

## SUNDAY, December 22, 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! This is the fourth Sunday of Advent – a season of watching and waiting for the coming Messiah. Today Pastor Joel will preach from the prophet Micah's prophecy of the coming Prince of Peace and we will gather at the Lord's Table. Here is a link to a [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

#### Blue Christmas Candlelight Service

This 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.

#### Christmas Morning Worship

Join us on Wednesday, **December 25**, at 10 AM for our Christmas morning worship as we together greet the newborn King!

#### Upcoming Worship Notes

- We will not gather for Vespers on Sunday evening, **December 29**. We encourage you to find other ways to worship and fellowship with friends and family that evening.
- We will gather on Tuesday, **December 31** at 6 PM for a New Year's Eve service to reflect on the year behind us and ask for God's presence as we move into the coming year.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Choir Rehearsal Schedule

The choir will meet to prepare for the Blue Christmas service at 9:00 AM on Sunday, **December 22**, and then again at 5:00 PM Sunday evening to warm up and get situated for the 6:00 service.

#### Refugee Resettlement Opportunity

Please join us in the sanctuary following this morning's service to talk about how Covenant can support a refugee resettling in Sioux Center in January. Jason Lief will lead a conversation about the efforts of Sioux Center Welcome Corps at Work and how you can help.

#### Church Education Schedule

Church education classes will begin Christmas break on **December 22** and classes will resume **January 12**.

#### Out of the Office

Pastor Joel will be taking some time off and will be out of the office **December 26-January 8**. Please contact your pastoral group elder or deacon with any pastoral needs during this time.

#### January Courier

The January Courier is out early – you'll find it in your mailbox and on our [website](#).

#### Cadet Snow Derby

The Cadet Snow Derby will take place on Saturday **December 28**, with a possible makeup date of **January 4**.

#### Hope Haven Presents: Dueling Duo

Come enjoy a dueling piano show on Thursday, **January 9** at The District in Sioux Falls featuring Dueling Duo's members, Andy and Ryno! This is the perfect event to enjoy 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 [hopehaven.org/events](http://hopehaven.org/events).

#### Volunteer Opportunity

If you have a heart for helping others, we have opportunities for you. Love INC is looking for childcare volunteers and Faith & Finances mentors. Training is offered. Our next class session begins on **January 28**. Please call the Love INC office (712.476.5990) to find out more.

## Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Jesuscristo el Buen Pastor congregation and the ministry of Pastor Rodrigo Gonzalez.

### Last week's offering

General Fund: \$6,751.00

Christian Education Fund: \$1,395.00

### 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	CHRISTMAS, December 25	NEXT SUNDAY, December 29
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	Dennis DJ ♦ Marty VP	Andy L ♦ Marty VP	Nick B ♦ Ryan Z
Nursery	AM: Kurt & Sharon V, Ethan & Donna B	AM: Nick & Jenni B, Mark & Lisa C	AM: Andy & Rachel L, Laura J

### 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

*Shirley Matheis, Betty Vander Plaats, Ken Matheis, Dennis Vander Plaats, Erika Ver Steeg, Thea Wyenberg*

### Happy Anniversary this Week

*Ryan & Val Zonnefeld, George & Jo Faber, Dave & Jeri Schelhaas, Pastor Joel & Tricia Kok*

### Celebrating a Birthday!

The cookies that will be served following this morning's service are in honor of Shirley Matheis' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on **December 22!** Happy birthday, Shirley, and thanks for the treats!

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	5:00 PM	Choir Practice
	6:00 PM	Blue Christmas Candlelight Service
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 AM	Christmas Worship
<b>Saturday</b>		Cadet Snow Derby
<b>Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM	Morning Worship