

Covenant Compass

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

Covenant Presbyterian Church

15002 Blondo Street - Omaha, NE 68116 | 402.498.9000 | covenantomaha.church

November 2025

Monthly Newsletter

Covenant Church: The Grace of Giving

Andrew Myers, Senior Pastor

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

-1 Corinthians 9:8

In the rhythms of our congregational life, November presents us with opportunities to look to the coming year. Together, we will hear Stewardship Reports which will invite each of us to consider our commitment—in time and resources—to the ministries of the church. **November 23** will be our **Stewardship Sunday** on which you will be invited to present your Giving Pledge for the coming year.

In this season, it is helpful, I believe, to turn to some reflections of the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians. The eighth and ninth chapters of that letter contain some of the richest teaching within Scripture on the topic of giving in the life of a Christian.

On the one hand, in 2 Cor 8:9, Christ's own self-giving love is presented in these stunning terms: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." Paul's intent was that the church would be moved by the generosity of Christ to live generous lives within Christ's kingdom.

To that end, in 2 Cor 9:7, he gives the exhortation: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Those words of Paul are both freeing and challenging. It is noteworthy, then, that in 9:8, Paul goes on to state that "God is able to make all grace abound within you." The connection seems to be this—that if our hearts struggle to give generously and cheerfully, we need to gain a deeper confidence in God's grace. God, in his grace, promises to supply our every need. His grace is sufficient for us. That is, the Christian's heart is meant to be moved to give—not

from obligation nor from some expectation of receiving something in return. Rather, the Christian is to give to give to the work of God's kingdom freely and cheerfully and generously.

When this happens in a Christian it is because their heart is grounded in the all-sufficient and surpassing grace of Christ. We give from hearts that cry out, "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift" (2 Cor 9:15)!

As we enter our Stewardship Season, may we ourselves be moved by the grace of God. And may God's Spirit cause every good work to abound in us. To help us as a congregation approach Stewardship Sunday in an informed way, this *Compass* once again includes the special Financial Report from your Session (presented last month). I encourage you to read that statement on the following page.



Special Finance Update

Each of us is drawn to Covenant from our love for the Lord, and because of that shared love for Christ, we also love Christ's Church. It is our joy, then, to give and participate in the cause of the Gospel.

Covenant has seen its share of challenges in recent years. For some time, Covenant has operated with expenses and staffing commensurate to a larger congregation. Because of this, in 2023, Covenant's elders set a goal to arrive at a balanced budget by the year-end of 2026. To reach that goal, the elders have made a series of sometimes difficult decisions which have already significantly reduced our expenses:

- In 2023, restructuring Children's ministry to operate with fewer staff members;
- In 2024, eliminating the radio broadcast;
- In 2025, changing IT services providers; and, most recently, eliminating the Congregational Care and Full-time Custodial staff positions.

Along the way, we have also made significant budget reductions with respect to building projects. And, we have sought to encourage the Covenant congregation in volunteer opportunities where it is not necessary to rely upon paid services.

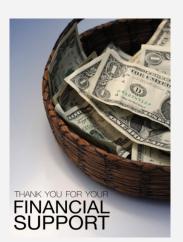
We continue to move toward our goal of a balanced budget, but your elders want you to understand that we yet have further progress to make together. Many members are giving generously, and we give thanks to God! Our pledged giving, however, remains far short of covering our overall budget. Meanwhile, our non-pledged giving has decreased. The simple truth, at this time, is that our regular congregational giving does not cover our expenses.

Soon we will begin our 2026 budgeting process for the church. Even though our staff and ministry teams have been very diligent in watching their expenses, we will be asking for all ministry areas to cut additional expenses where possible for 2026.

Your elders want to encourage you. We desire to avoid the kind of difficult cuts that have been necessary in recent days. That means we do need to increase our giving. It is our desire to make ministry decisions motivated by what we value and see as strategic—not merely because of what is necessary.

To that end, we hope you'll commit with us to finish 2025 with strength. We see God at work. We see many individuals growing in Christ, and we rejoice to also see a full New Members Class. If you've not previously

given regularly to ministry here Covenant, would you consider linking arms with us in the cause of the Gospel? Help us ensure that the ministry and witness that we love at Covenant will continue for many vears to come. Let's together respond in thanksgiving to God, giving generously as God enables us.



