

The Promise

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



September 2020

The Monthly Newsletter of Covenant Lutheran Church ELCA

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SAVE THE DATE!

September 20, 2020:

Blessing of Beginnings!

A worship of affirmation and celebration.



And.... We have a new Bishop!! After a few postponements due to the Coronavirus, the Synod hosted an online Zoom Synod Assembly and Bishop's Election on Saturday August 28, 2020. It was amazing!! Our synod is blessed with hard working folks who can accomplish any task. The day began with four female candidates and ended with one being elected as the new Bishop starting October 1, 2020.



Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

Educational History: M.Education, Lakeland College, Sheboygan WI, Counseling; 2004 M. Div. Luther Seminary; 1992 B.S., Religion, Carroll College, Waukesha WI; 1988 Work History: 2018-present St. Luke Lutheran Church, Slinger WI; Pastor 2017 Professional Services Group, West Bend WI; Therapist/School based Therapist 2016-2018 South Central Synod of Wisconsin; Interim Pastor and Interim DEM 2014-2016 Living Hope Lutheran Church, Saukville, WI; Pastor 2004-2014 East Central Synod of Wisconsin; Associate with the Bishop Click Here for more information <https://scsw-elca.org/news/bishop-election/>

A new chapter unfolds in the life of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and with our prayers of blessing and support we will surround Bishop Joy Mortensen Wiebe with our hands to do God's work, and our feet to move mountains, as We Are the Church Together.

Pastor Sara Rabe

Faith Formation

Coming to Covenant Lutheran family: September 20, 2020

NEW name...Faith Formation: Soul Troop, pre-K through Grade 6

NEW model...flexible, family-friendly, faith-nurturing design

SAME core beliefs...God names, claims and sends

SAME text-book...a library of books, the BIBLE

FAITH FORMATION is an integrated, cross-generational model that calls parent and child to be learners together in each household, **POD-CAST**:

POD= a container or pouch for a seed (of faith) to grow with nurture and support.

CAST= God's chosen ones: Biblical characters and modern-day followers of Jesus, who live out their faith in everyday vocations. Modern cast of characters will be introduced through brief videos. Each month experienced guides will invite the POD to journey with them to Zimbabwe, AFRICA via video. A TOOL KIT will supply all materials, including session guidelines with Bible text, prayers, conversation prompters, family activity ideas. A Covenant "Courier" will deliver a kit to each household, Sept. 12-19.

It takes a village to support and nurture the youngest (nearly a hundred of them) in our family to be equipped and empowered for life's journey. We are called AND sent as God-Powered Servants (**GPS**) with the assurance of God's kept **PROMISE**...a **COVENANT** forever!

THEMES: Jesus loves me...the Bible tells me so, AND God's people tell us so

September: GOD CREATES...declares all to be GOOD!

October GOD RESCUES (Noah and the Ark); sign of PROMISE

November GOD SENDS ABRAM and SARAI with a BLESSING

December ADVENTures: prep and BIRTHday celebration! LOVE lives!!

Weekly commitment from each POD (household) with children, pre-K-grade 6: 42 minutes with encouragement to set a time on Sundays, to re-establish a habit for commitment to special time for **families to learn together**. An alternative day/time can be set by family (POD). The primary responsibility of the parent is to set a time for this weekly DISCOVERY TIME. Parents will learn from their children as well as vice versa.

DISCOVERY-TIME in each POD (home):

Share highs and lows of the week by each person.

Begin with prayer, such as "Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest. Keep us safe and keep us blessed. Amen" Prayer card with stand-up clear frame provided.

Watch/listen to Intro by Pastor Sara, Pastor Dan or Pastor George

Have child-reader read the story from BIBLE text assigned; family conversation

See video (8-10 min.) of today's "faith hero" related to Bible story/character

End with pronounced blessing on each other as a LOVED CHILD OF GOD: making the sign of the cross on the forehead, saying: "God loves you and always will, and so do I" In a time like this, we need this reminder of God's faithfulness.

EXTENSION OPTIONS: select activity related to the theme listed in TOOL KIT

Together in ministry to gather, grow and serve.... **we are the church together!**

Solveig Carlson (608-576-1747), Children's Ministries Coordinator, pre-K thru Grade 6

Memorials



STOUGHTON - Ruby Lucille (Olson) Scheldrup, age 96, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, at Skaalen Home. She was born April 28, 1924, in Fort Atkinson.

