

Bulletin for Sunday, January 28, 2024

WORSHIP NOTES

--**The message:** To begin the year, Pastors Sam & Gail are doing a *six-week series on the book of Esther* called, "Feasts and Gallows." **Series Summary** - Esther is a story full of parties, executions, humor, odd coincidences, surprising twists, and ultimately deliverance, yet the story lacks even one mention of God. He's not in the story. Or is He? The absence of God in Esther invites us to look for God's activity throughout the book, and there are signs of it everywhere. Just as there are signs everywhere of God's activity and deliverance in your life even when He seems most absent. Join us as we start off the year becoming more aware of God's activity and deliverance in our lives through the book of Esther. **This morning, Pastor Gail's message, "The Power of Claiming" will be based on Esther 5-6:14.**

--**Offerings** will be for the **General Fund** and **GEMS / Cadets**. **GEMS** and **Cadets** are youth ministries established in several different denominations and non-denominational churches, as well as Christian organizations. Our local **GEMS & Cadets** programs are made up of three Sioux Center Christian Reformed congregations—Bridge of Hope, Covenant and Faith. Both meet on various Wednesday evenings, September through April; GEMS meets at Covenant CRC and Cadets meets at Faith CRC. Read more about both ministries below.

- **G.E.M.S.** (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a ministry for *girls in grades 4 through 8*. The purpose of this ministry is to "encourage each girl to serve the Lord with sincerity and integrity while raising awareness of her responsibility in God's world." They do this through Bible studies, activities, crafts, and fellowship. To learn more, go to: <http://www.gemsgc.org/>
- **Cadets** is a ministry for *boys in grades 5 through 8*. Their goal is to help boys in respect to their devotional, mental, physical, and social development in light of God's Word. The Cadets and their counsellors meet throughout the year to work together through Bible studies, crafts, fellowship, and special activities while learning how to apply God's Word to Christian living. To learn more, go to: <http://www.calvinistcadets.org/>

NOTE: Our offering will be divided 4 ways: between the 2 local clubs and the 2 denominational ministries.

--**Next month's second offerings:**

February 4: Ministry Center / Building Fund: *An offering for this fund is taken the first Sunday of each month. While the Ministry Center was paid off in 2023, ongoing expenses occur and with increased staff and the potential of additional office and storage space, it's important to keep looking to the future as we grow and have adequate funds available to expand if needed. While we aren't actively raising money for the purpose of a future permanent home for Bridge of Hope, building money in this fund, along with equity in the Ministry Center, would someday help fund a permanent location.*

February 11, 18 & 25: Hope Food Pantry: *The Hope Food Pantry is a charity organization in Sioux Center which seeks to aid the unemployed, underemployed, and/or the working poor with much needed food items as well as personal care products. To learn more, go to: <http://hopefoodpantry.weebly.com/>*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR CHILDREN:

- A **NURSERY** is provided for children from birth through 2 years old. You can find it down the hallway from the gym; look for the banner that indicates its location.
- **PROMISE LAMBS** is for children 3 through TK. They are dismissed part-way through the service and can meet their teachers by the gym door.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL**, for TK/K through high school students, meets following the worship service.

belong!

We want those visiting and attending Bridge of Hope to feel welcomed. But church is more than that. It's not just feeling welcomed, it's *knowing* you **Belong!**

We have a **Belong** course coming up where you'll have an opportunity to think about what it means to be a part of Bridge of Hope. ***It's for those wanting to know more, or those considering membership.***

And it's for long-time attendees & members too! As a matter of fact, Council is encouraging all members to participate! It's a great refresher course on what we believe and how we know we belong to the family of God as well as to the body of Bridge. And it's an opportunity for fellowship!

Here are the details:

WHEN: Over two Sundays, **February 11 & 18** from **12 noon to 2 pm**

WHERE: Bridge of Hope Ministry Center – 43 2nd Street NE (it will be held in the south room)

DETAILS: Lunch will be provided. Attendance capped at 15

CHILDREN: Yes! Child-care will be provided.

SIGN UP TODAY: <https://forms.gle/LVPFFZN1pjT1k45S6> OR, AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE...

QUESTIONS? Contact gail@bridgecrc.org, sam@bridgecrc.org, or office@bridgecrc.org

Youth Ministry (CONNECT—6th-8th & UNITE—9th-12th; Kira Ouwinga, Youth Director kira@bridgecrc.org)

1. Upcoming schedule

- a. February 4: *CONNECT* at the MC from 7-8:30pm
- b. February 7: Annual UNITE hosted Valentine's Day Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner (5-7)
- c. February 7: UNITE at the MC 7-8:30pm
- d. February 25: *CONNECT* Groups at the MC from 7-8:30pm

2. May 3-4 UNITE Weekend Community Service Lock-In **CHAPERONES NEEDED!!**

- a. Our 8th grade students who will graduate this coming Spring and current high school students in UNITE will be having a lock-in service weekend on Friday, May 3-Saturday May 4! Our students will get the chance to serve the community and end the weekend by serving with the body of Bridge during His Hands His Feet Sunday! More information later.
- b. If you are interested in being a chaperone or being involved with the weekend/know of areas that need assistance, reach out to Kira @ (712) 441-0841

3. VALENTINES DAY FUNDRAISER DINNER

- a. Bridge of Hope's UNITE group (high school) does an annual fundraiser on Valentines Day to raise money for future serve trips we will go on. This year, because I am gone the 14th, we will be hosting it on **Wednesday, February 7, at the Ministry Center from 5-7pm.**

