

SUNDAY, December 31, 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

Today is the first Sunday after Christmas, and the celebration of Christ's birth continues! As we've prepared for Christ's advent, we've been asking ourselves, "How does a weary world rejoice?" Today we answer by rooting ourselves in ritual. We will let the rituals of worship ground us and give us courage for our journey of faith. Today, David Westfall will be preaching from the lectionary passage from Luke 2, the story of Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus at the temple for the ritual of circumcision. They encounter the faithful, worshipping Anna – and Simeon, who after patiently waiting all these years, declares, "My eyes have seen your salvation... a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." We gather together to rejoice in this Light that has entered the world. Here is a link to a [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Sunday Evening Vespers

We invite you to gather this Sunday evening at 6:00 PM for a New Year's Eve Vespers service with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Join us as we look back at the year behind us and look ahead to the year to come and worship God who is with us through all of it. During our service you will be invited to share stories of God's faithfulness to you and your family over the past year and to testify to ways you see God's ongoing work in your life, in our community, and in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Staff Out of Office

Pastor Joel will be taking some time away and will be back in the office on **January 15**. Please contact your pastoral group elder or deacon if you have prayer requests or pastoral concerns during this time.

Church Mailboxes

Don't forget to check your church mailbox and empty it out when you're here in the building! New church directories were added to your boxes this past week and there may be other cards and newsletters to take home!

Sanctuary Refresh Volunteer Opportunities!

Don't forget – there are two volunteer opportunities this week to kick off our Sanctuary Refresh project! On Friday, **January 5**, 2-5 PM, we'll be working on moving furniture/equipment and doing light demo. And on Saturday, **January 6**, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, we will seal off the organ and do some light demo. Are you able to help? Watch for more information to come!

Worship at SCCS

Just a reminder that beginning on Sunday, **January 7** and continuing through March, our Sunday morning worship services will be held at Sioux Center Christian School while our Sanctuary Refresh project is going on. Check the [January Courier](#) for more information! And would you be able to help set up chairs at SCCS before our morning services? We're looking for 3-4 people to help each week. Sign up [here](#).

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.

Hope Haven's Dueling Duos

Come enjoy a Dueling Piano Show on Thursday, **January 11** at The District in Sioux Falls featuring Andy and Ryno! This is the perfect event to enjoy some great music requested by the audience, spend a night with your friends, and support

Hope Haven! Doors open at 7 PM and the show begins at 8 PM. Purchase tickets at www.hopehaven.org/events

Hope Haven Mission Opportunity

Are you seeking to travel overseas with a mission purpose? Hope Haven International Ministries has an upcoming trip and we need team members. We are traveling to Uganda, Africa and are seeking up to 12 people to travel with us. We will likely depart on **March 23, 2024**. We are distributing 2 containers of wheelchairs with three different ministries in Uganda and there is an option of ending with an African safari at the end of the distribution trip. No special skills are needed, just a heart to help. There will be a little time to tour with each group. Please contact Mark Siemonsma (msiemons@hopehaven.org or 712.470.0298) if you have questions.

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Church of Christ congregation and the ministry of Pastor Dustin Bolks.

Last week's offering

General Fund: \$3,379.50

Christian Education Fund: \$35.00

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, January 7
Greeters	AM: Rebecca DS, Rin G, Kurt V	AM: Deb H, Rock MC, Len R
Ushers	AM: Pat C, Tim K, Lee R	AM: Dennis DJ, Mark H, Marty VP
Coffee	Paul C, Mary D, Jill F, Courtney R, Marv W	(none needed)
Subs	Donna B, Sarah H, Joan MC, Ron O, Stan VB, Joni V	Wil A, Ruth Clo, Marge DB, Del VZ, John Z
Sound/Projection	Nick B ♦ Terry F	Jeff P ♦ ?
Nursery	AM: Daryl & Deb H, Dennis & Pam DJ	AM: Jason & Sara H, Ethan & Donna 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

Jenni Mellema, Dallas Apol, Jo Alberda, Penny Donahue, Paola Gracia

Happy Anniversary this Week

Andy & Rachel Landman

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 31st	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Morning Worship New Year's Eve Vespers with Communion
Wednesday	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
Friday	2:00 PM	Sanctuary Refresh Volunteering
Saturday	8:00 AM	Sanctuary Refresh Volunteering
Sunday, 7th	10:00 AM	Morning Worship (at Sioux Center Christian School)