

SUNDAY, April 9, 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.

Easter Sunday Morning Worship

Today, **April 9**, we celebrate Easter Sunday, and as we have done throughout this Lenten journey to the cross, we will remember together again that God spreads a table before us in the wilderness (even breakfast on the beach!) as we celebrate God's great provision. And thank you to Jeremy Hummel for the succulents and cacti displayed in the front of church, one of which is called Crown of Thorns, or Christ Thorn. It is so named because of its wickedly spiny stem and the flowers which are blood red, reminding us of the thorns forced upon Christ during his passion and the blood that he shed. Take a closer look after the service. But please don't touch! Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Sunday Evening Prayer Gathering

This Sunday evening, we will not have our usual Vespers service, but we invite you to come at 6:00 PM for prayer gathering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sack Pack Volunteer Opportunity!

We have an opportunity as a church to help with the Sack Pack program. Our Sunday School kids have been collecting money all year for them and now we can help as well. We would love to see as many families as possible come and help. We plan to meet on Tuesday, **April 11** at 6:30 PM behind Culvers. So we know how many will be helping please let Megan Haan know (meganhaan@gmail.com). This is a great way for our church to help this worthy program!

GEMS End of the Year Party

The end of the year GEMS party will be on Wednesday, **April 12**. Girls are invited to Covenant at 5:00 pm for pizza before leaving at 5:30 for roller skating. Girls can be picked up after 8:30 at Covenant.

Church Education Schedule

Sunday School, Catechism, and Covenant Sunday Morning will not meet today, **April 9** because of the Easter holiday. All classes will resume on **April 16** at 9:00 AM! Covenant Sunday Morning will be starting a four-week Bible study next week so all adults are welcome for a time of fellowship, Bible study, and prayer.



Pastoral Group Dinners

Today, **April 9**, there is no Pastoral Group Dinner because of the Easter holiday, but we'll resume on Sunday, **April 16** with the **DeWit/DeJong** pastoral group gathering for food and fellowship. Visitors and college students are welcome to join them!

Edifying Engagement: ESA

After our morning worship on Sunday, **April 16**, the Deacons will convene a congregational dialogue regarding the new Education Savings Account (ESA) law in Iowa. We invite everyone to regather in the sanctuary about 10 minutes after the service to explore together how Covenant and other congregations will continue to relate to Christian Schools.

Ethiopia Presentation

You are invited to a presentation about Ethiopia at Covenant CRC on Sunday, **April 16** at 6:00 PM. Given by Mike Adams, CEO of Adams Thermal Foundation, and Pam Adams, former professor at Dordt University. Come hear the amazing things that God is doing among the poor in Ethiopia! The cycle of poverty is being broken through education, community development, and the power of the Gospel. Pastors are being trained, homeless are being fed and housed, mentored in a vocation, and shown a new life in Christ.

Salt Sale Delivery Time!

The salt is ordered and once again we have over 3000 bags of softener salt to deliver! This is great news! Now we need some willing hands to haul all that salt on Saturday, **April 22**! We also need some refreshments for our workers, so if you are unable to do the physical labor you can also serve in that way! Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4BADAA28A4FE3-bridge3> or contact Emily Kramer (evanderhart@yahoo.com) and I can add you to the sign up. Thanks!

Congregational Meeting

We hope you join us for a congregational meeting on Tuesday, **April 25** at 7:00 PM to discuss reroofing the church, refreshing the sanctuary, addressing lighting needs, and updates for the sound system. You will be receiving more information prior to the meeting. There will be a vote for moving forward with the plans. Mark your calendars!

Save the Date: Intergenerational Fellowship

We invite you to an evening of fellowship and gaming on Friday, **April 28**, 6:00 PM at the Dordt Gaming Guild Bunker. Watch for more information to come. Questions? Talk to Pastor Joel!

Cadet Fundraiser

Grilling season is close! The Cadets have leftover grill wood pellets from this year's fundraiser. Bags are \$10 each and if you are interested, please contact Jeff De Boer (fbccadets@gmail.com or 712-441-6249).