She is survived by her children, Rebecca (Larry) Gloyd, Cindy (James) Ellis, and Jill (Tom) Donahey; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020, at LUTHERAN SOUTH CEMETERY, 2490 County Hwy A, Stoughton, WI 53589. Due to COVID19, please wear masks and practice social distancing at the cemetery.



*For Wilma Baumbach
Given by
Jeff and Julie Rice
Dan & Deb Oakland*



MONEY MATTERS...REPORTING ON COVENANT'S FINANCES

MONEY MATTERS...REPORTING ON COVENANT'S FINANCES

Thanks to the contributions of members and friends of Covenant, our ministries continue to serve the congregation and broader community. The table below summarizes JULY and Year-to-Date (YTD) finances:

ITEM	JULY 2020	JULY 2019	Year-to-date (YTD) Actual	YTD Budget	YTD 2019
Contributed income	11,702.00	19,650.70	142,226.73	151,652.10	159,894.76
Other income	777.97	750.11	11,407.41	34,976.65	7,431.36
TOTAL INCOME	12,479.97	20,600.81	153,634.14	186,628.75	167,326.12
<i>Partnerships</i>	<i>1,172.12</i>	<i>1,985.90</i>	<i>14,348.96</i>	<i>15,806.86</i>	<i>15,975.52</i>
<i>Salaries & Benefits</i>	<i>13,033.50</i>	<i>10,005.64</i>	<i>93,042.43</i>	<i>127,250.65</i>	<i>93,931.36</i>
<i>Program Ministry</i>	<i>-208.52</i>	<i>-2,236.07</i>	<i>5,683.34</i>	<i>7,233.30</i>	<i>3,625.79</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>103.59</i>	<i>145.85</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>547.86</i>	<i>583.35</i>	<i>520.94</i>
<i>Social Ministry</i>	<i>14.75</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>215.71</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Worship and Music</i>	<i>868.69</i>	<i>1,078.29</i>	<i>4,142.47</i>	<i>3,543.75</i>	<i>2,749.27</i>
<i>Building Operations</i>	<i>3,043.55</i>	<i>4,289.12</i>	<i>23,172.89</i>	<i>31,791.65</i>	<i>52,246.70</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,924.09	15,122.88	141,257.25	186,365.41	169,049.78
Surplus/(Deficit)	-5,444.12	5,477.93	12,376.89	273.34	-1723.66

Contributed income dropped significantly in July; Covenant received around \$8,000.00 less than in July 2019. Other income pretty much matched July 2019 but 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 in July lagged behind expenses. Thanks to stronger support in earlier months we are still in a sound position financially.

Covenant support ministries globally, nationally, and locally beyond ourselves. Every month we pass along 10% of contributed income to our mission partners. the **South-Central Synod of Wisconsin** and the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. In JULY we shared funds with the **South-Central Synod of Wisconsin** and the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**, our sister parish, **Ascension Lutheran** in Dorado, Puerto Rico, ATP (Affordable Transportation Program in Stoughton) and **Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin** and Upper Michigan. Our mission partners express deep gratitude for our support.

Our Congregation Council, ministry teams, and Pastor Sara continue to explore creative, innovative options for our life together while seeking to keep everyone safe and healthy. Outdoor parking lot worship brought us together in a new way. A new beginning for faith formation for children will involve people of all ages. Your contributions either by mail-in contributions or convenient online giving at our website (www.covluth.org) enables the vital ministry we do for our members and friends and those beyond ourselves. Thanks for your commitment to the mission we share as God's beloved community.

Submitted by George Carlson, treasurer

September 2020 topic: More Coping With COVID

Dearest Covenant family,

As we live through more time with COVID-19, some people may be noticing additional challenges to coping with life. I am one of those people, and I suspect some of you are as well. Thus, here are 7 additional suggestions and resources (and a couple repeats) for self-care since the May 2020 Health Topics.



1. **Acknowledge and respect** (this can be challenging!) that everyone makes their own decisions about what level of risk they are willing to take in life related to COVID
2. **Shift** your thoughts and attention to things in life you CAN control
3. **Focus** on an activity, whether that is something you enjoy or not (like cleaning the bathroom!). Give whatever you are doing your full attention. If your mind wanders, gently bring it back.
4. **Commit** to action, including how you protect yourself from COVID & how you help others. What kindness or assistance can you extend to others with a phone call, email, text, or socially-distanced visit? Can you (safely) help someone with a task or chore?
5. **Talk** to others. It doesn't need to be a long discussion, but opening up and talking to someone can be therapeutic.
6. **Practice** grace, compassion, patience and understanding; we're all in this together
7. **Limit** media exposure & only watch/listen/read credible sources

And, please: Wear an **appropriate face covering over your nose and mouth** when you leave your home.



