

**SUNDAY, December 4, 2022**

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## **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**

Today is the second Sunday of Advent and the lighting of the Advent candles each week helps us see the growing expectation we have for the coming Christ, the light of the world. Today we light a candle remembering the *love* of our coming Savior. Pastor Joel will preach on the Isaiah lectionary passage. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

### **Sunday Evening Vespers**

This Sunday, **December 4**, we will gather at 6:00 PM for a service of evening prayer, also known as Vespers. These services 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 last between 45 minutes and an hour.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Photos for Advent**

Almost all of us have access to a good camera in our phones these days. Well, the Advent worship planners invite you to participate in a photo project for the four Sundays of Advent. Each Sunday has a different theme – Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. We want to know what those words look like to you. What does Hope look like? How about Love? Can you capture Joy in a photo? Or maybe Peace? We want you to go about your days looking for Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. The pictures can be of anything; we hope you'll get creative! The plan is to project the images during our worship services. All you have to do is snap some pictures and text or email them to Rebecca De Vries (712-578-9475 / [rebecca.ann.devries@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.ann.devries@gmail.com)). You can send them as soon as you take them, but here are the deadlines:

- Joy: **December 8**
- Peace: **December 15**

Would you rather show us with words what hope, love, joy, and peace look like to you? Tell us in one sentence and we'll share that too. And feel free to add your words to the bulletin board in the fellowship hall! Thanks for helping!

### **Women's Book Study**

Ladies of Covenant are invited to join a book study on Thursday, **December 8** at 9:00 AM in the council room. We are on chapter 2 of *In the Grip of Grace* by Max Lucado. Bring along a mug of coffee and enjoy the study with us.

### **Mid-Sioux Holiday Gift Program**

Covenant is participating in the Mid-Sioux Holiday Gift Program this year. There are tags on the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall and each tag specifies gift suggestions made by a Mid-Sioux client who is identified by a letter and number on the tag. Feel free to take multiple tags or share a tag with a few families. Please attach the tag to the wrapped gift and place it under the Christmas tree by **December 8!**

### **Children's Christmas Program**

The kids will be leading us in a Sunday School program telling the Christmas story through scripture and pictures on **December 11** at 6:00 PM. They'll be practicing during the regular Sunday School time, 9:00 AM, on **December 4 & 11**. And if your child wants to share their musical gifts as part of the prelude, contact Ruth Clark ([tomandruth@gmail.com](mailto:tomandruth@gmail.com))!

### **Lasagna Dinner and Congregational Meeting**

Our annual congregational meeting is coming up on Monday, **December 12** at 7:00 PM. Budget information along with some notes of explanation were sent out by email, and extra copies are on the table in the fellowship hall. We invite all members to review this and plan to attend! The youth group will be serving lasagna at 6:00 PM so plan to come and eat!

### **Fruited Plain Pizza BOGO Cards**

Have you bought your Fruited Plain BOGO cards yet? Don't miss this great opportunity to raise funds for our Christian Education Fund and get a great deal on a pizza night or a gift for someone on your Christmas list! Each card costs \$30 and gets you 5 punches to buy one pizza and get one free – and the best part is that \$10 comes back to support our kids. We're extending sales through December! Cards can be purchased at The Fruited Plain, the SCCS main office, and at church after morning worship.

### **Piano/Cello Concert**

Covenant is once again hosting a concert by pianist Dr. Thomas Van Soelen and cellist Meghan McGuire on Saturday, **December 17** at 2:00 PM. 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. 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](#) (on page 8)!

### **Don't Forget to Order Your Egg Rolls!**

Siouxland Unity CRC in Sioux City is again taking orders for their homemade egg rolls. Order by Friday, **December 9** for pick-up in the Faith CRC kitchen at 10:00 AM on Saturday, **December 17**. The egg rolls are \$15/dozen; \$5 for a bottle of sweet chili sauce. Order by contacting Henry Kraayenbrink (712.540.8617 or [svvinc@mtcnet.net](mailto:svvinc@mtcnet.net)).

### **Dordt Music Events**

All concerts are in the B.J. Haan Auditorium at 7:30 PM and will be livestreamed (<https://www.dordt.edu/livestream>).

