

SUNDAY, January 8, 2023

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, **January 8**, is the first Sunday after the Epiphany and a day when we also remember the baptism of Jesus, a moment when Christ's divine sonship was announced in a dramatic way and we were given a picture of the Trinity. Pastor Joel is taking some time off, so Dr. David Westfall will be preaching this morning. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Epiphany Vespers

This Sunday evening, with the aid of a few lesser-known carols, with reflections from Erin Eggebeen and Jim Schaap, and with the Word of God from Matthew 2, we will lament the darkness present at the time of Christ's birth, darkness and sadness that still remains. Carols like the "Coventry Carol," "O Holy Night," and the "Huron Carol" not only celebrate the birth of our Redeemer, but also nudge us to think deeply about ourselves and about our history. As this is also the first Sunday after the Epiphany, we will end by celebrating the light of Christ revealed to all people. Interested in being part of an impromptu choir to lead a few carols? Come to church at 4:45 for a run-through.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Sunday School Coordinator

Starting in January, I am taking over the role of Sunday School Coordinator. I am excited to start serving in this role and to walk alongside our Sunday school teachers as we start the second half of our Sunday school year. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email or call. Thank you to Ruth for leading Sunday school during her time as coordinator. Sunday school will be in session again starting today, **January 8**. - *Megan Haan, Sunday School Coordinator*

January Series

The January Series of Calvin University is again coming to Covenant! From **January 9-27**, we will broadcast one of the nation's leading lecture and cultural arts series each weekday from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. It is free and open to the public. For a full list of speakers and topics, visit calvin.edu/january-series. Contact covenant@mtcnet.net with questions.

Women's Book Study

The women's book study will continue their study of "In the Grip of Grace" on **January 12** (chapter 3) & **26** (chapter 4), and **February 9** (chapter 5) & **23** (chapter 6). They meet at church at 9:00 AM.

Breaking Bread

On Thursday, **January 19**, members of Covenant and members of Good Shepherd will gather to share a meal in a way that expresses the "breaking of bread" practice we encounter in Acts 2:42. We can begin the gathering at 5:30 PM, with the soup, salad, and bread meal beginning at 6 PM. The purpose of this gathering will be to encourage connections within and beyond our congregations. We hope it will lead to all kinds of expressions of the practices in Acts 2:42. If you have thoughts or questions, please get in touch with Pastor Joel. We would love to know how many will be eating that evening so we know how much food to prepare, so please sign up at the table in the fellowship hall or email the church office if you're coming.

Escape Room!

Another Christian Education fundraiser opportunity is coming up and it's time to show off your deduction skills! The Legacy Committee is hosting an Escape Room event in the Side Room at the Fruited Plain. The date is set for **January 20 & 21**. Gather your team of 4-10 people, sign up [here](#) or use the QR code on the flyers, and get ready to "Escape the Loft!"

Support for Lauren

This spring, Lauren Vander Plaats is going on a three-week exchange program to the Netherlands. She will be joined by five other Western students and 30 other students from South Africa, Canada, and Michigan at Greijdanus College in Zwolle, about an hour east of Amsterdam. Lauren is selling washcloths (\$20 for a bundle of five) and homemade dog cookies (three different sizes) to offset expenses. The washcloths are \$20 for a bundle of five and the cookies are bags of ten at \$3 for small treats, \$5 for medium-sized, and \$7 for large. Email Lauren at laurenvanderplaats@gmail.com or text (712) 441-5515 for more information or to order.

Come Sing on Tuesdays!

The Sioux County Oratorio Chorus is kicking off a new and exciting season this month, and all are welcome to come sing. This season features a special guest conductor and an exciting departure from our normal large-scale works—presenting a series of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs from Handel, Mendelssohn, Schutz, and more. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 PM in DeWitt Music Hall on Northwestern's campus, beginning **January 10**. Our concert will be Saturday, **April 29** at Dordt University. Please contact Mike Ochsner (mkchsnr@gmail.com) with any questions.

Dordt Concert Choir Home Tour Concert

The Dordt University Concert Choir invites you to a concert at 7:30 PM on Friday, **January 13**, at the B.J. Haan Auditorium. This concert is part of a spring tour with performances scheduled in Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Directed by Dr. Rob Hobgood, the Concert Choir will perform a wide variety of choral music including hymn arrangements, spirituals, classics from the modern choral repertoire, as well as past centuries including Gabrielli, Handel, and Clausen, and several compositions written within the last decade by talented young composers. The concert is free, with a freewill offering received to help defray tour expenses.

Love & Learn Classes

If you or someone you know is interested in building financial skills, developing healthier relationships, learning how the church can best serve the community and be good stewards, or is grieving the loss of a loved one, Love INC has opportunities to grow in knowledge in these areas. Love INC is offering 12-week classes every Tuesday night beginning **January 24**. The classes being offered this winter are Faith & Finances, Redemptive Compassion, Boundaries, and Grief Share. For more information or to register for a class, visit the Love INC Sioux County web page, call 712-476-5990, or email us at ministries@loveincsiouxcounty.org.

At-home Faith Formation Tip

Faith5 is a simple five-step faith formation practice that your family or household can do together. First, share your highs and lows of the day. Then read a Bible verse or story together. Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows, pray for one another's highs and lows, and bless one another. Faith5 is great for people of all ages! Check out Faith5.org for more. Check out Faith5.org for more. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Bethel CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastor John Lee.

Last week's offering General Fund \$2,245.00 Christian Education Fund \$1,594.27

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 January 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, January 15
Greeters	AM: Dennis DJ, Kathy DW, Marty VP	
Ushers	AM: Rebecca DS, Deb H, Dennis VP	
Coffee	Wil A, Mary D, Mark MC, Courtney R, Marv W	
Subs	Dan A, Steve C, Doug DB, Luke H, Lois VZ, Dani W	
Sound/Projection	Andy L ♦ Rebecca DV	Nick B ♦ Jason W
Nursery	AM: Mark & Lisa C, Jason & Sara H	AM: Channon & Joni V, Barb T

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@acsi.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
tvandyk@crncpartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Lois Vander Zee, Bryanna Castelan, Terry Friend, Becky Donahue, Pastor Joel Kok, Michael Vander Plaats

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 8th	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship (Dr. David Westfall preaching)
	4:45 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
Monday	11:30 AM	The January Series: Dr. Sara Hendren
	7:00 PM	Elders Meeting
Tuesday	11:30 AM	The January Series: Monica Guzman
Wednesday	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	11:30 AM	The January Series: Nate Mook
	6:50 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
	7:00 PM	GEMS
Thursday	9:00 AM	Women's Book Study (chapter 3)
	11:30 AM	The January Series: Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap
Friday	11:30 AM	The January Series: Dr. Amy Kenny
Sunday, 15th	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study