Finance

		Sept 2025	Sept 2025	YTD	YTD
FINANCE COMMITTEE		Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
COMMITTEE	Operating Revenues	\$55,460	\$85,223	\$636,084	\$767,010
	Operating Expenses	\$88,530	\$90,064	\$829,485	\$867,077
Net Change to Operating Activities		(\$33,070)	(\$4,841)	(\$193,401)	(\$100,067)

News & Covenant Notes



Wednesday, Nov. 12 12:00 PM Dining Room

If you are 55+ (Just Older Youth) plan to join us for faith, fellowship and food.

Guest speakers will be Veronica Kuebler & Jessica Westerlin, from Mosaic. Mosaic stands alongside people with intellectual disabilities to bring awareness to issues that affect their lives.

The meal will be roast pork, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls & apple pie.

RSVP for the meal to the church office (402) 498-9000 or e-blast by Monday, Nov. 10. You may also sign up in the Fellowship area.



Daylight Savings Ends
Sunday, November 2
Set your clocks BACK one
hour Saturday night.



In observance of Thanksgiving the church office will be closed November 27 & 28.

Wednesday evening activities will not be held on November 26.

If you ordered a copy of the Covenant pictorial directory and have not yet received it, they are available to be picked up at the church office.

Office hours are Monday - Friday.

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.

A HUGE thank you to all helped with the directory, especially Carol Dahmke for the wonderful photos!



November 2 - Pastor Andrew Myers

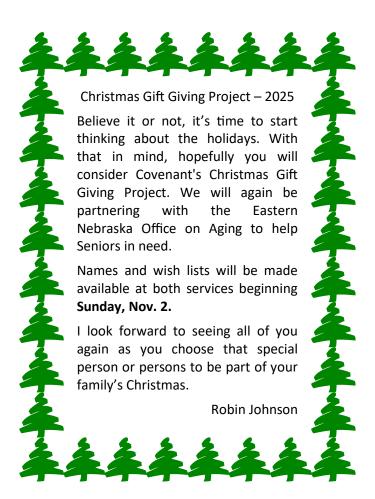
Communion

November 9 - Jacob Tewes

November 16 - Pastor Dean Weaver

November 23 - Pastor Andrew Myers

November 30 - Pastor Andrew Myers



The believer is actually a citizen of heaven who is on a pilgrim journey on earth.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Kevin Boesiger, Director of Music & Outreach

It's November, and the holiday season is practically upon us. I have a mixed bag of emotions for this time of year. It is a great time to be thankful for all God has done for us and a reminder of what God has provided us through his only Son. It is also one of the busiest times of year with all the activities at church, family gatherings and other celebrations. It can be exhausting! It can also be a wonderful time of year to create memories and special times with our family and friends. I have talked with several people over the past five years of doing our Christmas musicals at Covenant, who have made it a tradition to attend and invite friends to join them.

This year's musical, *Echoes of Christmas* focuses on a family whose parents are selling the family home where all the kids grew up. The kids and grandkids struggle with giving up the home where all their childhood memories reside. The parents assure them those memories will go with them and change; many times bringing about something better. Yes, there will be sacrifice but sometimes sacrifice is necessary to bring about good. God gave us Jesus to redeem us and bring us back to fellowship with Him. Isn't that what Christmas is all about.

As you plan out your holiday schedule, consider taking the time to attend this year's Christmas musical and invite your family or friends to join you. Everyone will be able to relate to the story and will understand the struggle the family is going through. They may find themselves with memories of their own and how God has made them better because they were willing to sacrifice and follow Him.

ECHOES OF CHRISTMAS: Saturday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 p.m.



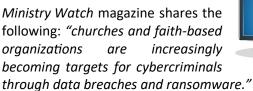


Covenant's Deacons would like to send our young adults a special gift to let them know their church family is thinking about them. If you have a young person who would like to be included please sign up by clicking the link below.

Deacons Ministry

PHISING SCAMS USE AI TO TARGET CHURCHES

On-line scammers have turned to AI (Artificial Intelligence) as the latest method to defraud churches and the public.





Just a reminder...

If you receive a text or email from a staff member at Covenant asking you for a favor, financial assistance or to purchase gift cards, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND! Staff members will not contact you in this way. If you are ever in doubt contact the church office. To learn more, click the link below.

Phishing Scam



Children's Ministry

Halee Watson, Children's Ministry Leader

Children's Programs

Kid's Connection

K-5th grade – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Sunday School

PreK-5th grade - 10:00-10:50 a.m.

Monthly Update



Children continue through the books of 1 and 2 Samuel in Sunday School. They learned how David was called into a role of shepherding God's flock (the nation of Israel) after protecting his family's flock of sheep. He

showed his trust in God through defeating Goliath, his heart for mercy in sparing Saul, and his willingness to put God's plans above his own. But King David was still a broken human who gave in to his sinful desires. Yet, God showed His love and grace by forgiving and restoring David upon his repentance. Children learn how God is greater than everything and everyone.

