

SUNDAY, December 8, 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

Welcome to worship this Sunday! This is the second Sunday of Advent – a season of watching and waiting for the coming Messiah. Today Pastor Joel will preach from the prophet Malachi's prophecy of the coming Messiah and we will gather at the Lord's Table. Here is a link to a [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Sunday Evening Vespers

This Sunday evening, we will gather for a time of carol singing in the hymn-sing style. The service will contain some elements from our Vespers service as well, but we hope you will come ready to suggest your favorite Advent and Christmas songs and carols.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**.

Church Education Schedule

To allow people to participate in the Advent Choir, Catechism (for the high schoolers) and Covenant Sunday Morning (for the adults) won't meet on **December 8 & 15**.

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.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Join us for our Children's Christmas Program—From Eve to Mary—on Sunday, **December 15**. We will start with preludes at 6 PM. Our program will explore the genealogy of Jesus through readings and songs. Grades 1-6 will rehearse on Sunday, **December 8 & 15** during the Sunday School hour. Grades 7 & 8 will rehearse only on **December 15**.

Sunday Evening Bible Study

The Sunday Evening Bible Study will meet after the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, **December 15** and then will resume again on **January 5**. They meet in the sanctuary to watch the video on the larger screen to make it easier to see and hear (and there are subtitles!). All are welcome! Please bring a snack to share.

Blue Christmas

On Sunday, **December 22**, we invite you to gather at 6:00 PM for a "Blue Christmas Service." This service will give us time and space to acknowledge the sadness that we may feel throughout the Christmas season. Through song, prayer, scripture, and candle lighting, we will bring our sadness and lament before God, who comforts his people. We will end the service singing "Silent Night/Peace, Peace" around the sanctuary with our candles lit. And the choir will lead us.

Dordt 4th Avenue Jazz Concert

The Dordt University music department will present a 4th Avenue Jazz concert on Friday **December 13** at 7:00 PM in the BJ Haan Auditorium. Featured on 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 First CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastor Kurt Monroe.

Last week's offering

General Fund: \$5,478.00

Christian Education Fund: \$1,280.00

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 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 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 15
Greeters	AM: Jenni B, Pat C, Mary D	
Ushers	AM: Rock MC, Len R, Beth VB	
Coffee	Alejandro C, Rebecca DV, Merrill MC, Daniel VS, Jason W	
Subs	Doug DB, Cheri H, Les S, Lois VZ, Channon V, Sharon V	
Valet Parking	Daryl H	
Sound/Projection	Jeff P ♦ James R	Doug DB ♦ Tom C/Terry F
Nursery	AM: Bob & Rebecca DS, Kyle & Andrea D	AM: Dave & Jeri S, James & Courtney R

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@crnapartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Jason Wyenberg, Lucas Stiemsma, Megan Ribbens

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 8th	9:00 AM	Sunday School Program Practice (grades 1-6) Sunday School (grades 7-8)
	9:00 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Vespers
Monday	6:00 PM	Youth Group 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
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
Sunday, 15th	9:00 AM	Sunday School Program Practice (grades 1-8)
	9:00 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Sunday School Christmas Program
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study