

SUNDAY, December 12, 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 12**, is the third 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. This Sunday we also have the privilege of witnessing the baptism of Oliver Timothy Moss, son of Micah and Sarah. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Faith Formation Sunday Evening

This 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

Bell Ringing

Kids in Children in Worship through 2nd grade will be playing the bells at the Christmas program. We will practice today, **December 12**, right after the morning service.

Baby Shower

We have a baby shower coming up for Oliver Moss **today** after our morning service (which will include his baptism)! We invite you to take a few moments to greet Micah, Sarah, and little Oliver. Gifts can be left on the table in the fellowship hall.

Lasagna Dinner & Congregational Meeting

Join us on Monday, **December 13**, for an evening of church fellowship and business. We invite you to come at 6:00 PM and let the youth group feed your family! They've worked hard on food preparation already and will be serving lasagna, salad, and garlic bread for a freewill donation (proceeds going to the Christian Education Fund). And then stay for our annual Congregational Meeting at 7:00 PM. We will have an opportunity to discuss and vote on the 2022 budget (copies are on the table in the fellowship hall) and hear other updates from the Council.

GEMS Christmas Party

GEMS will have their Christmas party on Wednesday, **December 15!** The 4th-7th grades will gather from 6:45-8:45 at the All Seasons Center. The 8th grade will still meet at Covenant from 7-8:45.

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!](#)

Christmas Song Sing

Let's get together for a time of singing Christmas songs! Join us on Monday, **December 20** at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall and we will sing, snack, and sip. So please bring 6 Christmas goodies to share. Drinks will be provided.

The Auction Is Coming!

The Auction at Covenant is coming (to raise funds for the Christian Education Fund) on Friday, **February 25** at 6:30 PM. Now is the time to start brainstorming – is there something you can offer? Could you host an event? Do you have items to donate? Maybe you're looking for a project to work on or recipe to perfect over these cold upcoming weeks! Mark your calendars, and we will get a sign-up sheet out after the new year. -Thanks, Christian Education Committee

From the Deacons:

Thank you for your generous giving with the Peter Fish and Thanksgiving offerings! The Peter Fish contained \$346.81 in change which was sent to World Renew to fight world hunger along with donations collected through the offering boxes. Please share with your children how giving even a little bit adds up to a lot when we work together! Also, Thanksgiving offerings surpassed \$9000! Many of these donations were used to help ministries not included in our regular offerings. We are thankful for such a generous congregation!

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.

Traveling Nativity

The Senior High Youth Group of Maurice Reformed Church would like to invite you to their Traveling Nativity event held on **December 18 & 19** in Maurice from 5:30-8:30 PM. A horse drawn wagon will lead you down a lit path to events leading to the birth of Christ. Enjoy refreshments in the church's Family Life Center before or after you ride. Freewill donations will go toward the Senior High Youth Group's summer mission trip to Puerto Rico.

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!

Justice For All Utah Bus Tour

Justice For All is planning a Utah Bus Tour, focusing on our ministry partners Great Commission Utah and Grace Reigns. The dates are **April 5-11, 2022**. Join us, learn, and see how God is using these amazing ministries to share His love and grace to those within the FDLS communities in Utah. We will be spending time in Salt Lake City and Hildale, UT/Colorado City, AZ. We will also enjoy some of the amazing beauty of God's creation in UT. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Pat Vander Pol at JFA (patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org, 712-476-2804).

At-Home Faith Formation Tip

The Practice of Hospitality: Read Leviticus 19:33-34 and ponder or discuss the following questions. Leviticus 19 is full of commands for how to be holy. One of those commands is to love strangers (in this case people who are from other lands) as you love yourself. How do you live out this command? What are some ways that you, your family, your church, your wider community, and your nation could love people from other lands as yourself? (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 Bethel CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastor John Lee.

Offerings for December

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

Last week's offering	General Fund	\$6,319.00	Missions Fund	\$75.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$3,430.00	Building Fund	\$250.00

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](#).

Sunday Servant Scheduling:

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

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY, December 19
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	Dennis DJ ♦ Tom C	Doug DB ♦ Jason W
Nursery Dec. POM: Janssens	AM: Ryan & Val Z, Luke & Sarah H	AM: Rob & Megan H, Ron & Carol O

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 Maletougou
smaletougou@crcna.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
tvandyk@crcnapartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Megan Ribbens, Kathy DeWit, Nico DeVries, Lily Wyenberg

Happy Anniversary this Week

Shaun & Sarah Stiemsma, Kelly & April Crull

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 12th	9:00 AM	Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	9:00 AM	Christmas Program Rehearsal (grades 1-8)
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	11:15 AM	Bell Choir Practice (children in worship, 1 st & 2 nd graders)
	11:15 AM	Oliver Moss Baby Shower
	6:00 PM	Sunday School Christmas Program
	7:30 PM	ETM Christmas Party (at First CRC)
Monday	6:00 PM	Lasagna Dinner
	7:00 PM	Congregational Meeting
	8:15 PM	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
	6:45 PM	4 th -7 th Grade GEMS Christmas Party (at All Seasons Center)
	7:00 PM	8 th Grade GEMS Christmas Party (at Covenant)
	7:15 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
Sunday, 19th	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Cello/Piano Concert
	7:30 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study