In Wednesday night Kid's Connection, children are focusing on different spiritual disciplines connected to the bible stories that they are learning in Sunday School. In their current unit, they are focusing on fellowship. Children are learning that fellowship means coming together to help, encourage, and grow closer to God and each other. It's like being on a team where everyone supports each other. Children are looking at scripture examples of how Jesus showed us exactly what true fellowship looks like.

THANK YOU!

We hosted The Fall Festival on Sunday, October 19. All were welcomed to enjoy dinner, play carnival games, roast marshmallows over fire, enjoy good fellowship and more! We had an incredible turnout of both people from the community and members of our church. A HUGE thank you to Donna Quick for helping to organize this event and to our volunteers who helped make it possible!



Stephen Ministry

From the Heart of a Stephen Minister Christine Lind, Member



n. The moon flower opens its white, trumpet-like flowers at eventide.

Eventide, or better known as dusk, is my favorite time of day. As far back as I can remember, I always thought it magical. A vivid childhood memory of my dad burning leaves in a rusty trash barrel, all aflame, while I chased a rogue maple leaf floating in the air. Or as an adult, relaxing on the deck with dinner simmering on the stove, waiting for my husband to come home with the sound of cicadas winding down.

It's twilight time.

A calming transition from day into night. I subconsciously stop toiling and decide what didn't get done can wait till tomorrow. Quietly and effortlessly, eventide envelops the day before it becomes night. Nothing sudden about eventide, but if you don't watch for it, sadly, it will pass you by.

Don't look for it on the clock, you won't find it there. It changes with the seasons. Arriving early in the day during the winter months, it will patiently wait till children have played past their bedtime during the dog days of summer. It might be my imagination, but I think it has its own scent, something happens to the air that fills the senses. In the spring a breeze might blow away humidity; in the fall it will beckon a sweater. It's eventide.

Presently, I capture eventide more on purpose. I use this dream-like time of day for a reason. Even though I'm secure in my relationship with the Lord, the world with its cares and responsibilities can bully me, crowding out my thoughts of him. I spend this interlude to tell him he's not forgotten, but more importantly, to celebrate he has not forgotten me. I recall his delight in me. I am his Hephzibah, his church, his people. It's never allocated for Bible study or devotions or even a quiet time. Eventide is for delighting only.

As the curtain begins its slow descent on the day, I secretly enter the land of "the married," or Beulah. I savor the moment, and then the night ushers in and tells me it's time to move on. But I'm left secure in my standing, knowing that another day will bring its magic. When the moon flower opens its white, trumpet-like flowers, at eventide.



Members and friends of Covenant,

Ginny and I first attended Covenant in 2014, joining in 2015. Over the next decade several church officers have resigned. They then left Covenant. There are two Corporation Officers required by the State of Nebraska, President and Treasurer. These are elected/appointed by the Session, not the Congregation. In late 2024, I told the Session I must be replaced as Treasurer, no later than 31, December 2025. Therefore, I am retiring as Treasurer, hopefully before 31, December 2025, with a replacement. We passed a financial audit earlier this year and our processes/procedures were affirmed. I wish I could say that contributions are doing as well as needed but I hope 2026 will see better results. We will remain members of Covenant but I am

recognizing that at 85 I do not have the health, energy or abilities I once had. I have been asked to remain on the Finance Committee and have tentatively agreed.

David A. McBlain Retiring Treasurer

Angel Encounter

Chuck Tomek, Member

I was working a 24-hour emergency room shift in Hawaii in mid September and was having a rough day. Not difficult in the ER, but personally. My wife wasn't with me on the island and that always makes me sad. My son-in-law, father, and mother-in-law were having issues. It heightens my concerns being so far away, often when help is needed at home.

I'd awakened at 3:00 a.m. before the start of my ER shift and could not get back to sleep. I sat in the dark on the condominium lanai, watching the sun rise over the ocean. I dreaded the upcoming, long shift, being so fatigued from the start. I prayed for physical and mental stamina to make it through. It's a prayer I have said with increasing frequency over the years.

I was asked to care for a 70-year-old lady who severely lacerated a finger with an electric hedge trimmer. It was going to take quite some time to repair. I prefer these types of injuries to ones that take a simple 1-2 stitches to fix. Why? Because in slower emergency rooms you have more time to converse with and get to know your patients. I love that.

