conversation by becoming defensive and emotionally charged. Undoubtedly these are difficult conversations, but there is nothing to fear. Listening, thinking and changing the scope of the situation does not threaten or put people in danger. It is a conversation of listening to another human beings’ lived experience of struggle. In that might we find compassion and understanding so together, we can be one to another as siblings in faith.

Something to think about,

Pastor Sara

Memorials



*For Carrie Anderson
given by:
her Family
Ann-Marie Winecke*

*For Valera Calder
given anonymously*

*For Wilma Baumbach
given by:
Linda Harrison
Ingrid Thompson
Jack & Helga Cope
Norman & Verjean Sime
George & Solveig Carlson*



*For Ralph Baumbach in honor of his 70th anniversary of ordination
Given by George & Solveig Carlson*

Covenant members who passed away in the month of June



Stoughton- Wilma Katherine (Koengeter) Baumbach, age 89, passed away on June 12, 2020. She was born at her parents rural farm home in Chelsea, Michigan. The first 8 years of her elementary education was in one room, called The Jerusalem School.

Wilma's vocation was family. Her avocation was service. She directed children and adult choirs in churches and communities for over 35 years. She was co-founder of The CROP Walk for World Hunger, The Stoughton Village Player's, The Heritage Garden Club, The Entre Nous Study Club, the food pantry, the Library Board, the Blanket Makers, and The Women's Lydda Circle at Covenant Lutheran Church. Wilma was Stoughton's Welcome Wagon Hostess, welcoming over 3000 families to Stoughton area homes from 1976-1989. She sang in the Madison Symphony Chorus for 20 years.

Throughout the years Wilma made many of the children's clothes. She designed and made many of the paraments for the altar and chancel at Covenant Lutheran Church. Her artistic talent blossomed in later years with water color paintings.

In 1989 Wilma and Ralph received the community's honor of being named Queen and King of Syttende Mai.

Surviving is her husband, Ralph; daughters, Becky (Charlie), Jenny (Tom), Melanie (Dan); son, Dan (Linda); eight grandchildren; six great grandchildren; and one sister, Arlene Harvey of Chelsea, Michigan.

Private services with the family were held. The Celebration of her Life will be announced at a future time.

Please share your memories of Wilma by posting on her Tribute Wall.

The full obituary is [here](#)

MONEY MATTERS...REPORTING ON COVENANT'S FINANCES

In the midst of this coronavirus pandemic, you members and friends of Covenant have kept our ministries well funded through May. The table below summarizes May and YTD finances:

ITEM	MAY 2020	MAY 2019	Year-to-date (YTD) Actual	YTD Budget	YTD 2019
Contributed income	21,020.00	17,324.00	113,676.73	108,322.94	119,448.06
Other income	914.00	1,181.09	10,643.97	24,983.31	6,031.16
TOTAL INCOME	21,939.48	18,505.09	124,320.70	133,306.25	125,479.22
<i>Partnerships</i>	<i>2,102.00</i>	<i>40.00</i>	<i>11,491.04</i>	<i>11,290.60</i>	<i>10,237.82</i>
<i>Salaries & Benefits</i>	<i>9,682.76</i>	<i>15,497.82</i>	<i>70,493.57</i>	<i>90,893.31</i>	<i>73,187.18</i>
<i>Program Ministry</i>	<i>1,171.46</i>	<i>901.50</i>	<i>4,968.67</i>	<i>5,166.62</i>	<i>6,131.89</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>103.59</i>	<i>104.19</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>42.75</i>	<i>416.69</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>0</i>	<i>239.11</i>	<i>2,707.42</i>	<i>2,531.25</i>	<i>1,671.18</i>
<i>Building Operations</i>	<i>3,081.15</i>	<i>6,254.98</i>	<i>17,520.58</i>	<i>22,708.31</i>	<i>47,070.79</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	16,037.37	22,933.41	107,528.58	133,110.97	138,819.80
Surplus/(Deficit)	5,902.11	(4,428.32)	16,792.12	195.28	(13,340.58)

Contributed income shows the solid support of many with actual giving above budget! Other income is below budget primarily for two reasons: (1) no loose offering or rental income during this pandemic and (2) no grant money after January for the Director of Christian Education (DCE) as this position no longer exists. Our income exceeds expenses because of reduced staff hours and elimination of DCE as well as less expense in operating our facility since we are not gathering for worship or meetings. We are in a healthy position financially.

Now we have entered summer months, which often have seen declines in worship participation and contributions. With online worship continuing until we can gather (and probably even when we do gather!), we can still worship with others of Covenant whenever and wherever is convenient for us. Our ministry continues to touch people in various ways so continued giving is vital. Either mail-in contributions or convenient online giving at our website (www.covluth.org) enables us to serve as witnesses of God's love in word and action. Thanks for your participation in Covenant's ministry!

Submitted by George Carlson, treasurer

July 2020 topic: OTC Labels

Hello Covenant family,

Over-the-counter medication* label-reading is an essential skill for effective and safe use of these agents. Thus, I would like to share teaching from www.fda.gov regarding how to read OTC labels.