God loves you, and so do I!



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

Resource: [FACE COVID](#) ebook by Russ Harris

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.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

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

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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

Social Justice News

NURSERY STOCK closed for the season



With an accumulating nursery stock of hand-knit or crocheted baby caps; diapers; onesies/shirts; receiving blankets; towels and wash cloths; Ivory soap, it was time to assemble all items to make 50 NEWBORN KITS. On the driveway of 632 Kings Lynn Rd., the KITS were assembled by (back to front, left to right) Carol Wake, Shirley Kiesling, Karen Lapidakis, Solveig Carlson, Ingrid Thompson, Judy Luschen. Several others have sewn diapers and blankets! Thanks to the generosity of MANY, blessings of joy and hope abound in needy places in our world!

Covenant's gifts of compassionate hearts and ready hands will be part of the Synod-wide INGATHERING of this year's virtual assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI-ELCA on August 29, 2020.

The KITS, plus 112 rolled bandages, created at God's Work. Our Hands Sunday and by Affirmation of Faith youth, were delivered on August 21st to the headquarters/warehouse of GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES in Minneapolis, MN. These items and other medical supplies will be packed in a shipping container bound for Lutheran medical centers in Africa, Asia, India or South America. Thanks be to God!!



ESSENTIAL workers include the "behind the scenes" servants who have contributed greatly to the successful culmination of projects like NEWBORN KITS. Though I really do not know who has donated many of the items, especially creating the baby caps, I DO know that Lorryne Leeder made hundreds of them over the years. Lorryne lived in an Assisted Living facility in Oregon. With nearly constant back pain for years, when she felt up to it, she knit or crocheted baby caps which were carried back to Covenant by her Care Team visitors, Dan and Deb Oakland. Lorryne died February 2019.

Other essential workers for this year's GHM projects: Cynthis Liddle, Donna Tarpinian, George Carlson, Karen Lapidakis, Molly Skonning, Rick and Shirley Kiesling. Thanks for your servant-hearts!!

APART...yet CONNECTED by a passion for good

In the early days of summer, a tote-full of fleece materials stood ready and waiting on our front porch as ready and willing crafters came safely-distanced to retrieve the materials to make fringe-tied blankets in their respective homes! Thanks...Alyssa, Ashley, Judy and Matthew, Marijo, Meghann and Rhetta! A dozen "Linus" blankets were delivered to S.T.A.R.T. (Stoughton Area Resource Team) to be shared with transitioning families in our community. Cindy Thompson, director of the START team, expressed thanks for these "love-wraps" from Covenant with words, "You are awesome!" THANKS!!

OPEN INVITATION: to any who wish to be involved in hands-on projects in the future:

Watch for opportunities that will be posted in the [PROMISE](#) and/or Covenant website. You may also contact Solveig Carlson, 608-576-1747, or geosolv65@yahoo.com

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Thank You



CITY OF STOUGHTON

381 East Main Street
Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589
(608) 873-6677

August 7, 2020

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

Dear Covenant Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Stoughton Food Pantry we thank you for your donation of \$187.5.

The Stoughton food pantry is a valuable resource for needy families of our area, and many will benefit from your generosity. Your gift enables us to meet the needs of those who might otherwise go hungry.

During July of 2020, the pantry served 232 individuals in need and year to date has distributed 58,240 pounds of food.

We know there are many organizations that deserve your support. Thank you for making Stoughton Food Pantry a priority and helping us advance our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Hager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Volunteer
City of Stoughton Food Pantry

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Thank You

Thank You

Dear Staff + Members of Covenant Lutheran Church,
Thank you so very much for your generous, recent monetary donation to the Affordable Transportation Program. We are so grateful for your support and generosity to support this program to offer safe, reliable transportation to those in need from the Stoughton area.
In appreciation,
Staff, Volunteers, + Customers of
ATP

The Promise—September 2020

The monthly newsletter of Covenant Lutheran Church—ELCA

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



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*The next issue of "The Promise" will be published in October 2020. The deadline for submitting items for the **October** newsletter is **Friday, September 25.***

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

Thank you!

Covenant Lutheran Church
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Stoughton, WI 53589