

The Promise

The People of Covenant are called to:
gather, grow and go serve with Gods Love!



March 2023 The Monthly Newsletter of Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Siblings Scholastica and Benedict started many monasteries during their lifetimes. Occasionally, they got together, as brothers and sisters will do. They had a good rapport and shared spiritual interests and concerns for community living. Though we don't know a great deal about their time together, there is one story that has been at the heart of my February devotions.

I am reading through *The Radical Christian Life: A Year with Saint Benedict* by Joan Chittister. She writes of the time the siblings got together and as the day wore on, Benedict readied himself to return to his monastery according to his schedule and his rules. Scholastica was greatly moved by their time together and asked her brother to stay the night. He refused. Scholastica bowed her head and prayed fervently. Suddenly there was a great rain storm with thunder and lighting. Benedict realized he could not return to the monastery and scolded Scholastica, telling her to ask forgiveness. Her response was, "Why should I? I asked a favor of you and you did not grant it. I asked a favor of my Lord and he granted it."

This story reminds us:

Love, the greatest of these is love.

Hold fast to the values of life, not simply the rules.

God waits for us in strange places, longing to help us become the people God intends us to be.

Finally, women have as much power in the eyes of God as any man and that women are spiritual guides, too.

As we say goodbye to February and move into March, a month that celebrates Women's History and contributions



A note from the Pastor continues on the following page >>

A Note from the Pastor

to all aspects of our lives, let us lift up and rejoice in the ways women lead, excel, nurture and connect with God and with our neighbors.

Let us also be mindful, welcoming and curious to all siblings in Christ.

Join us as the journey to becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation for Bible Study on Tuesday, March 14 @ 6:30pm and after worship, Sunday, March 26.

Blessed be our Lenten and RIC journeys.

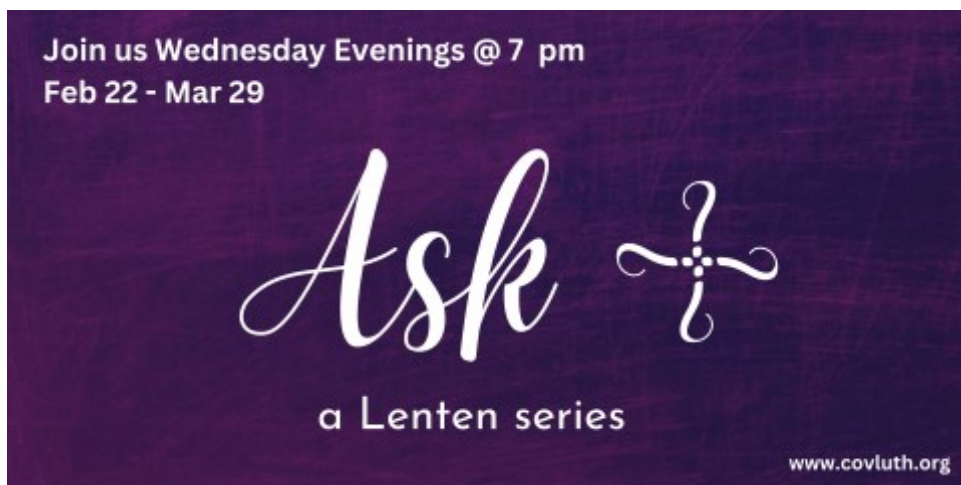
Reconciliation In Christ

Bible Study Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30pm
and after worship, Sunday, March 26.