The *Drug Facts* Label

The Active ingredient/ Purpose section tells you about the part of your medicine that makes it work – its name, what it does, and how much is in each pill or teaspoon (5 mL).

Drug Facts

Active ingredient (in each tablet)	Purpose
Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg	Antihistamine

Uses temporarily relieves these symptoms due to hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies:
 ■ sneezing ■ runny nose ■ itchy, watery eyes ■ itchy throat

Warnings
Ask a doctor before use if you have
 ■ glaucoma ■ a breathing problem such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis
 ■ trouble urinating due to an enlarged prostate gland

When using this product
 ■ You may get drowsy ■ avoid alcoholic drinks
 ■ alcohol, sedatives, and tranquilizers may increase drowsiness
 ■ be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery
 ■ excitability may occur, especially in children

Directions

adults and children 12 years and over	take 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours; not more than 12 tablets in 24 hours
children 6 years to under 12 years	take 1 tablet every 4 to 6 hours; not more than 6 tablets in 24 hours
children under 6 years	ask a doctor

Other information store at 20-25° C (68-77° F) ■ protect from excessive moisture

Inactive ingredients D&C yellow no. 10, lactose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch

The Warnings section also tells you:

- to check with a doctor before using medicine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- to keep medicines away from children

The Inactive Ingredients section tells you any parts of the medicine that aren't active ingredients. Inactive ingredients help form a pill, add flavor or color, or help the medicine last longer.



The Other Information section tells you how to keep your medicine when you aren't using it.

In faith and health, Denise Pigarelli (608-576-5321, dlwpigarelli@gmail.com)

*OTC drugs are medications (**not** vitamins or supplements or homeopathic products) which have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

From our Social Action Team's Racial Equity group – Responding to Racism

To continue to address issues of racial equity in our community, a small group of members have continued to meet during June to reflect on how we might respond to the injustices experienced by our African American brothers and sisters and to address larger issues of racism in society, as felt by many ethnic groups. We are guided by this statement from South Central Synod of WI Bishop Peter Rogness:

"...As God's people, we are called to stand with all who are marginalized, and called to confess that we have not always done so. And, finally, we are called to work for the changes in individual, cultural, and institutional patterns of behavior that perpetuate racism and privilege that plague us."

What is racial equity?

Research group PolicyLink describes it this way: "Racial equity is defined as just and fair inclusion into a society in which all people can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Said another way, a racially equitable society is one in which racial disparities in health, education, wealth, and other areas do not exist." (www.policylink.org, The Competitive Advantage of Racial Equity)

How can you participate?

Our Racial Equity group is offering opportunities for conversation and resources to examine on your own as we all seek to increase our awareness and understanding of issues faced by those on the edges of society.

If you want to meet with others for conversation and to exchange viewpoints in a caring atmosphere:

- **An Invitation to Caring Conversations to prayerfully consider the issues of racism:** Led by Solveig Carlson and Karen Hanson, a gathering on the **Covenant courtyard** patio on **Friday, July 17, 9:00-10:30 a.m.** Parking permitted at curbside on Hyland Drive. Group will be limited to 10 persons; masks requested; social distancing practiced. Bring your own lawn chair, beverage of choice, and a willingness to share perspectives, resources that have been personally helpful, and honest and respectful sharing of feelings that this all engenders. **KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MATTER...to God, to us and to the world.** Please RSVP to co-facilitators, Karen Hanson (608-469-7644) or Solveig Carlson (608-576-1747).

- **Movie Chat with Chris Melland:** Chris will be watching “Becoming”, the documentary about Michelle Obama, on Netflix, and “Selma”, the drama about the 1965 March from Selma to Montgomery, on YouTube. She invites you to a post-movie chat on Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 – 8:15 pm at her home. (Social distancing etiquette will apply; a virtual Zoom session will be our back-up plan). Please RSVP at christinemelland@sbcglobal.net or at (608-444-2265).

If you want to support the work of Stoughton community groups:

Local Community Opportunities for Engagement: Donna Tarpinian put together this resource list of upcoming events - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h31p8OMnA0T9ubmbZnzX8tEzny-MeSw-/view>

If you want to explore resources on your own:

Take the ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge: Learn more and view resources at this site <https://www.elca.org/racialjusticepledge>

Resources for Parents and Teachers: The Smithsonian’s “Talking About Race” series is broken down into subject areas with questions, video clips and readings. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

If you don’t know where you fit in or where to start:

Kathy Andrusz is excited about talking to anyone who is confused or wondering where to start in finding a personal response to the rapid-seeming changes in our society. You can email her at my9oodness@gmail.com or text 608-719-7959. (Or leave a voicemail at 608-243-0315.)

If you are ready to take action but want to partner with others:

Personal Reparations: Kathy Andrusz is exploring how to start paying personal reparations, and is interested in talking to others who are considering doing this as well. (See above for contact information.)

Voting Rights: Chris Melland will be volunteering and supporting various groups which advocate for voting rights, with a focus on Wisconsin. (See above for contact information.)

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*The next issue of "The Promise." will be published in August 2020. The deadline for submitting items for the **August** newsletter is **Friday, July 24.***

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

Thank you!

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