

SUNDAY, December 10, 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

We are in 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?" On this second Sunday we answer by remembering that in community our joy expands. When we can't rejoice, we can carry each other's joy. Pastor Joel will be preaching from Isaiah 40, where the prophet says, "And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 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 School Christmas Program

Covenant's Sunday School Christmas Program will be held Sunday, **December 10**. The kids' prelude music will start at 6:00 PM and the program will follow.

Sunday Evening Next Week

Next Sunday evening, **December 17**, we will gather for a Candlelight Service at 6:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling All Singers High School and Up!

The Covenant Occasional Choir will be singing 2-3 songs during the Candlelight Service on Sunday, **December 17** (6:00 PM). We will gather for rehearsals at 8:45 AM on Sunday morning, **December 10 & 17**. The candlelight service is our 50th Anniversary event for December; we hope many of you will join in leading a Covenant favorite – "Peace, Peace/Silent Night."

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.

Church Education Schedule

Our church education classes will begin their Christmas break beginning Sunday, **December 17**.

Profession of Faith & Membership Orientation Gatherings

Are you interested in learning more about making profession of faith? Would you like to gather with others for a Membership Orientation class? Pastor Joel hopes to offer some opportunities to explore both of these things in the new year. Contact him if you're interested! (joelekok@gmail.com)

Opportunity to Serve

The Christian Education Committee is looking for another member to join our group who would be willing to move into the chair position on the committee next August. The committee has many resources built up so this person would not need to create new procedures. Please reach out to Emily Kramer (evanderhart@yahoo.com) if you would consider this position.

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.

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!

Egg Roll Pick Up

A reminder: if you ordered egg rolls from the Siouxland Unity CRC fundraiser, egg roll pickup on Saturday, **December 16** at 10:00 AM in the Faith CRC kitchen.

Dordt Music Event

The Dordt University Music Department will present a 4th Avenue Jazz concert on Friday, **December 15** at 7:30 PM in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Featured at the concert will be the 4th Avenue Singers and 4th Avenue Band. Come for a relaxed evening of jazzy Christmas songs and carols, big band standards, and a variety of collaborations between singers and instruments. The concert will also be available on livestream at www.dordt.edu/live-events.

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Central Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastor Jesse Henkle.

Last week's offering

General Fund: \$6,527.50

Christian Education Fund: \$2,508.61

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 17
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	Jeff P ♦ Marty VP	Doug DB ♦ Tom C
Nursery	AM: Doug & Marge DB, Nick & Jenni B	AM: Dave & Emily K, Duane & Jan B

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@crncpartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Megan Ribbens, Kathy DeWit

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 10th	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal (in the basement)
	9:00 AM	Sunday School Program Practice
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Sunday School Christmas Program
Monday	6:00 PM	Lasagna Dinner
	7:00 PM	Congregational Meeting
	8:15 PM	Elders/Deacons Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 AM	Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery)
	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	6:50 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
	7:00 PM	GEMS
Thursday	9:00 AM	Women's Book Study
Sunday, 17th	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Candlelight Service
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study