I anesthetized the finger and went to work, striking up a conversation as I did so. My patient told me she was a "street preacher." She witnessed to the countless homeless, drug addicted, and mentally ill on the island. She spoke passionately about her love for these people and the Lord. She quoted scripture with ease. Her stories were amazing. She then turned the conversation towards me and asked if I knew the Lord. I opened my heart to this lady I'd just met and revealed my love for

Christ and the Bible. I spoke of my decades of medical mission work and my desire to do more for our Savior. As I meticulously put her injured finger back together, she sang hymns and openly prayed. On more than one occasion I had to turn away so she wouldn't see my tears. When finished, she had a nurse take our picture together so she could put it on her Facebook page. We prayed together one final time.

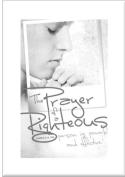
When she left, I went outside and walked around the perimeter of the hospital, giving thanks to the Lord for the encounter. I told Him I didn't care how busy my final 14 hours in the ER were going to be as this one patient left me on an emotional high. No amount of fatigue or lack of sleep was going to ruin that.

And I thought of how the tables were turned. I see so many troubled people in the ER, in the valleys of life, and I do my best to counsel them, encourage them, give them hope and confidence. On this day, the patient counseled the physician.

When praying for stamina earlier in the day, my hope was for the occasional lapse in patients so I could take a quick nap. But our merciful Lord and Savior smiled and said, "I can do much better than that, my son, I will bring you an angel."

Going forward, I will no longer ask for stamina as I drive to work. I will ask for an encounter only He can provide.

"For He will command his angels concerning you to protect you in all your ways." - Psalm 91:11



Pray For Our Mission Partners

We at Covenant believe in the power of prayer!
Join us each month in intercessory prayer for three of our mission partners.

For the month of November please pray for:

Local - Guiding Grace Motherhood Network

National - Jesus Film Project

Global - Gideons

Covenant members, Heidi Dingledine and Sara McCroden along with Heidi's father and those from other churches recently traveled to Bogota, Columbia to shine the light and love of Jesus to this part of our world. Both women are pictured with hygiene kits they prepared for the children.



No Man Left Behind Men's Ministry Roy Phillips, Member

Proverbs 27:17 ESV *Iron sharpens iron,* and one man sharpens another.



Does God Answer You?

Biblical Thought: Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day

drawing near. - Hebrews 10:24-25

Men...life is full of surprises and your stories of life can benefit other men to know they are not alone. The struggle to be servant leaders is a continual process, but it is our journey and purpose to get up each morning!

A big thank you to the men who pitched in and helped with the October Men's Breakfast and those who came.



Men's Ministry Model: Building Godly Men: Our struggles shape us into the men we need to be. **CLASSES:**

- Men's Wednesday Night Class: As of this writing we are considering how to finish out the holiday season starting November thru December. Pastor Andrew did a great job of presenting tough material that nonbelievers use against believers. We grow when we can discuss difficult issues!
- Thursday Morning Bible Study Five Books of James will take us up to Thanksgiving and then we will start another book...men's choice! One chapter each Thursday.

Our Format: Open with prayer requests, read the verses for the day, go on to questions from the Serendipity Bible and then close in prayer. I would be dishonest if I didn't admit that we do warm up with Husker updates, but not for long...the Bible is our reason for meeting!

FELLOWSHIP:



• Saturday, October 18 - Men's Breakfast: Guest speaker was Dr. Chuck Tomek, M.D. The men loved his stories about God and the men and women who travel around the world to help others in South Sudan, Africa. They felt moved to be among a practicing servant leader...it was a biblical application at its finest. He brought along another traveler, George, who gave his version of what to expect and he was so moved by



the people that the miserable weather didn't discourage him from going

back. This time he handed out more glasses to those with vision issues. Chuck wrapped up his presentation by describing how to capture an Anaconda...being a Christian requires a lot of heart! You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

UPDATES:

Check out the weekly e-blast for current studies and then mark your calendars:

- Wednesday Night Classes: 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in the Dining Room.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study: 7 a.m. in the Fireside Room & via Zoom, followed by breakfast at Hy-Vee.

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22

Women's Ministry



Building a caring community of women strengthening our church through support and discipleship, and bearing witness to the promises of God's Kingdom.

Women's Circle



Thursday, October 16 was a beautiful day, a little crisp outside, but the sun was shining. Our color-theme was Orange and hostesses: Janie M., Mary P., and Marion Z. decorated the dining room with orange & black table cloths and cute decorations for fit party. Our catered meal was a Thanksgiving with roasted

turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, dressing, green beans almondine, cranberries in sauce and roll/butter. Our hostesses served pumpkin pie with whipped cream for dessert.