Piano Recital

Dordt University student (and one of our Covenant regulars!) Lael Bervig will present a senior piano recital at 7:30 PM on Saturday, **April 15**, in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Bervig will be performing the Aria and some selections from Bach's beloved Goldberg Variations. Brahms's rich and lyrical Intermezzo in A Major will be featured as well as Debussy's Pagodes, an impressive piece that shimmers with expression, layered chords, and Debussy's use of the pentatonic scale. The final piece of the program, Gershwin's Three Preludes, will bring a bold and flourishing finish to the recital. All are welcome to a reception following the recital.

Welcoming the Immigrant and Refugee: A Journey to Friendship

Come hear Emilia Marroquín talk about her immigration story as she moved from El Salvador to California to Storm Lake, IA. Emilia will discuss practical ways Northwest Iowa can be a place of welcome for all people. We will also hear a panel discussion from leaders in Sioux Center about ways we can break down barriers and build friendships across cultural differences.

What: Conversation about Immigration, Refugees, and Northwest Iowa

When: **April 20**, 6:30-9:00 PM

Where: Maria Magdalena Reformed Church (305 N. Main Sioux Center)

Who: Anyone who wants to help make Northwest Iowa a welcoming place for immigrants and refugees.

This event will be Bi Lingual (Spanish and English) and there will be free food! For more information and to RSVP click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcoming-the-immigrant-and-refugee-a-journey-to-friendship-tickets-595306637177>

A Taste of African Food!

Calvary CRC and Dr. Sosthene and Kara Maletoungou are excited to invite you to an evening of fellowship and African food at Calvary CRC in Orange City on **April 21** between the hours of 5-7 PM! On the menu: “Yassa poulet,” a traditional chicken, sauteed onion, and rice dish from West Africa! We will also serve salad, pulled pork buns, African ginger juice, and dessert (African fritters)! Freewill donations will be collected to support the work of the Teacher’s Garden, a Guinea-based Christian education resource center that trains, coaches, and mentors teachers through the ministries of Sosthene and Kara in Africa. We can’t wait to see you all there!

Selection of Elders and Deacons

We are nearing the end of the term for some of our current elders and deacons. The council has made some adjustments to the selection process for elder and deacon this year which we hope you’ll read about on the front page of the [April Courier](#). The goal of the revised process is to affirm a broader group of members each year with office bearing gifts, and to then let the Spirit guide the draw-by-lot process to call members into specific offices. Let a council member know if you have questions regarding the adjusted process. Please keep our congregation in your prayers as we seek new council members.

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God’s blessing on the Hope Lutheran congregation and the ministry of Interim Pastor Jay Denne.

Last week’s offering General Fund \$9,665.50 Christian Education Fund \$5,666.84

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’ March newsletter is [here](#). The Maletoungous’ latest newsletter is [here](#) and a newsletter from the Ribbens is [here](#). ReFrame Ministry’s April 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, April 16
Greeters	AM: Pam DJ, Joan MC, Lee R	
Ushers	AM: Jan B, Mark T, Stan VB	
Coffee	Rob H, Shirley M, Dave S, Kris VP, Kurt V	
Subs	Donna B, Lisa C, Rin G, Sarah Ha, Kristi H, Joni V	
Sound/Projection	Nick B ♦ Marty VP	Jeff P ♦ Terry F
Nursery	AM: Jeremy & Kristi H, Doug & Marge DB	AM: Andy & Rachel L, 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

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

Sharon Dykhuizen, Benjamin Westfall, Sara Eppinga, Justin Bailey

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 9th	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Easter Morning Worship Prayer Gathering
Wednesday	6:30 AM 10:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:50 PM	Men’s Bakery Study Group Prayer Group GEMS End of the Year Party Cadets (at Faith CRC)
Thursday	9:00 AM	Women’s Book Study
Sunday, 16th	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:15 PM	Sunday School, Catechism, & Covenant Sunday Morning Morning Worship Edifying Engagement DeWit/DeJong Pastoral Group Dinner Ethiopia Presentation Sunday Evening Bible Study