

# SUNDAY, December 1, 2024

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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

Welcome to worship this Sunday! Today we begin the season of Advent – a season of watching and waiting for the coming Messiah. Today Rev. Paul Birnbaum, a chaplain in Rapid City, SD, will bring the Word to us and we will gather at the Lord's Table. Here is a link to a [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

### Sunday Evening Vespers

We won't gather for our usual Vespers this Sunday, but Pastor Joel will lead a prayer gathering at 6:00 PM.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Church Education Schedule

There will be no Sunday School, Catechism, or Covenant Sunday Morning today, **December 1**, because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes will resume on **December 8**.

### Advent Choir

Calling all singers high school and up: we will be assembling the Covenant occasional choir to sing during the Blue Christmas/candlelight service on **December 22** in the evening. Thank you to Ryan Smit who will direct us. Please join us in the basement for rehearsals at 9:00 AM on **December 8 & 15**. Watch for more information to come.

### Lasagna Dinner & Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Monday, **December 9** at 7:00 PM. We'll gather to vote on the 2025 budget (you can find it [here](#) or there are paper copies available) and hear updates from the Council. And come before the meeting at 6:00 PM for the Youth Group Lasagna Dinner! Let the youth serve you traditional, chicken, or vegetarian lasagna, salad, and garlic bread before the meeting! The meal is freewill donation and will support youth group events and activities.

### Save the Date!

The Sunday School Christmas program will take place on Sunday, **December 15** at 6:00 PM.

### NAMI Support Group

The NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Group will meet in the Fireside Room of Central Reformed Church in Sioux Center from 7 to 8 PM on Tuesday, **December 3**. Janelle Hultquist, a Crisis Care Specialist at Seasons Center for Behavioral Health, will discuss the wide variety of services they offer in NW Iowa, including psychiatry, therapy, substance use counseling, and a 24/7 Crisis Hotline. For information, call Shirley Matheis (722-4462).

### Dordt University Concerts

Both concerts will take place in the BJ Haan Auditorium at 7:00 PM. The concerts will also be available on livestream at [www.dordt.edu/live-events](http://www.dordt.edu/live-events).

- The Dordt University Choral Department will present "Born Thy People to Deliver," a Christmas Choral Concert on Friday **December 6**. This concert will feature Bella Voce women's chorus, Canons of Dordt men's chorus, Chorale, and Concert Choir. The choirs will share a wide range of repertoire contemplating and celebrating the coming of the Christ child in old ways and new. Joining the choirs will be several instrumental collaborators including piano, organ, percussion, and brass.
- The Dordt University Instrumental Ensembles will present their final concert of the fall semester on Saturday, **December 7**. The concert will include Johann Sebastian Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3" as well as the monumental work for winds by Paul Hindemith entitled "Symphony in Bb." Other music by Puinno, Lo Presti, and Grieg. The wind symphony will also feature Dordt Professor of Clarinet, Dr. Beverly Gibson, as soloist on a fun work titled "A Klezmer Tribute!" We hope you join us to celebrate the accomplishments of all our Dordt University instrumental musicians.

### Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Faith CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastor Bob Pollema.

### Last week's offering

General Fund: \$5,272.65

Christian Education Fund: \$300.82

### 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 Maletougous’ 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 November 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 8
<b>Greeters</b>	AM: Jenni B, Pat C, Mary D	
<b>Ushers</b>	AM: Rock MC, Len R, Beth VB	
<b>Coffee</b>	Alejandro C, Rebecca DV, Merrill MC, Daniel VS, Jason W	
<b>Subs</b>	Doug DB, Cheri H, Les S, Lois VZ, Channon V, Sharon V	
<b>Valet Parking</b>	Daryl H	
<b>Sound/Projection</b>	Nick B ♦ Tom C	Jeff P ♦ James R
<b>Nursery</b>	AM: Dave & Emily K, Steve & Pat C	AM: Dave & Jeri S, Kyle & Andrea D

**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 Maletougou  
smaletougou@acsi.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens  
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk  
tvandyk@crncpartners.org

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY**



**Happy Birthday this Week**

*Hugo Postma, Canaan Hawley, Nico Ribbens, Elia Eppinga*

**THIS WEEK AT COVENANT**

<b>Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Morning Worship Prayer Gathering
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 AM 6:50 PM 7:00 PM	Prayer Group Cadets (at Faith CRC) GEMS
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00 AM	Women’s Book Study
<b>Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Sunday School & Catechism (grades 1-12) & Covenant Sunday Morning (adults) Choir Practice Morning Worship Vespers