Lenten Meals and Worship

Lenten Meals at 5:30 and Worship at 7pm
Wednesday's through March 29th



Volunteer Schedule

**Thank you to our
Volunteers**

| Role | Mar 5 | Mar 12 | Mar 19 | Mar 26 |
|--------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Assistant Minister | Diebold, Jessica | Andrusz, Kathy | Sime, Jean | Heil, Judy |
| Lector | Currie, Kimberly | Tarpinian, Gary | Vodak, Penny | Chose, Philayne |
| Usher Team Leader | Sime, Norm | Chose, Thomas | Herbst, Mark | Nissler, Karl |
| Ushers | Christian, Thomas Peterson, Stephen V. Seamonson, Mark Sime, Jean | Cope, Jack Cope, Helga Pietruszynski, Oliver Surrell, Jude | Cook, Bill Hanson-Cook, Rhetta Herbst, Garrett Herbst, Evan Herbst, Caleb | Anderson, Thor Grefsheim, Larry Olson, Larry E |
| Communion Prep | Chose, Thomas Chose, Philayne | Chose, Thomas Chose, Philayne | Chose, Thomas Chose, Philayne | Chose, Thomas Chose, Philayne |
| Altar Guild | Liddle, Cynthia | Liddle, Cynthia | Liddle, Cynthia | Liddle, Cynthia |
| Greeter | Brekken, Monty Harrison, Linda | Just, Laura Oakland, Deb Oakland, Dan | Cope, Jack Vodak, Penny | Carpenter, Gloria Liddle, Cynthia |

Volunteer Assignments for Worship Services in March

We are bringing Greeters back!

An email was sent out to those who have indicated interest with a

| Special activity | 2nd Wed In Lent | 3rd Wed in Lent | 4th Wed in Lent | 5th Wed in Lent | 6th Wed in Lent |
|---|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Wed March 1 | Wednesday, Mar 8 | Wednesday, Mar 15 | Wednesday, Mar 22 | Wednesday, Mar 29 |
| Assistant Minister (Cannot be Usher) | Deb Oakland | Ingrid Thompson | Deb Oakland | Kathy Andrusz | Jean Sime |
| Lector | George Craig | Tom Nelson | George Craig | Karla | Deb Oakland |

Please let the office know if you are unable to make your scheduled date or if you are interested in changing the way you are currently

Treasurer's Report

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK:

These Reports are an easy way to share the Church's financial position giving the congregation a simple view of where the church stands on budget, expenses while also sharing that same information from the previous year.

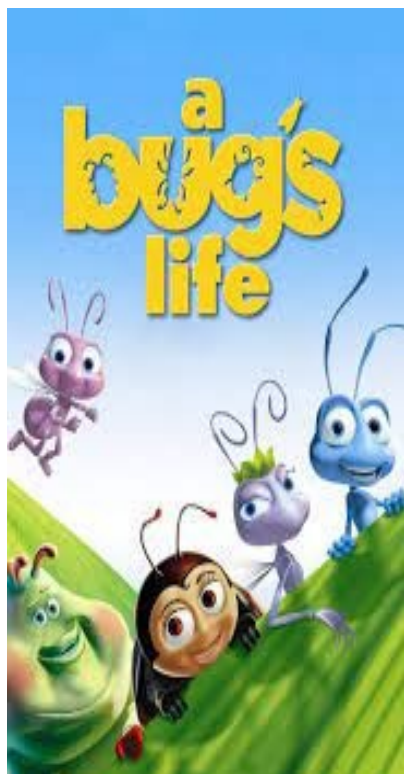
JANUARY 2023

| | Current Month Actual | Same Month Last Year Actual | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | YTD Last Year |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Member Giving | 30,248.25 | 29,788.04 | 30,248.25 | 21,862.50 | 29,788.04 |
| Other Income | 4,763.63 | 0.91 | 4,763.63 | 2,152.91 | 0.91 |
| Transfers (Dedicated/G&M) | 1,334.85 | 104.96 | 1,334.85 | 4,168.66 | 104.96 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 36,346.73 | 29,893.91 | 36,346.73 | 28,184.07 | 29,893.91 |
| EXPENSE | | | | | |
| Mission Partners | 2,086.52 | - | 2,086.52 | 2,266.52 | - |
| Staff | 16,415.47 | 12,231.92 | 16,415.47 | 17,571.44 | 12,231.92 |
| Education | 12.99 | - | 12.99 | 550.00 | - |
| Congregational Life | 41.99 | - | 41.99 | 300.11 | - |
| Social Action | - | - | - | 333.26 | - |
| Worship & Music | 158.90 | - | 158.90 | 1,054.13 | - |
| Office Administration | 6,124.40 | 4,916.90 | 6,124.40 | 2,212.28 | 4,916.90 |
| Occupancy | 6,055.30 | 5,746.47 | 6,055.30 | 3,895.76 | 5,746.47 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | 30,895.57 | 22,895.29 | 30,895.57 | 28,183.50 | 22,895.29 |
| INCOME – EXPENSE | 5,451.16 | 6,998.62 | 5,451.16 | 0.57 | 6,998.62 |

We started out the new year on the positive side! Thank you all for your giving in January. I've tailored this report a bit to reflect a change in the categories we are using for INCOME – Member Giving, Other Income (miscellaneous as well as money received from the Endowment Foundation), and Transfers (from Dedicated Accounts and/or Gifts & Memorials) with hopes that you will have a better understanding of the money coming into our general fund. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Donna Tarpinian, Treasurer

Movie Night - First Communion and Holy Week!



