

SUNDAY, May 16, 2021

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Services Online

Click [here](#) to go to Covenant's Facebook page (or copy this link and paste it into your browser: <https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-CRC-520064914738965/>). Then click on the "Videos" section and watch for the live video to show shortly before 10:00 AM. You can also watch a recorded version of the service after it is over (please note that there may be some dead space at the beginning of the video before worship begins).

Sunday Morning Worship

This Sunday, **May 16**, we continue to celebrate Christ's resurrection as we gather in our building for worship with Pastoral Groups 3 (DeSmith/Feikema), 4 (Brue/Vos), and 6 (Rhoda/Sybesma) welcome in the sanctuary and the rest worshipping online via Facebook Live. For those worshipping in the building, we highly encourage you to wear a mask, especially if you plan to sing. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#). We celebrate Ascension Day today and rejoice that our Savior is on his throne in heaven. Pastor Joel will be preaching on the [lectionary](#) passages from the book of Acts once again as we look forward to Pentecost.

Faith Formation Sunday Evening

During this month, we will gather at 6:00 PM for a service of evening prayer, also known as Vespers. Similar to our Lenten Thursday night Compline, these services will use prayers and litanies from the *Book of Common Prayer* and give us space and time for thanksgiving and praise, silence and meditation on scripture. Services will last between 45 minutes and an hour and include a brief meditation from Pastor Joel.

Welcoming Guests to Covenant

While we are limiting in-building worship to three pastoral groups at this time, we wanted to remind you that you are always welcome to invite guests and those looking for a church home to visit Covenant on any Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee After Morning Worship

We hope to serve coffee and juice outside after our morning worship service each week as weather permits. We hope you'll head outside to fellowship with your church family.

From the Council:

This Sunday during our morning worship service, we will install the three Elders (Duane Bajema, Jeri Schelhaas, Trena Van Wyk) and two Deacons (Ruth Clark, Dane Hibma) who were drawn last week and will serve on Council for the next three years. Thank you to each of them for their willingness to serve.

Church Education Schedule

This Sunday, **May 16**, is the last day of Sunday School and Catechism for this school year. Thanks to all the teachers who have served our youth this year and thanks to the students for showing up and learning!

Want to Play Ball?

Are you interested in playing slow pitch softball this summer on Thursday nights? If so, give Mark Horstman a call or email (Cell 712-441-4568 or mchorst@mtcnet.net).

Opportunity to Serve

Covenant is in need of some more volunteers to lock, unlock, and monitor doors during our morning worship services. You would be trained for this task, be paired with another volunteer, and help in making our church a safe and welcoming place to worship. If you are interested and willing to volunteer, please contact Rebecca De Smith.

A Giving Opportunity:

In response to our community's need, we are collecting items for Mid-Sioux and the Hope Food Pantry. During the month of **May**, we are encouraging Covenant's members to donate boxed, bagged, and packaged products (rice, potatoes, Hamburger Helper, taco seasoning, etc.). Bring them to church anytime during the month and please place the items in the basket in the NE entry or in one of the baskets in church. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!

At-Home Faith Formation Tip

The Practice of Prayer: In *Whistling in the Dark*, Frederick Buechner writes, "Thy kingdom come . . . on earth' is what we are saying. . . . To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze." What are we asking when we pray for God's kingdom to come on earth? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

A Biblical Approach to Immigration

Immigration issues are once again in the headlines. While immigration is certainly a political issue, it is also a biblical issue with important missional ramifications for the church in the United States. Join author and Evangelical Immigration Table national coordinator Matthew Soerens for this conversation on how biblical principles can inform our response as Christians to immigration issues and, more importantly, to refugees and immigrants themselves. Anyone interested in learning more about faith and immigration is welcome to this free event on **June 23**, 7:00-8:30 PM, in the DeWitt Learning Commons Vogel Room at Northwestern College. Please go to this site to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/who-is-my-neighbor-a-christian-response-to-immigration-tickets-152363813267> Questions? Contact Jason Lief at jlief@bbbimmigration.org.

Rocky Railway VBS

Rocky Railway VBS is coming to Bethel CRC **July 19-22!** We need lots of helpers for VBS! If you would like to help with VBS, please sign up online at www.bethelisc.org. You can also find the link on Bethel's Facebook page. There are several opportunities to help with VBS and there are descriptions provided for each job. Registration for children to attend VBS will open **May 19**. If you have any questions, contact Shawn Meyers at vbs@bethelisc.org.

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the Faith CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastor Bob Pollema and Cliff Hoekstra.

Offerings for May

16	Missions Fund	30	World Renew Disaster Response: India Covid-19 Crisis
23	Compassion/Tuition Assistance Fund		

Last week's offering	General Fund	\$1,725.00	Special Offerings	\$1,850.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$2,705.05		

Online Giving

To give online, click [here](#) to access the online giving page. You can also continue to give by mailing a check to church, paying via online bill pay at your bank, or by ACH Bank Transfer. All checks will be used as needed unless designated. Contact your deacon with any questions.

Helpful Links:

- The Bulletin Announcements and a link to Sunday's bulletin and liturgy are posted [here](#).
- The Community Activities (Blue) Sheet is posted [here](#).
- Sermon recordings are posted [here](#).
- Mission & Ministry News: Prayer requests from ReFrame Ministries (formerly Back to God Ministries International) are [here](#) and updates and requests for prayer from World Renew can be read [here](#).

Encouraging our Missionaries

Got a minute? Send one of our missionaries a note of encouragement by email!

Kelly & April Crull
crulls@caimail.net

Gianni & Georgina Gracia
giannigracia@yahoo.com

Sos & Kara Maletoungou
smaletoungou@crcna.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
tvandyk@crcnapartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Meghan Vos, John-Patrick McCarthy, Zoey Eggebeen, Rowan Haan, Jean Maletoungou

Happy Anniversary this Week

Ethan & Donna Brue, Mark & Barb Tazelaar, Bernie & Kathy DeWit

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 16th	9:00 AM	Sunday School & Catechism (grades 1-12)
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 3,4,6 present (and via Facebook Live)
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
Monday	7:00 PM	Full Council Meeting
Thursday	8:00 PM	Colossian Forum
Sunday, 23rd	9:00 AM	Pre-Worship Dialogue
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship: all welcome (and via Facebook Live)
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
