

**SUNDAY, December 18, 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 fourth 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 *peace* 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](#).

### **Blue Christmas Candlelight Vespers**

Today, **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."

### **Upcoming Worship Schedule**

Join us on Sunday, **December 25** at 10:00 AM for our Christmas morning worship! We will not have Sunday evening services on **December 25** or **January 1**.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **January Courier**

Do you have something to include in the next Courier? Email the office ([covenant@mtcnet.net](mailto:covenant@mtcnet.net)) by Monday, **December 19!**

### **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](mailto:covenant@mtcnet.net))

### **Covenant Turns 50!**

Covenant is preparing to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2023 and 2024, and everyone is invited to be part of the celebration of God's grace and faithfulness to Covenant. We encourage members to offer suggestions of how they would be willing to be a part of the activities. We cannot guarantee that all offers and suggestions will be used, but we want to be open to hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit via the members of Covenant as we move forward. Please share your thoughts and ideas with Duane Bajema.

### **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.

### **Rescheduled Concerts/Programs**

Unity's Christmas concert is rescheduled for Monday, **December 19** at 7:00 PM. Sioux Center Christian School's TK-4th grade Christmas program has been rescheduled for this Tuesday, **December 20** at 6:00pm at the BJ Haan Auditorium.

### **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 Peace. Through Jesus Christ, God gives us peace. In what area of your life do you most need God's peace? How might you be a peacemaker this week? Wonder and talk about that this week.

### Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Peace Lutheran congregation and the ministry of Pastors Bill Loeffke.

**Last week's offering**                      General Fund                      \$4,324.00                      Christian Education Fund                      \$2,050.00

### 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 25
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	Jeff P ♦ Terry F	Doug DB ♦ Rebecca DV
Nursery	AM: Laremy & Rebecca DV, Daryl & Deb H	AM: John & Linda V, Ross & Lisa F

### 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

*Ruth Clark, Amelia Lappenga, Shirley Matheis*

### Happy Anniversary this Week

*Kelly & April Crull, Shaun & Sarah Stiemsma, Pastor Gianni & Georgina Gracia, Ryan & Val Zonnefeld*

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Morning Worship Blue Christmas Candlelight Vespers
<b>Monday</b>	6:45 PM 7:30 PM	Elders Meeting Full Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Prayer Group Youth Group
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00 AM	Women's Book Study
<b>Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM	Christmas Morning Worship