We will be offering another night in the cinema. This time we will be watching *A Bug's Life* at 6:00 pm on March 10th. We have lots of popcorn to munch on while we watch the ants and a bug circus try to figure out how to combat greedy grasshoppers.

The First Communion class has started. In an effort to catch up, we have children who are in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. Pastor Wendy has structured the class so there is an activity followed by learning. We have nine children who are a part of the class this year. The big finale of the class will be the Maundy Thursday service. They will receive their communion using the plate and chalice they made. The bread will also be made during the class.

Maundy Thursday's service will be on April 6th at 7:00 pm. At that time the altar will be cleared. We want to encourage families to come and be a part of the service and children to help with the clearing of the altar.

We have a new supply of communion cups with purple juice.

Do you remember the excitement of church activities in your youth?



Help Covenant create great memories!

**Looking for adults willing to help with activities
planned for increasing youth participation,
Sunday School through High School age!**

**We only ask that you practice
radical acceptance of all of God's children!**



No commitment necessary.

Contact Pastor Wendy for information

Invited to Connect

Covenant Lutheran Lunch Bunch

Join every first Wednesday of the Month at 11:30 am

Meeting at 11:30 am
on March 1st at:
The Café on Main
in Edgerton, WI



We Encourage Everyone to join this Dutch-treat style gathering.
contact Ann Nelson or the office for more information!



Bible Study

Is not meeting during Lent.

Please Join Wednesday Evening meals and Worship instead!





Covenant Lutheran Book Group



A Special Invitation to YOU, Please Join!

No need to read the book before joining the conversation.
Just show up, as you are.

Jane Goodall tells the story of becoming a messenger of hope and her journey from the forest to World Wide Advocacy for Environmental Justice.



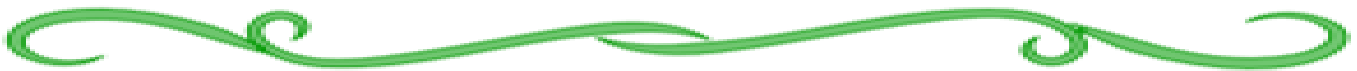
THE BOOK OF HOPE

*Jane Goodall
and Doug Adams*

*A Survival Guide for
Trying Times*

**February Meeting was
Postponed to:**

**March 9th at 1pm
in the Gateway Room**



Feeding the Hungry



In Search of Volunteers to serve food.

2nd Friday of each month
from 10:30-1:30,
at St. Marks in Madison
(Upcoming dates: March 10,
April 14, May 12)



If you are interested please contact

**Pat Johnson at 608-535-0441 or
johnson.pat.skip@gmail.com**



Thank you for your partnership in this Ministry!

Invited to Connect

Covenant Social Action Committee



Will you join our meeting this month?

March 20th at 6:30 pm

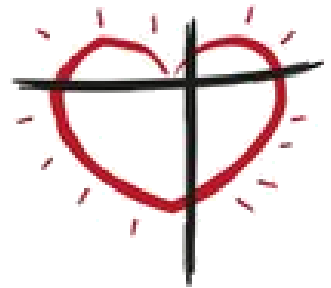
by Zoom

Scan the QR code or click [Here](#)

to join the Meeting!



Come feel the
Love of Jesus
right here at Covenant!



