

**SUNDAY, December 3, 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, we begin the season of Advent, a time of waiting and hoping for our coming King. On Christmas, we will rejoice that Christ has come! But waiting can be a wearying activity, so during this season of Advent we will ask ourselves, "How does a weary world rejoice?" And on this first Sunday we answer by acknowledging our weariness and entrusting it to the God who sees us and knows us. Pastor Joel will be preaching from Isaiah 64, where the prophet calls out to God: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down." We gather together to worship and wait, to hope and cry out, and ultimately to rejoice. Here is a link to a [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.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sunday School Christmas Program**

Covenant's Christmas Program will be held Sunday, **December 10**. The kids' prelude music will start at 6:00 PM and the program will follow. If your child would like to provide a prelude, please let Rose Postma ([rose.postma@dordt.edu](mailto:rose.postma@dordt.edu)) know as soon as possible. Children will practice for the program on Sundays, **December 3 & 10** at 9:00 AM.

### **Mid-Sioux Christmas Giving Tree**

The Christmas Giving Tree is set up in the Fellowship Hall. Please take a tag and return the wrapped gift with the tag taped to the outside of the package to church by **December 8**. Thanks for your willingness to bless those in our community!

### **Lasagna Dinner & Congregational Meeting**

We hope you can attend the annual congregational meeting on Monday, **December 11**, at 7:00 PM. The deacons will be presenting the 2024 proposed budget which we will vote on and there will be updates on the Sanctuary Refresh project beginning in January and some of the implications for church life in the coming months. Come at 6:00 and let the Youth Group provide your dinner! They'll be serving lasagna, salad, and garlic bread for a freewill donation.

### **Anniversary Booklet Submissions**

Have you procrastinated in submitting your story/reflection for Covenant's 50th Anniversary Book? Please send these in soon! Details for submissions are in the [November Courier](#) and in an email sent previously through your Pastoral Group Google Group. Questions? Please contact your pastoral group elder.

### **Old Covenant Photos Wanted**

If you have any photos that you would be willing to share for a photo display of photos from Covenant's past, please put your name on the back, along with any information about the photo. Who is in the photo? What was the occasion? Date? etc. We plan to display them on the moveable bulletin boards, so you can either put them up yourself or drop them off at the church office. We're looking forward to seeing what you can dig up!

### **Clothing Donations**

The Dordt University Social Work Club is hosting a pop-up thrift store! All proceeds raised will go to a local organization working with human trafficking victims. They are looking for gently used clothes for their store. A clothing donation box is located on the Covenant Shares table. Please no shoes or non-clothing items. Thank you!

### **NAMI Support Group**

The NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Support Group will meet in the Fireside Room of Central Reformed Church in Sioux Center from 7 to 9 PM on Tuesday, **December 5**. Video: "Schizophrenia: The Worst Symptoms." Individuals and family members coping with mental illness are welcome. For information, call Shirley Matheis (722-4462).

### **It's Egg Roll Time!**

Siouxland Unity CRC in Sioux City is again taking orders for their homemade egg rolls. Order by Friday, **December 8** for pick-up in the Faith CRC kitchen at 10:00 AM on Saturday, **December 16**. Eggrolls are \$15/dozen; \$5 for a bottle of sweet chili sauce. Order by contacting Henry Kraayenbrink (712.540.8617 or [svvinc@mtcnet.net](mailto:svvinc@mtcnet.net)).

## Dordt Music Events

All events are in the B.J. Haan auditorium and will be available on livestream at [www.dordt.edu/live-events](http://www.dordt.edu/live-events).

- The Dordt University Choral Department will present a Christmas Choral Ensembles Concert on Friday, **December 8** at 7:30 PM. This concert will feature Bella Voce, Canons of Dordt, and Concert Choir. The choirs will combine to perform John Rutter's three-movement Gloria with brass and percussion.
- Join the Dordt University Music Department on Saturday, **December 9** at 7:30 PM for the final concert of the fall semester by the Dordt Instrumental Ensembles. The concert will feature music by Bach, Moncayo, and others to include settings of well-known Christmas music.
- The Dordt University Chorale will present "A Service of Lessons and Carols" on Sunday, **December 10** at 8:00 PM. Come and worship with the Chorale as they celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through song. Scriptural lessons presented by dramatic readers from the Dordt Theatre Department will alternate with performed anthems and congregational carol singing.

## Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Centerpoint congregation and the ministry of Pastors Chris Godfredsen and Jamie Dykstra.

## Last week's offering

General Fund: \$2,021.00

Christian Education Fund: \$1,385.00

## 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: 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 10
Greeters	AM: Rebecca DS, Rin G, Kurt V	
Ushers	AM: Pat C, Tim K, Lee R	
Coffee	Paul C, Mary D, Jill F, Courtney R, Marv W	
Subs	Donna B, Sarah H, Joan MC, Ron O, Stan VB, Joni V	
Sound/Projection	Nick B ♦ Jason W	Jeff P ♦ Marty VP
Nursery	AM: Bob & Rebecca DS, Lee R	AM: Doug & Marge DB, Tricia K

## 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@crnapartners.org

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



### Happy Birthday this Week

*Bernie DeWit, Canaan Hawley, Nico Ribbens, Elia Eppinga, Jason Wyenberg, Lucas Stiemsma*

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School Program Practice, 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, 10<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School Program Practice, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Sunday School Christmas Program