→ ***We would LOVE to have the CONGREGATION (& family + friends) sign up to join us for the meal and fellowship with others. (If you're able to help by bringing lasagna as well, that would be appreciated, but not necessary.)***

→ *The meal provided will be lasagna, some sort of bread, side salads, applesauce for the kids, and milk/water. There is no cost for the meal, just a free-will donation for our youth.*

- b. **PARENTS**, please sign your high school students up to serve. P.S. - We will have UNITE following the Valentines Dinner so your students will be fed and will stay to have youth group.

c. Sign up here:

- i. High school student serving sign-up slot: [Valentines Day Dinner Student Sign-up:](#)
- ii. To come join us & eat: [Valentines Day Dinner Fundraising Sign-Up](#)
- iii. To bring a lasagna dish: [Lasagna Sign-Ups](#) or email Kira at kira@bridgecrc.org

HOPE FOOD PANTRY: Bridge of Hope has the opportunity to help reach out to people in our community by serving at the Hope Food Pantry on Wednesday, February 7. The shifts are 1:30-3:30 or 3:30-5:30. If you would like to serve, please contact Tiffany at 578.9675 or r_tpostma@hotmail.com.

Additional announcements can be found in the Community Activities Sheet, a weekly publication of activities/events pertaining to the Christian Reformed churches in Sioux Center, as well as other churches within our community. It originated because of the repetitive nature of the common announcements being printed in Sioux Center church bulletins. It can be found on our website under What's Happening / Community Activities Sheet.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Membership Transfer: Jena Dykstra from Immanuel CRC, Sheldon.

This week the community of believers in Sioux Center is praying for the congregation of Free Grace Reformed and Pastor Mark Schwarz.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Today – January 28

Nursery Adult(s) & Helper(s): Emily P, Ella P, Abby V

Promise Lambs Adult(s) & Helper(s): Audra C, Reese & Elliot M

Coffee Service: Jason & Aimee VM

Greeters: Glen B, Klay B, Aimee VM

Check-ins: Cindy G, Aimee VM, Di M

Next Sunday — February 4

Nursery Adult(s) & Helper(s): Alicia B, Justine B, Adalee H

Promise Lambs Adult(s) & Helper(s): Derrick P, Taiya P, Kinzie VM

Coffee Service: Mark & Miriam B

Greeters: Mark B, Tina F, Ruter/Vyn

Check-ins: Jill VS, Miriam B, Aimee VM

BRIDGE CONNECTION GROUPS

The body is divided alphabetically (by last names) into groups with an assigned Pastoral & Service Shepherd to offer care and support. Feel free to contact your Shepherd should a need arise. The groups are as follows:

	Pastoral Shepherd	Service Shepherd
A-B	Robb De Haan	Klay Byker
C-G	Dave Mulder	Andrea Westerbeek
H-M	Glen Boer	Mark Oostra
N-T	Tim Foreman	Marcus Van Zee
U-Z	Mark Buss	Tina Folkerts

STAFF & LEADERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastors • sam@bridgecrc.org and gail@bridgecrc.org
Phone • 817.673.7046 (Sam) & 903.617.7862 (Gail)

Office • ruth@bridgecrc.org or
Office Phone • 712.722.3951

Youth Director • kira@bridgecrc.org
Phone • 712.441.0841

Sunday School Director • sarah@bridgecrc.org
Phone • 712.441.7022

Congregational Caregiver • judy@bridgecrc.org
Phone • 712.441.4488

Congregational Caregiver • aimee@bridgecrc.org
Phone • 712.441.6231

Worship Coordinator • missy@bridgecrc.org
Phone • 712.441.3106

Council • council@bridgecrc.org
Pastoral Shepherds • bohps@bridgecrc.org
Service Shepherds • bohss@bridgecrc.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunday Worship • 9:30am • Intermediate School Gym • 950 4th Ave NE
Offices / Ministry Center address • 43 2nd Street NE
Offices located 1 block south & ½ block east of the downtown stoplight.
Office Hours • Tuesday and Thursday 9-12 & 1-4
Like us at www.facebook.com/BOHMinistry
Website • www.bridgecrc.org

GIVING BACK / WAYS TO TITHE

- ❖ **Online:** go to Bridge's website (www.bridgecrc.org) and hit the "give" button on the home page; or go to <https://bridgecrc.churchcenter.com/giving>
- ❖ **Giving App:** Instructions on how to use the online giving app: <https://pcogiving.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/217380608-Give-Online-with-Church-Center>
- ❖ **Text-to-give:** First time users: Text 84321. Click on the link sent back to you, select Bridge of Hope, add an email address, and enter your payment information. Or follow these instructions: <https://pcogiving.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/217380608-Give-Online-with-Church-Center>. After the initial set up, just text 84321, enter in the amount you would like to give and hit send. (Only the dollar amount is needed if it is to the General Fund. If it's to the second offering indicate dollar amount and "second" {i.e., \$10 second}; if it's to the Building Fund indicate amount and "building" {i.e., \$10 building}.)
- ❖ **Drop off at or mail to:** Bridge of Hope; 43 2nd Street NE; Sioux Center



NOTE: At the Intermediate School, a First Aid kit can be found in the storage room in the north hallway. An AED (automated external defibrillator) can be found on the wall near the entrance to the building.