Invited to Connect

Join us for the Stewardship Potluck & Ministry Fair CELEBRATING THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENT

Sunday, March 19th
(after the church service concludes)

- **Learn more about the different ministries at Covenant**
- **Share what you love and see where your gifts may fit Covenant**
- **Ask questions and discover where God is calling you to share your stewardship of faith, time and talent**

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 Peter 4:10*

*Altar Guild
Assistant Minister
Bell Choir
Blanket Makers
Card Makers
Communion Prep
Congregational Care
Council
Education
God's Work Our Hands
Highway Cleanup
Hospitality
Landscaping*

*Lector
Lunch Brunch
Parish Care
Property Team
Skaalen Auxiliary
Social Action
Special Music
St. Mark's Friday Free Meal
Stewardship
Usher
Vocal Choir
Worship & Music*

Invited to Connect



Amazing Grace is a 2006 British-American biographical drama film directed by Michael Apted, about the campaign against the slave trade in the British Empire, led by William Wilberforce, who was responsible for steering anti-slave trade legislation through the British parliament. The title is a reference to the 1772 hymn "Amazing Grace". The film also recounts the experiences of John Newton as a crewman on a slave ship and subsequent religious conversion, which inspired his writing of the poem later used in the hymn. Newton is portrayed as a major influence on Wilberforce and the abolition movement.



We are planning a Spring Ring & Sing for Sunday, April 30th! Watch more information about how you can be involved. We are hoping to have as many musicians as possible. If you have questions or you'd like to be involved, please email Meghann at meghann_foug@yahoo.com.



Recruiting Sewers for Blanket Makers

Blanket Makers shine a bright light on their need for more sewers.



Although it may seem like a broken record,
we really *DO* need more sewers.



Might you know someone who could sew blanket tops?



We offer fabric, instructions, as well as ongoing assistance as needed.
Sewers can work from home or use sewing machines at church.



We invite all interested persons to join us on
Tuesdays 830-Noon or work on their own at home.



Workers do not have to be members of Covenant to help us.

Thank you for prayerfully considering these requests.
Any help you can give us would be gratefully appreciated.

Respectfully, Leaders - Judy Heil, Marsha McBroom and Ingrid Thompson



Hospitality Sign Up in the Narthex!

Fellowship following worship is Gathering for light refreshments,
Growing from conversation and replenish our light before we Go out
again into the world to do Good Work for our Lord!

We have simplified hospitality!



There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Choose to provide
set-up, refreshments and clean-up any Sunday you choose.

It would be ideal to have two people or family's sign-up each week.
Coffee will always be served even on those Sundays no one has signed
up to bring refreshments. Many thanks to all the helping hands!

Sign up Today! **VBS Dates & RSVP**



This summer we are partnering with Lutherdale once again to bring Vacation Bible School to Covenant. It will be happening July 17-21. The day will run from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If you have children who would like to participate, the participants will need to have completed kindergarten - 6th grade. Last year we had a waitlist, so please think about if you want this to be an option for your children. We are giving congregation members the first opportunity to save spot (s) using this [link](#). We are just over half full at this point!

If you save a spot and conflicts arise, just let Karla know, and we can give the spot (s) to someone else. Costs and information will be coming out at a later date. The cost will not be more than last year (\$50). Scholarships are also available.



Looking for another **Easy, Stress Free** way to **Get Involved** at Covenant Lutheran Church?

We have opportunities for you!!

Is it a weekly, monthly or seldom commitment you are looking for?

We have many ways to get involved!

**Sunday Worship Service Assistants, Weekday Service Prep,
Church Committees, Sunday School assistance,
Sunday Greeters & Much More!**

Contact the office if you're interested in information on our current Volunteer Opportunities!



Clothing Center



Stoughton Clothing Center helps everyone!



The Stoughton Clothing Center receives daily requests for clothing.

If you have gently used clothing especially in children's sizes we can get them into the hands of families who need them!

Everyone is welcome
Come shop the Stoughton Clothing Center!
No referral or identification is needed!

Our current schedule is posted on a Google Document [here](#), and on our website (www.stoughtonclothingcenter.com).

Please view the schedule before you plan to visit, for updated hours and availability.

We are also open by appointment via email at contact@stoughtonclothingcenter.com or message us through our Facebook page The Clothing Center.

The Stoughton Clothing Center is located at the back entrance of Covenant Lutheran Church. Typical weekly hours are Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am – noon, and Thursdays from 10 am – 5:30 pm.

The Clothing Center is extremely appreciative for the partnership with Covenant as they work to serve a need in our community day after day.



Thank you for helping to make every season brighter for our neighbors and surrounding communities members!

Together we are building a Supportive and Safe Community!

March 2023 topic: **Healthy Food Pantry Items**

Have you ever thought about...

