

SUNDAY, December 11, 2022

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 third 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 *joy* we have in the coming Savior. Pastor Joel will preach on the Isaiah lectionary passage. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Children's Christmas Program

This evening, **December 11**, at 6:00 PM, the kids will be leading us in a Sunday School program telling the Christmas story through scripture and pictures. Thanks to the kids for leading us in worship!

Blue Christmas Candlelight Vespers

On **December 18** we invite you to gather at 6:00 PM for our Blue Christmas Candlelight Vespers. This service will give us time and space to together acknowledge the sadness some may be feeling during the Christmas season. Together, through prayer and candlelighting we will remember and acknowledge the sadness, sorrow, grief, and pain, and we will remember that the "people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College Students:

How is it exam week already? We wish you all the best as you study and complete projects and papers. Please stop by the table in the back of church for a bag of treats to take with you into the week. We're so glad you've chosen to worship with us and wish you a Merry Christmas and a restful break.

Lasagna Dinner and Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting is coming up on Monday, **December 12** at 7:00 PM. Budget information with some notes of explanation and a meeting agenda 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! The meal is freewill donation and will be raising funds for the Youth Group.

Photos for Advent

Last opportunity! The Advent worship planners have invited you to participate in a photo project for the four Sundays of Advent capturing each of the different themes – Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. We're approaching the last week, so this week, what does *peace* look like to you? The pictures can be of anything; we hope you'll get creative! Snap some pictures and text or email them to Rebecca De Vries by **December 15** (712-578-9475 / rebecca.ann.devries@gmail.com). And feel free to add your words about each of these to the bulletin board in the fellowship hall! Thanks for helping!

Cadet Snow Derby Practice

Cadet Snow Derby Practice will be Saturday, **December 17** from 2-4 PM at Faith CRC. If your son is planning on going to the snow derby, this will be their chance to learn what the different stations are for. Please have them dressed for the weather, we will be outside for some of what we practice. If you have questions, please contact Jeff De Boer (fbcadets@gmail.com or 712-441-6249).

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)!

Fruited Plain Pizza BOGO Cards

Get your Fruited Plain BOGO cards! It's a 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.

January Series

We're looking for someone interested in coordinating the January Series livestream at Covenant. Have you enjoyed having these lectures here at Covenant and want to help keep it going? Contact the church office! (covenant@mtcnet.net)

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip

During Advent, we light the candle of Joy. Joy is not a fleeting happiness, but an attitude of the heart that springs from gratitude. What brings you joy? How might you spread joy to others? Wonder and talk about that this week.

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the New Life Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastors Bobby Van Otterloo and Dan Kruse.

Last week's offering General Fund \$6,599.50 Christian Education Fund \$3,375.57

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 18 |
|------------------|---|--|
| 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 | Doug DB ♦ Jason W/Rebecca DV | Jeff P ♦ Terry F |
| Nursery | AM: Alejandro & Isabel C, Tricia K | AM: Laremy & Rebecca DV, Daryl & Deb 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@crncpartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Ryan DeKruyf, Megan Ribbens, Kathy DeWit, Nico DeVries, Lily Wyenberg

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

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|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Sunday, 11th | 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM | Catechism, Sunday School Program Practice (sanctuary) Morning Worship Sunday School Christmas Program |
| Monday | 6:00 PM 7:00 PM | Lasagna Supper Congregational Meeting |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM 10:00 AM 6:50 PM 7:00 PM | Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery) Prayer Group Cadets (at Faith CRC) GEMS |
| Saturday | 2:00 PM 2:00 PM | Van Soelen/McGuire Piano/Cello Concert Cadet Snow Derby Practice (at Faith CRC) |
| Sunday, 18th | 10:00 AM 6:00 PM | Morning Worship Blue Christmas Candlelight Vespers |
