

Covenant *Tidings*



There is a legend which states that in the late Middle Ages, the Russian Czar had come to the conclusion that in order to unite his country, there would have to be one state religion to which everyone should belong. He considered carefully all of his options. Finally, he settled on a short list of three, Islam, Buddhism or Christianity. He called representatives from each of the three religions to his court in Russia, and asked them each to state the case for their religion before himself and his advisors.

The Muslim representative spoke first. He spoke of the humaneness of Islam, of its tolerance for others, its respect for science and culture, and how it came with a complete legal system that had been refined and perfected through the centuries. When he had finished his pitch, he asked the Czar if there were anything else he would like to know. "One thing," the Czar told him, "Does Allah look favorably upon Vodka?" The Muslim emissary shook his head and told him no, that alcohol was an abomination to Allah, and was not permitted.

"Next!" cried the Czar, and the Buddhist missionary was ushered in. The Buddhist monk explained the basic teachings of the Buddha, how all of life was suffering and how the Buddha showed the way to end suffering. Finally the King was getting bored and said, "I'll tell you how I stop suffering. Vodka! What does your Buddha have to say about that?" The Buddhist monk told him that intoxicants were a hindrance to enlightenment, and were not permitted in Buddhism.

"Next!" cried the Czar, and a Christian Orthodox monk was ushered in. But before he could even begin teaching his elementary catechism, the Czar stopped him short. "Just tell me one thing, does your Jesus allow vodka?" "Are you kidding?" the monk said, "We will give you wine and bread at every service of worship."

"Now I know what I am!" proclaimed the Czar, "I am a Christian! Baptize me, and all of my people." We can imagine that he also ordered them to break out the vodka in celebration!

Now, many people use this story of Jesus turning the water into wine as a way of showing that Jesus didn't have anything against alcohol. While this is true, it's the wrong emphasis to place on the story. John 2:11 states, "This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory and the disciples put their faith in him." The first miracle was a sign to reveal Christ's glory. It was a way to help his disciples understand who he was that they might put their faith in him.

The lessons and stories of Epiphany, from the baptism of Jesus to His first miracle to His many demonstrations of power over wind and waves and infirmities and over the devil himself, to His glorious Transfiguration on the mountain, all reveal Jesus to be the divine Son of God. He came, first and foremost, to reveal the way of salvation. Through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, He has won for us forgiveness for sin and a place in the eternal kingdom of God.

May you rejoice in this season of Epiphany in who Jesus truly is and what He has done for you!

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Steve Voigt*

Official Acts

SPECIAL GIFTS

Bethesda.....	\$20
Birthday Fund.....	\$73
Boiler Fund.....	\$2,570
DCF Grant.....	\$1,586
Helping Hands Food Pantry.....	\$885
Initial Offering.....	\$130
Portals of Prayer.....	\$95
Special Gift.....	\$5,000
Thanksgiving for A Place of Refuge.....	\$15

MEMORIALS

Capital Improvement Fund—	\$10
Bud & Barb Bolling Estate—	\$17,500
Carol Prange Memorial—	\$260

Want Mail?

Currently we are mailing to people who are unable to make it to church.

We have...

Weekly—Sermon, Bulletin,
& Announcement

Monthly—Newsletter

Quarterly—Portals of Prayer

Specials—Lent/Advent Devotions

If you are interested in any of these mailings, please contact Alyssa in the church office.

Baptism

January 26, 2025—Mackenzie Lynn Weiss

Daughter of Michael & Abigail Weiss

Sponsors are Mary & Alex Robson

Funeral

Carol Prange

(May 7, 1928—January 3, 2025)

Service was held January 11
at Harder Funeral Home in Brookfield, WI.

Ushers

9:30 a.m.

Phil Murphy	Steve Dasher
Traci Murphy	Maria Riley
Dave Valdes	Marge Valdes
Karen Winefeld	

Altar Guild

Suzanne Dettmann
Jane Buck
Angela Nummerdor

Greeters

February 2

9:30am—Dale & Leann Meyer

February 9

9:30am—Jerry & Judy Anson

February 16

9:30am—Ruth Baer & Sue Dettmann

February 23

9:30am—Sandra Randazzo & Audrey Wilde

Church Info & Staff

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE:

414-464-2410

WEB SITE: covenantlutheranmke.com

E-MAIL: covenantlutheran@sbcglobal.net

FACEBOOK: Covenant Lutheran Church

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. - Thurs.; 8:30am - 2:30pm

PASTOR: Steven Voigt

pastorvoigt@sbcglobal.net

DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH:

Karen Winefeld

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Alyssa Gottsacker

FACILITY MANAGERS:

Steve Dasher & Jim Richter

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST: Bill Laesch

CECC Info

EARLY CHILDHOOD PHONE: 414-438-9712

E-MAIL: covenantkids1@sbcglobal.net

EARLY CHILDHOOD HOURS:

Mon. - Fri.; 6am - 6pm

Director: Joely Douyette

Holy Communion

God offers much strength and comfort through the precious sacrament of Holy Communion.