Twenty-six ladies attended with most in orange attire. It was so fun! After a prayer and lunch we sang "Blessed Assurance" and recognized our ladies with October birthday. Peg B. talked about chapter 11 in John. Our special guest speaker, Covenant member,

Debarra Prentice told us her story about twenty years of teaching and ministering in Zimbabwe and Eswatini, Africa. She brought pictures and a special slide presentation. We are very blessed that Debarra came to Omaha and is here at Covenant. Thank you, Debarra! God bless you!

Our last Circle for 2025, will be held on **November 20**. It is our traditional "Soups" & "Pies" gathering and our color theme is **Brown**. Ladies are encouraged to wear holiday attire - Thanksgiving or Christmas. Some will make homemade soups and some will bring homemade pies. It is a lovely time together. We have something special planned, so we hope everyone can attend. Please RSVP to Renee Barbe.

We do not have Circle in December, January or February. We take a winter break, so mark your calendars - our first Circle of 2026 is on **Thursday**, **March 19**.

And Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. - John 11:25 NKJV





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
THANKS be to GOD						1
Daylight-Saving Time Ends Communion Sunday 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service 2:00pm Private Event in Dining Room 2:30pm Echoes of Christmas	3 1:00pm Chat, Knit & Sew 7:00pm AA - Women to Women 7:00pm Session Meeting	4 8:00am Community Bible Study 6:00pm Millard North Basketball 6:15pm Young Adults' Group 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Fresh Start 7:00pm Axtell Small Group	9:15am International Friendship Ministry 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Kids' Connection 6:30pm Men's Ministry's Class	6 7:00am Men's Bible Study 1:30pm Lawson/McCroden Small Group 6:00pm Millard North Basketball 6:30pm Deacons' Meeting 6:30pm Echoes of Christmas Rehearsal	9:15am International Friendship Ministry 6:00pm AA - Primary Purpose Group	8
9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service 2:30pm Echoes of Christmas Rehearsal	10 6:00pm American Heritage Girls 6:00pm Trail Life for Boys 7:00pm AA - Women to Women	Veterans Day 8:00am Community Bible Study 6:00pm Millard North Basketball 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Fresh Start 6:30pm Stephen Ministry THANKS, VETERANS!	6:30pm Youth Group 12 9:15am International Friendship Ministry 12:00pm JOY (Just Older Youth) Group 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Kids' Connection 6:30pm Men's Ministry's Class 6:30pm Youth Group	7:00am Men's Bible Study 1:00pm Missions Committee Meeting 1:30pm Lawson/McCroden Small Group 6:00pm Millard North Basketball 6:30pm Gideon's Meeting	9:15am International Friendship Ministry 6:00pm AA - Primary Purpose Group 7:00pm Men's Pickup Basketball	15
16 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service 2:30pm Echoes of Christmas Rehearsal	Children's Ministry Meeting 7:00pm AA - Women to Women	8:00am Community Bible Study 3:00pm Outreach & Com- munication Committee Meeting 6:00pm Millard North Basketball 6:15pm Young Adults'	9:15am International Friendship Ministry 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Kids' Connection 6:30pm Men's Ministry's Class 6:30pm Youth Group	20 7:00am Men's Bible Study 10:30am Covenant Connections Meeting 11:45am Women's Circle 6:00pm Millard North Basketball	21 9:15am International Friendship Ministry 6:00pm AA - Primary Purpose Group	22 1:00pm Echoes of Christmas Rehearsal
9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service 12:30pm Leadership Cohort	24 1:00pm Chat, Knit & Sew 6:00pm American Heritage Girls 6:00pm Trail Life for Boys 7:00pm AA - Women to Women	25 6:00pm Millard North Basketball 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Echoes of Christmas Rehearsal 6:30pm Fresh Start	26 9:15am International Friendship Ministry 2:00pm Staff Meeting	27 Office Closed Ellappy Thanksgiving	28 Office Closed 6:00pm AA - Primary Purpose Group 7:00pm Men's Pickup Basketball	29 10:00am Bell Choir Rehearsal
9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service			his	to the Lord, for h	e is good; foreve	ſ.

Calendar items are updated continuously throughout the month. Please refer to the website, covenantomaha.church for up-to-the-minute changes/additions.



"To know Christ and to make Him known."



Covenant Presbyterian Church

9:00 AM Worship

Contemporary Service | In the sanctuary

10:00 AM Sunday school

On site for children, youth & adults

11:00 AM Worship

Blended Service | In the sanctuary

Both services LIVE on YouTube

www.covenantomaha.church