

## SUNDAY, September 17, 2023

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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

This Sunday, **September 17**, Pastor Joel will be preaching from the [lectionary](#), using the New Testament passage as we learn together about God's vision for his church. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper together as well. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

#### Sunday Evening Vespers

Our Sunday evening gatherings at 6:00 PM typically follow the pattern of Vespers, or Evening Prayer, in which we spend time in prayer, praise, silence, and meditation, using prayers and litanies from the *Book of Common Prayer*. This evening we will also take time to share our Joys and Concerns and offer those to God. Our time of Joys and Concerns today will include a special time of giving thanks and praying for Jason and Sara Ho's new baby, Clara.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Sunday Evening Bible Study

The Sunday Evening Bible Study will start up again this Sunday, **September 17**, and will again be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of the month after the Vespers service. We will continue watching "The Chosen," season two. We plan to watch it on the screen in the sanctuary with subtitles so it is easier for all to see and hear. All are invited! Please bring a snack to share if you plan to come.

#### October Courier

Do have something to include in our monthly newsletter? Send it to the church office by Monday, **September 18!** ([covenant@mtcnet.net](mailto:covenant@mtcnet.net)) I'd particularly love to have your stories, poems, thoughts, etc., on gardening!

#### All-Church Picnic

On Sunday, **September 24**, after the morning service, we will gather for our annual all-church picnic at Children's Park. We will again be sharing a potluck lunch, with each family bringing a hot and cold dish to share along with your own table service. The meal will begin about 12:30. Dordt students are encouraged to join us! Plates and silverware will be provided for Dordt students and guests and drinks will be provided for all.

#### Women's Book Study

*Unshakable Hope* by Max Lucado is our next book study for the Women's group. Please consider joining us on Thursday, **September 28** at 9:00 AM in the Council Room. We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. So order a book online – we'd love to have you join us. Call Rin with questions (722-4394)

#### Women's Breakfast

Calling all females:(no age limit)! Join us for breakfast at church on Saturday, **September 30** at 8:00 AM. It's a chance to visit and get to know each other and enjoy a meal together. Please sign up [online](#) or on the back table.

#### Save the Date!

Save the date, **October 13**, for the Covenant retreat where, in the tradition of retreats held over the past 50 years, we will concentrate on laughing together. Please start now to think about what makes you and your family laugh (e.g., fun experience, skit, activity, game, story, or joke) and consider sharing it with the rest of us. Contact Len and Lee Rhoda (722-1854) or John and Linda Visser (712-441-1608) with your offerings.

#### Church Directory

Can you take a minute to check out your directory listing on the table in the fellowship hall to see if it looks correct? And parents – please add any cell phone numbers or email addresses you'd like included for your kids too! Thanks!

#### Interested in a Small Group?

The Small Group Ministry at Covenant seeks to enfold members—families, couples, singles, and students—into groups that meet regularly (once or twice a month) for fellowship, study, worship, prayer, and outreach. Mostly, they aim to build community at Covenant. Groups are inter-generational and are definitely family friendly. We hope to incorporate new folks into groups in the next month. Sound interesting? Ready to join? Or need more information? Sign up in the back of church or contact Bob & Rebecca De Smith at [bdesmith@mtcnet.net](mailto:bdesmith@mtcnet.net).

#### Pizza BOGO Cards on Sale!

Fruited Plain BOGO cards are currently on sale! The Covenant Christian Education Committee is once again partnering with the Fruited Plain to offer this amazing deal! Each pizza card costs \$30 and is good for 5 punches to buy one pizza and get one free. They make delightful gifts for anyone and are handy to have on hand for a family pizza night. College kids – remind your parents you need pizza to study well! Pizza cards can be purchased at the Fruited Plain through the end of October. \$10 from every sale goes towards meeting our Christian Education Fund commitments.

#### Looking for Tech Help!

We are looking for anyone high school aged and older who might be interested in serving our congregation in worship by running the projection and video for our services. We will train you! If you are interested, contact Rebecca DeVries ([rebecca.ann.devries@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.ann.devries@gmail.com)).

#### Dordt Honors Recital

The annual Dordt University Honors Recital will take place on Friday, **September 22**, at 3:00 PM in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Performers in the honors recital have all received named music scholarships made possible by Dordt University donors. All are welcome to a reception honoring the performers in the lobby of the auditorium following the recital.

## An Evening of Praise

Mark your calendars for "An Evening of Praise" on Friday, **October 6**. Bible League International (BLI) Ambassadors are sponsoring a music concert at the B.J. Haan Auditorium at Dordt University in Sioux Center at 7 p.m. The groups that are performing are Four for Him, the Klaasens, and Ensemble Royale. The evening will also feature a six-handed piano arrangement performed by Trio BDT. A free will offering will be taken for BLI and every \$5.00 raised will cover the cost of putting a Bible written in a language that they can understand in the hands of people around the world. Please invite your friends and family to "An Evening of Praise." All are welcome!

## Young Author's Conference

JOYnd Together, a non-profit organization dedicated to uniting school and church communities through running and literacy activities rooted in faith, will be hosting a Young Authors Conference on Saturday, **October 7**, from 9:00 AM to noon at Sioux Center High School. The conference will feature the esteemed and award-winning author Daniel Nayeri as the keynote speaker. Not only is Mr. Nayeri a remarkable storyteller with a distinctive ability to captivate young minds with his creative works, but he also has a compelling story of faith which will be central to his involvement with our conference. All community members are invited to hear his opening session where he will share the inspiring story that he recounts in his New York Times best-selling novel *Everything Sad is Untrue: A True Story*. A book signing and breakfast will follow the opening session and students in grades 3-12 will have the opportunity to stay for fun activities and instruction led by Mr. Nayeri. You can register here: <https://joyndtogether.com/young-authors-conference>

## Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Lebanon CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastor Bob Drenten.

**Last week's offering**                      General Fund                      \$4,894.97                      Christian Education Fund                      \$2,330.00

## 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' August newsletter is [here](#). The Maletoungous' latest newsletter is [here](#) and a newsletter from the Ribbens is [here](#). ReFrame Ministry's September 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, September 24
Greeters	AM: Donna B, Shirley M, Ron O	
Ushers	AM: Rockne MC, Sherri TN, Marcia W	
Coffee	Natalie B, Dennis DJ, Deb H, James R, Daniel VS	
Subs	Rob H, Mark H, Dave S, Dennis VP, Marty VP, Sharon V	
Sound/Projection	Dennis DeJong ♦ Marty Vander Plaats	Jeff Ploegstra ♦ Tom Clark
Nursery	AM: Laremy & Rebecca DV, Laura J	AM: Ethan & Donna B, Alejandro & Isabel C

## Encouraging our Missionaries

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

Gianni & Georgina Gracia  
giannigracia@yahoo.com

Sos & Kara Maletoungou  
smaletoungou@acsi.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens  
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk  
tvandyk@crncnpartners.org

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



### Happy Birthday this Week

Charlie Wyenberg, Pam Adams, Oliver Moss, Lee Plasier, Rockne McCarthy, Rose Rylaarsdam, John Stevenson, Viola Stiemsma

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup></b>	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
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
<b>Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	12:00 PM	All-Church Picnic (at Children's Park)
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)