

SUNDAY, January 7, 2024

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, on this first Sunday after Epiphany, we celebrate the baptism of our Lord. During Advent, we've been asking ourselves, "How does a weary world rejoice?" Today we end this series and answer by trusting our belovedness – our joy is rooted in the fact that we belong to God. As Jesus' identity was made clear through God's words, "You are my Son, whom I love," we also rejoice that God has claimed us and given us the privilege of being called his beloved children. Today we welcome Rev. Michael Ribbens to the pulpit. Mike and Megan work with Resonate Global Mission in South Africa and Covenant has supported their work for many years. Here is a link to a [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Sunday Evening Vespers

There will be no gathering this evening. Plans for next Sunday, January 14, are uncertain, so watch for updates!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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](#).

GEMS Party

Northstar GEMS will have their Ice-Skating party on Wednesday, **January 10!** Wear your Christmas sweaters or red & green! Please drop off and pick up your daughter(s) from the All Seasons Center. Come any time after 6:45 PM to get your ice skates on. GEMS will cover the rental cost of skates; if you have your own skates, take them along! We'll skate from 7:00-8:00 PM and will enjoy snacks and refreshments until 8:30 PM.

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.

Raise The Roof Goal Exceeded!

We report with great joy that our \$175,000 goal has been exceeded by \$2,000. With God's help we have already paid for 40% of total roof and refresh projects. The final phase of the campaign seeks to finance the \$275,000 refresh over a 4-year period. The \$2,000 overage plus all future gifts made to the Building Fund will go toward the \$275,000 refresh. More details will be coming soon.

Nursery Toys

Do you have some toys that your kids have outgrown? The nursery could use some replacements for some of our toys that have seen better days. If you have any toys for ages 0-2 that your family no longer uses, please contact Courtney Rylaarsdam or Jenni Mellema, or bring them to the nursery entryway during our sanctuary refresh project. Thanks!

Church Mailboxes

If you forgot to check your church mailbox or haven't been around the last few weeks, feel free to stop by church and check it! New church directories were added to your boxes before Christmas and there may be other treasures to take home!

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)

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, **January 9**. Dr. Robert Hubbard will discuss and read from his new book, *Scenes with my Son: Love and Grief in the Wake of Suicide*. Individuals and family members coping with mental illness are welcome. For information, call Shirley Matheis (722-4462).

Dordt Orchestra Concert

The Dordt University Chamber Orchestra invites you to a concert at 7:30 PM on Friday, **January 12** in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. This free concert is part of a winter tour with performances scheduled in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa. Under the baton of Dr. Onsby C. Rose, the Chamber Orchestra will perform a wide variety of repertoire ranging from the Romantic era with Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*, to music by living composers, such as *Only Light* by Minnesota native Aaron Perrine. The concert will also be available on livestream at www.dordt.edu/live-events.

Informational Meeting

The Classical Academy of Sioux Center is a new classical, Christian K-12 school opening in Sioux Center in August, 2024. An informational meeting will be held on Thursday, **January 18** at 7 PM in Room A of the Sioux Center Library. We encourage all interested parents to attend! Please email theclassicalacademysc@gmail.com with questions and check out our Facebook page for more information.

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Covenant CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastor Joel Kok.

Last week's offering

General Fund: \$4,664.01

Christian Education Fund: \$88.24

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 14
Greeters		AM: Deb H, Rock MC, Len R
Ushers		AM: Dennis DJ, Mark H, Marty VP
Coffee		(none needed)
Subs		Wil A, Ruth Clo, Marge DB, Del VZ, John Z
Sound/Projection	Jeff P ♦ Marty VP	Dennis DJ ♦ Tom C
Nursery	AM: Jason & Sara H, Ethan & Donna B	AM: Mark & Lisa C, Channon & Joni V

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

Lois Vander Zee, Bryanna Castelan, Terry Friend

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 7th	10:00 AM	Morning Worship (at Sioux Center Christian School)
Monday	7:00 PM	Elders/Deacons Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 AM	Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery)
	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	6:45 PM	GEMS Ice Skating Party (at All Seasons Center)
	6:50 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
Sunday, 14th	10:00 AM	Morning Worship (at Sioux Center Christian School)