

SUNDAY, December 5, 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.

Sunday Morning Worship

This Sunday, **December 5**, is the second Sunday of Advent, a season of waiting and hoping for our coming Messiah. Pastor Joel will be preaching from the Lectionary during this season and we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper each Sunday. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Faith Formation Sunday Evening

Tonight we invite you to gather at 6:00 for a Blue Christmas Service. This service of song, prayer, scripture, and meditation will come at the beginning of the Christmas season this year as we make adjustments to our evening schedule in order to host a Christmas concert on the 19th. We know that for a variety of reasons – grief, stress, loss, conflict – the Christmas season isn't always filled with joy. We acknowledge that sadness early this year knowing that our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace longs to draw near to us throughout all the busyness or loneliness, joy or sorrow. The service will include an opportunity to light a candle as an act of remembrance or healing.

Faith Formation Sunday Evening Next Week: Blue Christmas Service

Next Sunday evening, **December 12**, our children will lead us in a time of worship with bell ringing and carols and a Readers Theatre/acted out version of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. We encourage you to come early for the prelude which will be offered by our children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Rehearsal Schedule

The kids in grades 1-8 will practice during the Sunday School hour on **December 5 & 12**. Contact Jeri Schelhaas with any questions!

Calling All Kid Musicians!

Would you like to play a song on the piano or another instrument for the prelude next Sunday evening before the Christmas Program? Contact Rebecca DeVries if you'd like to play! (rebecca.ann.devries@gmail.com)

Bell Ringing

Kids in Children in Worship through 2nd grade will once again play the bells at the Christmas program. We will practice on **December 12** right after the morning service.

Christmas Program Costume Needs

We would love to borrow 8 child/small adult bathrobes for the Sunday School Christmas program. Do you have one we could use? Contact Rose Postma if you can help! (rose.postma@yahoo.com or 605-988-7931)

Baby Shower

We have a baby shower coming up for Oliver Moss on Sunday, **December 12** after our morning service (which will include his baptism)! If you'd like to contribute money to a gift card, please bring money to the church office (with your name so we can include you in the card) or to Len or Lee Rhoda by Thursday, **December 9**. You can find more information in the [Courier](#).

Piano/Cello Concert

Pianist Dr. Thomas Van Soelen and cellist Meghan McGuire will perform together at 6:00 PM on **December 19** at Covenant. The concert will feature music from a variety of traditions, including special arrangements of Christmas carols. McGuire and Van Soelen have been partnering in concerts since 2013, mostly in Atlanta, Georgia. McGuire's move to Minneapolis, MN prompted a change in venue and we are excited to host them here! The concert is free and open to the public and will feature a freewill offering supporting The Family Crisis Center. You can read more about this in the [December Courier](#)!

Dordt Music Events:

All events will be held in the B.J. Haan Auditorium and will be available on livestream at www.dordt.edu/livestream.

- The Dordt University Chorale will present "A Service of Lessons and Carols" on Sunday, **December 5** at 8:00 PM. Come and worship with the Chorale as they celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through song. Lessons from Scripture will alternate with performed anthems and congregational carol singing. The Chorale will be joined by Theatre, Communications, and Music faculty members and an array of accompanying instruments: piano, organ, brass quintet, harp, and percussion.
- The Dordt University Bands will present their final concert of the semester on Tuesday, **December 7** at 7:30 PM. This concert will feature the Campus-Community Band, the Wind Symphony, and the inaugural performance of the Dordt University Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Dordt Applied Percussion Instructor, Mr. Andy Baldwin. Guest conductors Dr. Stephen Gage and Dr. Allegra Fisher will join Dr. Rose in conducting the ensembles.
- The Dordt University Music Department will present a 4th Avenue Jazz and Orchestra concert on Friday, **December 10** at 7:30 PM. Featured on the concert will be the 4th Avenue Singers, 4th Avenue Band, and Chamber Orchestra. Come for a relaxed evening of jazzy Christmas songs and carols, big band standards, orchestral compositions, and a variety of collaborations between singers and instruments.

NAMI Support Group

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, **December 7**. Video: "My Experience with Schizophrenia/Schizoaffective Disorder." Individuals and family members affected by mental illness are welcome. For information call Shirley Matheis (722-4462).

Organ Christmas Hymn Festivals

Isabel Munson, a sophomore organ performance major studying at Dordt University, will be presenting a Christmas themed hymn festival at First CRC in Sioux Center on Wednesday, **December 8**, at 7:00 PM. A freewill offering will be taken, with proceeds going towards Isabel's education. Come for an enjoyable time of carol singing and Christmas organ music.

Come Sing with Us!

The Sioux County Oratorio Chorus is ready to get back to singing, and we would love to have you join us. In January, rehearsals will begin for Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, for a performance on Saturday, **April 30, 2022** in Christ Chapel at Northwestern College. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 PM at Northwestern, beginning **January 11**. We encourage singers to be fully vaccinated or masked to minimize risk to all participants. Please contact Mike Ochsner mkchsnr@gmail.com with any questions. We look forward to making music with you in the new year!

Give Hope this Advent with World Renew

World Renew's 2021-2022 Gift Catalog helps people, families, and communities experience more of the hope that God intends for them. Find a transformational gift that helps a family in need. Copies of the gift catalog are on the welcome table, or you can give at worldrenew.net/gifts.

At-Home Faith Formation Tip

The Practice of Hospitality: Read Genesis 18:1-8 and ponder or discuss the following questions: This passage is the first reference in the Bible to someone opening their home to others. How do Abraham's actions set the tone for hospitality? What adjectives might you use to describe his welcome of the three strangers? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices.)

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the Amistad Cristiana congregation and the ministry of Pastor Eddie Olguin.

Offerings for December

5	General Fund	12	Christian Education Fund
19	Missions Fund	26	Tuition Assistance/Compassion Fund

Last week's offering	General Fund	\$650.00	World Renew	\$330.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$611.94		

Online Giving

To give online, click [here](#). You can also 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](#).
- Mission & Ministry News: Read the latest newsletter from the Groenewold-Van Dyks [here](#) and from the Ribbens [here](#). Prayer requests from ReFrame Ministries are [here](#).

Sunday Servant Scheduling:

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

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY, December 12
Greeters	AM: Laremy DV, Cheri H, Val Z	
Ushers	AM: Jan B, Lee M, Jeff T	
Coffee	Isabel C, Sally J, Mark MC, Rog VH	
Subs	Mark C, Rob H, Rachel L, Don TN, Del VZ, Channon V	
Sound/Projection	Eric R ♦ Dane H	Dennis DJ ♦ Tom C
Nursery Dec. POM: Janssens	AM: Mark & Cheri H, Ethan & Donna B	AM: Ryan & Val Z, Luke & Sarah H

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

Canaan Hawley, Nico Ribbens, Elia Eppinga, Jason Wyenberg, Lucas Stiemsma, Ryan DeKruyf

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 5th	9:00 AM	Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	9:00 AM	Christmas Program Rehearsal (grades 1-8)
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Blue Christmas Service
	7:30 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study
Wednesday	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
	7:15 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
Sunday, 12th	9:00 AM	Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	9:00 AM	Christmas Program Rehearsal (grades 1-8)
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Sunday School Christmas Program
	7:30 PM	ETM Christmas Party (at First CRC)