

## SUNDAY, December 17, 2017

**WELCOME** to all who have joined us for worship today!

Please join us for coffee/tea/juice in the fellowship hall after the service – we would like to get to know you!

### Hearing assistance



A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound **operator** for assistance.

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Advent

"The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent, we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming" (*The Worship Sourcebook*). This year, as we wait as a church body at Covenant, we'll pray in hope for restoration using words from the Psalms (80, 85, 126, & 89), acknowledging that God has restored us, is even now restoring us, and will one day make all things new.

### Worship Today

This morning Dr. Justin Bailey will bring the word to us in the morning service. We look forward to a Service of Lessons and Carols this evening at 6:00 PM. The service is based on the 'O Antiphons,' a series of seven Advent prayers developed in the Middle Ages. (You may be familiar with them from singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.") We hope you will plan to come for this service of candle lighting, scripture, and song.

### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Services

We will gather for the fourth Sunday of Advent next Sunday morning, **December 24** at 10:00 AM. There will be no evening worship service next Sunday, but we invite you to come back again on Christmas morning, **December 25**, at 10:00 AM to celebrate Christ's birth.

### Offerings for December

	AM	PM
24	Tuition Assistance Fund	
25	General Fund: Outreach Commitments	
31	General Fund: Ministry Shares	Tuition Assistance Fund

### Last week's offering

Christian Education Fund	\$5395.52
Compassion Fund	\$702.00
Justice For All	\$226.94

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



### Happy Birthday this Week

*Nico DeVries, Lily Wyenberg, John Kok, Ruth Clark, Amelia Lappenga, Shirley Matheis, Ben Lappenga*

### Happy Anniversary this Week

*Kelly & April Crull, Pastor Gianni & Georgina Gracia, Ryan & Val Zonnefeld*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the Jesu Cristo el Buen Pastor congregation and the ministry of Rodrigo Gonzalez.

### Church Education Schedule

There will be no Sunday School, Catechism, or Covenant Sunday Morning (adult Sunday School) on **December 17, 24, & 31**. We will resume classes on Sunday, **January 7** at 9:00 AM.

### Cadet Snow Derby Meeting

The Cadet meeting this Wednesday, **December 20**, will be for all Cadets that plan to participate in the Cadet Snow Derby scheduled for **December 30**. We will be practicing for all the tasks you will need to do while at the derby. We will have the same meeting time, from 7:15-9:00 PM at Faith CRC.

## January Series

Covenant will once again be hosting the Calvin College January Series beginning **January 3, 2018** and continuing weekdays through **January 23**. Each lecture will be shown through live feed from Calvin College from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM and will cover topics ranging from millennials and faith, restorative justice, confident pluralism, radical generosity, and so much more by top experts in their fields. For information on the speakers and topics, visit the January Series website at [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january).

## Sunshine and Safari in South Africa

Safari means journey. Would you be willing to join a prayer journey in South Africa? We need 10 more North Americans to join a group of 20 Africans who are praying on-site with insight from Johannesburg to Cape Town, South Africa. The total cost is \$1630 plus airfare. You would depart for South Africa on **January 31** and arrive home on **February 12**. The registration deadline is **December 31**. We welcome high schoolers on up. Let Mike and Megan Ribbens know if you are interested ([mribbens@crcna.org](mailto:mribbens@crcna.org)). For more details, check out this link: <https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/opportunity/global-prayer-safari-january-31-february-12-2018>

## Blue Christmas Service

You are invited to a Blue Christmas Service on Thursday, **December 21**, at 7:00 PM at the Faith CRC in Sioux Center. While some Christians are filled with joy during the Christmas season, for others it is a painful time as they grieve the death of someone they love, experience financial concerns or depression, work through relational difficulties, or feel brokenness because of the sin in this world. This will be a time of worship with scripture, songs, and reflection, acknowledging that God's presence is with us and that His Word comes to shine light into our darkness. All are welcome!

## Financial Peace University

Engaged? Newly married? Get a handle on your financial future! Coming this January, Center for Financial Education (CFE) is hosting a Financial Peace University (FPU) class for engaged and newlywed couples. The class will be held 9 Sundays, starting **January 21, 2018**. Attendees are invited to come to the Bridge of Hope Ministry Center (43 2nd Street NE) from 1:30-3:30 PM. Materials cost \$109 per couple, payable to CFE. Here is the class link to register: <http://www.fpu.com/1054182>. (\*If necessary, the schedule will be altered to accommodate spring breaks.)

## Sioux County Oratorio

Get ready for a new season of music making with the Sioux County Oratorio Chorus! We will be performing one of Joseph Haydn's most popular works--the "Mass in the Time of War," or "Paukenmesse"--as well as two shorter choral works by Rachmaninoff. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings 7:30-9:15 PM beginning **January 16** and will be held at Northwestern College's DeWitt Music Hall. The performance will be Saturday, **April 28**. Email any questions to Mike Ochsner ([mkchsnr@gmail.com](mailto:mkchsnr@gmail.com)). Save the date! We'd love to sing with you!

*If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please find your own replacement. Thank you.*

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY, December 24
Greeters	AM: Mimi K, Joan MC, Dani W ♦ PM: Rebecca DS, Jake VW, Laurey Z	
Ushers	AM: Ruth Clo, Barb H, Dennis VP ♦ PM: Jo F, Adam F	
Coffee	Duane B, Marge DB, Cal J, Beth VB, Rog VH, Eldon W	
Subs	Jenni B, Luke H, Gidge M, Len R, John V, Sharon V	
Sound/Projection	Marv W ♦ Dane H	Kayt F ♦ Mark H
Nursery Dec. POM: McCarthys	AM INF: Luke & Sarah H, Ruth C TODDLER: Mark & Sara H, Tom C PM: Daryl & Deb H, Duane & Jan B	AM INF: Kris VP, Josue F TODDLER: Marty VP, Ana F

### GREETERS, PLEASE EMAIL:

Troy & Faith Bierma <a href="mailto:tbierma@gmail.com">tbierma@gmail.com</a>	Kelly & April Crull <a href="mailto:crulls@caimail.net">crulls@caimail.net</a>	Dan & Jeananne Kuiper <a href="mailto:djkuip@aol.com">djkuip@aol.com</a>	Sos & Kara Maletoungou <a href="mailto:smaletoungou@crcna.org">smaletoungou@crcna.org</a>	Mike & Megan Ribbens <a href="mailto:mribbens@gmail.com">mribbens@gmail.com</a>
---	---	---	--	--

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Today</b>	10:00 AM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:30 PM	Morning Worship Choir Practice Evening Worship: Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday Evening Bible Study Group
<b>Monday</b>	9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Women's Community Bible Study Deacons Meeting Elders Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 AM 7:15 PM	Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery) Cadets (at Faith CRC)
<b>Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM	Morning Worship