Through the body and blood of Christ we receive forgiveness for our sins and the strength to live as the redeemed people of God. Someone has said, "In this eating and drinking, Christians get as close as humanly possible to Jesus this side of heaven."

If you are unable to attend worship services in person because of a health issue, please call

Pastor Voigt to set up a time for individual communion. This can be done at your home, at the church on a one-on-one basis, or as a drive-thru communion. Please take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual strength and assurance.

Birthdays

February 2

Taylor Evans

Justin Kerby

Jaina Riley

February 3

Josh Voigt

February 4

Melody Gonzales

February 9

Mai-Nhia Kruse

February 10

Aniyah Flagg

Carol Munz

Mike Pergande

February 15

James Dills

February 17

Mary Miller

June Peters

February 18

Sue Patten

Tyler Wallinger

February 25

Brian Valdes

February 27

Samantha Pratt



Anniversaries

February 4

Ron & Terry Engel

February 12

Brian & Nicole Valdes

February 25

Dale & Leann Meyer



Northwest Lutheran School's Black History Month program will be held on February 28 at 1:30pm at Covenant. Students will celebrate history, culture, and music with performances of songs like "ABC" by the Jackson 5, "Joyful, Joyful" from *Sister Act 2*, and many more. It promises to be an inspiring and joyful event – we look forward to seeing you there!

FINANCE UPDATE

All praise and thanks to God for His generous blessings to Covenant! We finished the year 2024 with a positive cash balance. God continues to provide for our needs and the members of Covenant have always been very faithful in sharing their blessings for the good of God's kingdom. Through your generous offerings, we were able to fulfill our \$12,000 pledge to the South Wisconsin District/LCMS for mission work in Wisconsin and throughout the world. The district is currently working to plant new churches in Viroqua, Monticello, and Slinger. We were also able to fully fund our pledge of \$12,000 to the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee as they serve more than 2,300 students. We spent \$30,000 last year on various building maintenance and repair projects including repairing and resealing the church parking lot and keeping our old boiler up and running.

The year-end surplus of funds was due in large part to the \$21,000 in state grant money for our Childcare Center. We also saw \$43,000 of income from our lease agreement between Northwest Lutheran School and LUMIN. The state grant program is expected to continue through June of 2025. The sale of the Northwest school property is still in progress and should be completed before Spring.

Because we had a large surplus of cash, the Church Council voted to give \$10,000 to Journeys Lutheran School for a new fire alarm system and \$10,000 to the Rev. Matt and Kali Wood for their mission work in Indonesia. The remaining \$25,000 surplus will be kept in the church money market account. Thanks again to our members who have been so faithful and generous in giving. Ultimately, we give all praise and thanks to God!

Boiler Fund

Seider/Enviratech will install a new two-boiler system sometime in February. The cost is approximately \$74,500 minus any rebates from Focus on Energy. Much of the cost will be covered by a gift from the Susan Wendt estate and other member gifts. We still need another \$5,000 to fully fund this project. If you are able to make a gift to the "Boiler Fund" please use the special envelopes found in the church narthex or mail your check to Covenant earmarked "Boiler Fund." The online giving option is also available.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

STARTING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 AT 1:30 & 6:30 P.M.

SUPPER WILL BE SERVED AT 5:30 P.M.

"SAVIOR-SERVANT-FRIEND"

Lent is the perfect opportunity to explore the extraordinary attributes of Jesus, our Savior, Servant and Friend. It is a time to marvel at the many blessings we received when He laid down His life for us on the cross and then rose again victorious from the grave. Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning on March 5, we will focus on another aspect of our Lord Jesus and what each characteristic means for us as His followers and friends.

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	3	4	5 8:30am NW Chapel 1:30pm Comm. Service 7:30pm Dartball	6 10:00am Bible Study 2:00pm St. Anne's Worship	7 8:00pm AA Meeting	8
9 8:30 Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	10	11	12 8:30am NW Chapel 7:30pm Dartball	13 10:00am Bible Study	14 Northwest— No School 8:00pm AA Meeting	15
16 8:30 Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	17	18	19 8:30am NW Chapel 7:00pm AA Monthly	20 10:00am Bible Study 2:00pm St. Anne's Worship	21 8:00pm AA Meeting	22
23 8:30 Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	24 1:30pm Prayer Team	25 	26 8:30am NW Chapel	27 10:00am Bible Study	28 1:30pm Northwest Black History Month Program 8:00pm AA Meeting	
CIRCUIT VISITORS RETREAT—FEB. 24-25						



Place
postage
here



Covenant *Tidings*

COVENANT LUTHERAN CHURCH – FEBRUARY 2025 – VOLUME 61