- On Friday, **December 9**, the Dordt University Chorale, Canons of Dordt, Bella Voce, and Concert Choir will present a program of sounds of the season from around the world. The program will feature familiar and not-so-familiar sacred texts and tunes from Handel and Mendelssohn to currently living composers, as well as popular favorites and even a song entitled "Fruitcake." Please join us for a delightful evening of music as we celebrate the coming Messiah!
- Join us for a concert by the Dordt Instrumental Ensembles on Saturday, **December 10**. This concert will feature the music of Mozart, Kalinikov, Ticheli, and more! The Wind Symphony will bring the sounds of jazz to the B.J. Haan with Frank Ticheli's "Blue Shades," featuring a solo performed by freshman clarinetist Courtney Joiner. The Wind Symphony

will welcome the Canons of Dordt as they feature the male vocal ensemble in Clifton Williams's "The Ramparts." In addition, the Chamber Orchestra will perform Mozart's *Symphony No. 40*, and the Campus-Community Band will bring the sounds of the Christmas season to their portion of the performance. We invite all attendees to join us in a Christmas Sing-along to close our concert!

- On Friday, **December 16**, Dordt University's 4th Avenue Singers will present a concert in conjunction with the 4th Avenue Band, presenting some selections from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and old favorites such as *White Christmas* and local composer Amy Linder's jazzy setting of "Deck the Halls". Join us for a fun evening of music!

#### Announcements from JFA

- Justice for All is having a meeting with information about Service & Learning Trips at the Justice for All Ministry Center (1335 Valley Drive, Rock Valley) on Tuesday, **January 10, 2023**, at 6:30 PM. There will be light refreshments available. Please contact Nick at Justice for All with questions (712.476.2804). We hope you'll consider going on a trip this year to work alongside others in a different community.
- Justice For All is planning a Kentucky Bus Tour, focusing on our 4 major ministry partners: Grace Covenant Ministries (Annville, KY); Helping Hands (Hyden, KY), Appalachia Reach Out (Inez, KY); and Appalachian Mission of Hope (Berea, KY). The dates are **April 12-18, 2023**. Join us, learn, and see how God is using beautiful ministries to share his love and hope to those who live in very poor communities throughout Kentucky. We'll be exploring the rich history, culture, and stories of the mountain 'hollers', coal, and horses! And God's amazing creation will also be on display! If you are interested or want information, please contact Pat Vander Pol at JFA ([patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org](mailto:patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org), 712.476.2804).

#### Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip

During Advent, we light the candle of Love. Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection were all characterized by love. In return, we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." Consider how your family or household might do those things more fully in the coming year.

#### Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Netherlands Reformed congregation.

**Last week's offering**                      General Fund                      \$3,908.00                      Christian Education Fund                      \$2,052.00

#### Giving at Covenant

There are a variety of ways to give at Covenant! To give online, click [here](#). You can also give by leaving your offering in the boxes located at the entrances, mailing a check to church, paying via online bill pay at your bank, or by ACH Bank Transfer. Just a reminder, all cash/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: A newsletter from the Crulls is [here](#) and the Groenewold-Van Dyks' latest newsletter is [here](#). The Maletoungous' latest newsletter is [here](#) and a newsletter from the Ribbens is [here](#). ReFrame Ministry's December prayer requests 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 11
Greeters	AM: Tom C, Rob H, Lila S	
Ushers	AM: Joan MC, Kris VP, Kurt V	
Coffee	Alejandro C, Terry F, Lee R, Jason W	
Subs	Lisa C, Ruth Clo, Marge DB, Rin G, Mark H, Joni V	
Sound/Projection	Andy L ♦ Tom C	Doug DB ♦ Jason W/Rebecca DV
Nursery	AM: James & Courtney R, Andy & Rachel L	AM: Alejandro & Isabel C, Tricia K

#### Encouraging our Missionaries

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

Kelly & April Crull  
[crulls@caimail.net](mailto:crulls@caimail.net)

Gianni & Georgina Gracia  
[giannigracia@yahoo.com](mailto:giannigracia@yahoo.com)

Sos & Kara Maletoungou  
[smaletoungou@crcna.org](mailto:smaletoungou@crcna.org)

Mike & Megan Ribbens  
[mribbens@gmail.com](mailto:mribbens@gmail.com)

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk  
[tvandyk@crcnapartners.org](mailto:tvandyk@crcnapartners.org)

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY



#### Happy Birthday this Week

*Bernie DeWit, Canaan Hawley, Nico Ribbens, Elia Eppinga, Jason Wyenberg, Lucas Stiemsma*

### THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School Program Practice (basement)
	9:00 AM	Catechism, & Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study
<b>Monday</b>	6:45 PM	Deacons Meeting
	7:30 PM	Full Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00 AM	Women's Book Study
<b>Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School Program Practice (in sanctuary)
	9:00 AM	Catechism, & Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	5:00 PM	Practice for Kids Participating in the Prelude
	6:00 PM	Sunday School Christmas Program