

## SUNDAY, December 22, 2019

**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

### Worship Today

We are in the season of Advent, a season of waiting and hoping for the coming Emmanuel. Pastor Joel will be using the Isaiah lectionary passages throughout this season and we will gather at the Lord's Table each Sunday.

### Faith Formation Sunday Evening

This evening at 5:00 PM, we invite you to gather for a "Blue Christmas Service." This service will give us time and space to together acknowledge the sadness that we may feel during the Christmas season. When the days are short and the nights are long, memories of past experiences and the pain of present reality can become overwhelming for some. Through song, prayer, scripture, and meditation, we will bring our sadness and lament before God who comforts his people.

### Christmas Day Worship

We will gather for worship to celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Day, **December 25**, at 10:00 AM. Join us for worship and a celebration of the Lord's Supper. We will also end the service with the "Hallelujah Chorus" so we hope you plan to join the impromptu choir that morning!

### New Year's Eve Worship

We will gather in worship to end the year and look forward to the new year ahead on Tuesday, **December 31** at 5:00 PM.

### Formation Gathering Schedule

We will not gather at 5:00 PM on Sunday, **December 29** or **January 5**. Our formation gatherings will pick up again on **January 12**.

### Offerings for December

1	General Fund	15	General Fund	25	World Renew
8	Christian Education Fund	22	Compassion/Tuition Assistance Fund	29	Building Fund

**Last week's offering**                      General Fund    \$1,841.00

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



### Happy Birthday this Week

*Amelia Lappenga, Shirley Matheis, Betty Vander Plaats, Dennis Vander Plaats*

### Happy Anniversary this Week

*Ryan & Val Zonnefeld, George & Jo Faber, Dave & Jeri Schelhaas, Joel & Tricia Kok*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the Peace Lutheran congregation and the ministry of Pastor Bill Loeffke.

### Cadet Snow Derby

The Cadet Snow Derby is scheduled for Saturday, **December 28**, at Oak Grove, by Hawarden. Please meet at Faith CRC by 8:45 AM, and we should be back at 1:30-2:00 PM. Any questions can be sent to Joe Eggebeen at joebeen@gmail.com.

### Covenant Sunday Morning

You are invited to a new Covenant Sunday Morning study beginning on **January 5**. We will be using N.T. Wright's book, *Acts for Everyone*, which focuses on the first 12 chapters of Acts. Wright's knowledge and insights help us to understand the book of Acts in a deeper and richer way, reminding us of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and the part we play in advancing the Kingdom of God. If you would like Sara to order a book for you, please contact the church office by Monday morning, **December 23**.

## January Series

Coming this January, Calvin University presents the 2020 January Series – the award winning series of 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series runs weekdays from **January 8-28**, and will be livestreamed here at Covenant from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Topics include poverty and hunger, immigration, mass incarceration, religious freedom, the ethics of big data and so much more, by top experts in their fields. We invite you to come and invite friends to these events! For more information about the speakers, topics, remote sites, and listening options, visit [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january).

## Service, Participation, and Skills Questionnaire

The deacons have put together a Service, Participation, and Skills Questionnaire. Those of you who didn't fill one out at the lasagna supper will find one in your mailbox. There are extras on the back table in case you were missed or if you want to make changes to your questionnaire. Please fill it out and place it in the box on the table. We will use the information as a resource when opportunities and needs arise. If you have a child interested in any of the items listed, he/she can respond on a parent's questionnaire.

## Safe Church Volunteers

Please consider becoming a Safe Church volunteer during our Sunday morning worship services. Volunteers will be responsible for locking and unlocking doors, monitoring our main entrance, and welcoming latecomers to our worship service. Volunteers will be put on a rotating schedule and will be trained for their responsibilities. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Rebecca De Smith or your pastoral elder.

## Thank You!

The SAM (Service And Missions) committee would like to thank the congregation for your support of the Mid-Sioux gift basket project and the support of Siouxland Unity CRC through your egg roll orders!

## NAMI

The NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Support Group will meet in the Fireside Room of Central Reformed Church in Sioux Center from 7 to 9 PM on Tuesday, **January 7**. Jeanne Kleinhesselink and Hannah Buteyn of Sioux Center Health will discuss EMDR and Medication Management. Individuals and family members living with mental illness are welcome. For information, call Shirley Matheis (722-4462).

## Valley Male Chorus

Men who love to sing and have a passion for the work of Hope Haven, please consider joining the Valley Male Chorus. Rehearsals will begin **January 5**, at 2:00 PM at the First CRC in Sioux Center. For more information, contact Ron Boote (712-441-5225 or [rjboote@premieronline.net](mailto:rjboote@premieronline.net)).

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

	TODAY	CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25	NEXT SUNDAY, December 29
Greeters	AM: George F, Cal J, Jeff T		
Ushers	AM: Wil A, Mark C, Kurt V		
Coffee	Alejandro C, Chris G, Sarah H, Joan MC, Dennis VP, John V		
Subs	Jo A, Rob H, Andy L, Rockne MC, Marcia W, John Z		
Sound/Projection	Nick B + Dane H	Jeff P + Mark H	Andy L + Michael VP
Nursery Dec. POM: Wyenbergs	AM: Nick & Jenni B, Laremy & Rebecca DV PM: Andy & Rachel L, Tricia K	AM: Doug & Marge DB, Bob & Rebecca DS	AM: Mark & Lisa C, Alejandro & Isabel C

### GREETERS, PLEASE EMAIL:

Kelly & April Crull <a href="mailto:crulls@caimail.net">crulls@caimail.net</a>	Ariel & Carlye Gomes <a href="mailto:carlyerenee@gmail.com">carlyerenee@gmail.com</a>	Dan & Jeananne Kuiper <a href="mailto:djkuip@aol.com">djkuip@aol.com</a>	Sos & Kara Maletoungou <a href="mailto:smaletoungou@crca.org">smaletoungou@crca.org</a>	Mike & Megan Ribbens <a href="mailto:mribbens@gmail.com">mribbens@gmail.com</a>	Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk <a href="mailto:tvandyk@crnapartners.org">tvandyk@crnapartners.org</a>
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## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Today</b>	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship Formation Sunday Evening: Blue Christmas Service
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship Service
<b>Saturday</b>	8:45 AM	Cadet Snow Derby (meet at Faith CRC)
<b>Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM	Morning Worship