

SUNDAY, December 17, 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 third Sunday we answer by remembering to live in a way that allows amazement and wonder to surprise us as we participate in God's unfolding story. Pastor Joel will be preaching from Isaiah 61, where the prophet reminds us of the good news we have in Christ – "the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." 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](#).

Candlelight Service

This evening, **December 17**, we will gather for a Candlelight Service at 6:00 PM. The Candlelight Service is our 50th Anniversary event for December and we hope many of you will join us for a service of scripture and song focusing on the names of Jesus. And we will end the service in candlelight.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Next Sunday, **December 24**, we will gather for worship in the morning, but we will not have an evening service. We invite you back on Monday, **December 25** for a Christmas morning worship service at 10:00 AM, which will close with the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus." And we will gather on Sunday, **December 31** for morning worship at 10:00 AM and a New Year's Eve service with communion at 6:00 PM. And we will begin worshipping at SCCS on Sunday, **January 7**!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Courier

The January Courier will come out a week early, thanks to the holidays. If you have something to include, please email it to the church office (covenant@mtcnet.net) by Monday, **December 18**!

Church Education Schedule

Our church education classes will take a break for the holidays and will resume in February after we transition to worshipping at Sioux Center Christian School.

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!

Sing the Mozart Requiem in 2024

The Sioux County Oratorio Chorus will kick off its 2024 season in January, and you are invited to sing with us! This season, we will be returning to perennial favorite, Mozart's Requiem, performing with orchestra and professional soloists on Saturday, **April 27**, at Northwestern College's Christ Chapel. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays from 7:30-9:30 in DeWitt Music Hall on Northwestern's campus, beginning **January 9**. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome! Please

contact Mike Ochsner (mkchsnr@gmail.com) with questions. We look forward to making music with you in the new year!

JFA Mississippi Bus Tour

Justice For All is planning a Mississippi Bus Tour, highlighting our ministry partners: John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation and Voice of Calvary Ministries of Jackson, MS, and Mississippi Christian Family Services of Rolling Fork, MS. The dates are **April 3-10, 2024**. Join us, learn, and see how God is using beautiful ministries to share his love and hope to those who live in communities of needs in MS. We'll also explore the rich history, culture, and stories of slavery, Jim Crow, and Civil Rights. A day in Branson on the way home will round out a great trip! If you are interested or want more information, please contact Pat Vander Pol at JFA (patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org or 712-476-2804).

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Christ Community congregation and the ministry of Pastors Mark Johnson and Carlos Perez.

Last week's offering

General Fund: \$3,470.00

Christian Education Fund: \$475.00

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](#). An update from Pastor Gianni Gracia in Miami 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 24
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	Doug DB/Jeff P + Tom C	Jeff P + John S
Nursery	AM: Dave & Emily K, Tricia K	AM: Steve & Pat C, 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@crnapartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Happy Birthday this Week

Nico DeVries, Lily Wyenberg, Ruth Clark, Shirley Matheis

Happy Anniversary this Week

Shaun & Sarah Stiemsma, Pastor Gianni & Georgina Gracia, Micah & Shannon Schreurs, Ryan & Val Zonnefeld



THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 17th	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 PM	Candlelight Service
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study

Wednesday	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	7:00 PM	Youth Group

Sunday, 24th	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
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