

SUNDAY, December 15, 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 third Sunday of Advent – a season of watching and waiting for the coming Messiah. Today Pastor Joel will preach from the prophet Zephaniah'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 School Christmas Program

This Sunday evening, our Sunday School children will present their Christmas Program—From Eve to Mary—exploring the genealogy of Jesus through readings and songs. We will start with preludes by the kids at 6 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bell Choir Practice

The Children in Worship kids and the 1st & 2nd graders will meet in the front of church right after the morning service to briefly practice bells for the Sunday School Christmas Program.

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 15**. Church education classes will take a Christmas break beginning **December 22** and classes will resume **January 12**.

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.

GEMS Christmas Party

The GEMS Christmas party will be at the All Seasons Center on Wednesday, **December 18**, from 6:45-8:30 PM. We'll enjoy skating, games, and snacks. If you have ice skates, take them along! GEMS will cover the cost of the rental.

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.

Egg Roll Fundraiser

The deadline for egg rolls orders from Siouxland Unity CRC has been extended to Wednesday, **December 18**! Pick-up in the Faith CRC church kitchen at 10:00 AM on Saturday, **December 21**. Egg rolls are \$15 per dozen; \$5 for a bottle of sweet chili sauce. Contact Henry Kraayenbrink with your order (712.540.8617 or svvinc@mtcnet.net).

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Free Grace Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastor Mark Schwarz.

Last week's offering

General Fund: \$2,324.00

Christian Education Fund: \$1,020.00

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 22
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	Doug DB ♦ Tom C/Terry F	Dennis DJ ♦ Marty VP
Nursery	AM: Dave & Jeri S, James & Courtney R	AM: Kurt & Sharon V, 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

Kathy DeWit, Nico DeVries, Lily Wyenberg, Ruth Clark

Happy Anniversary this Week

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

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 15th	9:00 AM	Sunday School Program Practice (grades 1-8)
	9:00 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	11:15 AM	Bell Choir Practice (Age 3 through 2 nd grade)
	6:00 PM	Sunday School Christmas Program
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study
Wednesday	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	6:50 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
	7:00 PM	GEMS
Sunday, 22nd	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Blue Christmas Candlelight Service