- ✦ What items are more healthy for food pantries to stock?
- ✦ What pantry items would be preferred for people who have diabetes or decreased kidney function?

Here's a resource: www.healthyshelves.org



Notes:

1. There's a button above the home page logo which can be clicked to show the options of "kidney-friendly rx" and "diabetes-friendly rx".
2. You will see lists of items that are preferred for people with those conditions. The diabetes list image can even be clicked to download a pocket card.

In faith and health, Denise Pigarelli





Thank you to Covenant
**Members, Volunteers, Friends, Neighbors,
Musicians, Pastor and Staff!**

Covenant Lutheran Church **SURVIVES** on the
DEDICATION & LOVE you **SHARE!**

The world is blessed by your generosity.

Blessings to you as you continue to bless others.

May God's Grace and Love Surround you always!



Community Opportunities

You're invited

A Conference aimed to Assist with Networking.

Come listen and share information about current programs happening within the Stoughton Community!

Stoughton Community Networking Conference 2023

When

Saturday, April 22, 2023
FREE Registration: 8:30-9:00 AM
Conference: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Lunch is Provided - A free-will offering will be accepted for Stoughton Resettlement

Where

Christ Lutheran Church
700 Co. B, Stoughton

Panel Presentations From:
Housing Resources
Transportation Resources
Employment/Mentoring Resources
Open to the Public!

Questions:
Call Brenda at 608-622-8803
Please RSVP by April 4:
Stoughtonnetworking@gmail.com
Click on the Google Registration Form

Community Opportunities

Kids in the ROTUNDA

-We're back-
With VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON SHOWS!

FREE SHOWS
for kids & families

SATURDAYS AT
9:30 AM & 1 PM *EG*

In-person shows
with select performances online

OVERTURE.ORG/KIR

Overture CENTER

OVERTURE.ORG/KIR 201 STATE STREET, MADISON, WI | 608.258.4141

JANUARY 2023

- 7 **Monkey Business Institute**, Comedy Improv
- 14 **Panchromatic Steel**, Steel Drumming
- 21 **Limanya Drum and Dance**, West African Drumming*
+ LITTLE OH BIG OH YOGA
- 28 **L.E.X. .**, Rap for Kids

FEBRUARY 2023

- 4 **Overture's Jerry Ensemble**, Singalong
- 11 **James the Magician**, Magic
- 18 **Jolie Canoli**, Storytelling*
- 25 **Tom Pease**, Songs and Stories

MARCH 2023

- 4 **Trinity Irish Dance**, Irish Dance
- 11 **Little Miss Ann & Suzi Shelton**, Singer-Songwriter
- 18 **Kalaanjali**, Indian Dance*
- 25 **Beni Daiko**, Taiko Drumming

APRIL 2023

- 1 **International Festival**, no Kids in the Rotunda
- 8 **Drum Power**, West African, Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian drumming
- 15 **Magic of Isaiah**, Magic
- 22 **Ken Lonquist**, Earth Day Music
+ LITTLE OH BIG OH YOGA
- 29 **The Lullaby Project**, Lullabies*

*Virtual Performance

VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES:

Please join us at overture.org/kir to participate!

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCES:

For the latest updates about our COVID-19 protocols, please visit: overture.org/health

Schedule subject to change.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:



PARTNER OF **ESSHealth**

Additional funding provided by:
Kuehn Family Foundation, Jan's Pizza on State, Evjue Foundation
and contributions to Overture Center for the Arts.

Learn how you can help create arts experiences at overture.org/makeagift.

TIPS & TRICKS:

- Like the Kids in the Rotunda Facebook page for updates, discounts and more!
- Drumming is loud in our space. Consider ear protection.
- 1 PM performances are American Sign Language interpreted. *EG*
- Please plan to arrive early to go through our arrival process.

+the Rotunda cafe is open!

OVERTURE.ORG/KIR 201 STATE STREET, MADISON, WI | 608.258.4141

The Promise - March 2023

The monthly newsletter of Covenant Lutheran Church—ELCA

Covenant Lutheran Church
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Stoughton, WI 53589

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Website: www.covluth.org



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

*The next issue of "The Promise" will be published in April 2023.
The deadline for submitting items for the April newsletter is Monday, **March 27**.
Please submit to form [here](#) or to covlutheran@covluth.org.
Thank you!*

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