

Covenant Christian Reformed Church
Morning Worship – February 17, 2008

WELCOME to all who have joined us for worship today!
We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting.
Please join us for coffee following the service...
we would like to get to know you.

Second Sunday in Lent

*--Indicates to stand, if able

PH—*Psalter Hymnal* SANC—*Sing! a New Creation*

Please **read**, in unison, all sections in **bold** type; *sing* sections that are ***bold/italicized***.

God Gathers Us for Worship

Call to Worship (from Psalm 121)

Lift up your eyes to the hills....

Where does your help come from?

**Our help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

*Hymn: PH 448 “I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains”

*God’s greeting...and we greet one another

*Hymn: PH 502 stanzas 1 & 2 “The Church’s One Foundation”

Service of Reconciliation

The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Prayer of Confession

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob;

God of the Church of Jesus Christ;

God of the great multitude that “no one can count,”

from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,

we bow down in worship today

and give thanks that we are part of your one, holy, covenant people too;

our citizenship is in heaven.

But we confess, O Lord, that we easily lose sight
of your gracious cosmic rule and the pilgrim style of life.

We confess that we easily live only as citizens of our own land
and not so much as citizens of your kingdom.

Forgive us our lack of trust in you.

Forgive our fears of hearing your call

and the inconvenient changes

that would make us more distinctive as your subjects.

Help us focus our minds, this season of the cross,

on the grand salvation you give through Christ Jesus,

our Lord and our King. Amen.

Hymn: SANC 68 “Your Mercy Flows” -W. Sutton © 1988 Sovereign Lifestyle Music (CCLI 493458)

Your mercy flows upon us like a river.

Your mercy stands unshakable and true.

Most holy God, of all good things the giver,

we turn and lift our fervent prayer to you.

Females: *Hear our cry,* (males echo)

O Lord,

be merciful

once more.

Let your love,

your anger stem;

Together: *remember mercy, O Lord, again.*

The New Testament Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Walking with God (from Ephesians 2:8-10)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
not by works, so that no one can boast.

For we are God’s workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: SANC 172 “Faith Begins by Letting Go”

*Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.*

*Faith endures by holding on, keeping mem’ry’s roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess but by God’s great faithfulness.*

*Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God’s grace.*

Children age 3 through Kindergarten are dismissed for their worship time downstairs in the Multi-Purpose Room.

The Word Proclaimed

Scripture: assorted readings on the sin of “pride”

Message: “Pride”

Service of Thanksgiving

*Hymn: PH 424 “Spirit of the Living God”

We bring our gifts for Mission Support: Dave & Joyce Campbell

We share our joys and concerns, followed by pastoral prayer

*Hymn: PH 499 stanzas 1-5 “My God, How Wonderful You Are”

*Benediction

*Hymn: PH 499 stanza 6

Pastor: Herm Van Niejenhuis

Organ: Jennifer Frens

6:00 p.m. Come and close out the day in worship. Continuing the deadly 7, the sin of “envy”—which is one of the few sins that offers no compensating pleasure at all—will be un-masked...so that we can rejoice with those who rejoice!

The offering will be for Amistad Cristiana, a local church started in the mid 1990s with the following purpose: “To help Spanish speakers establish non-denominational, evangelical, and Biblically sound Bible studies and a central worship service in communities within Sioux County.” Amistad met Sunday afternoons in Covenant Church for several years before moving to their own facility. Covenant has been a supporter of this ministry since the mid 1990s helping with things such as hiring pastor/staff and ministry support.

WORSHIP NOTES

Lenten Banners: A simple gray cloth with a black strip suggests the theme of humility for Ash Wednesday and the first service of the Lenten Season this year. This year our Lenten sermon series will focus on the theme of sin against the background of the traditional “seven deadly sins.” Each “sin” will be portrayed by a specific color in the banner. The seven colors, listed below, are presented in a dark value of the color for the six Sundays of Lent. Each one, however, is edged with a lighter, brighter strip to signify a hope for change.

Pride:	Purple	Humility
Envy:	Green	Creative activity
Anger:	Red	Cleansed by blood
Sloth:	Blue	Hope
Greed:	Yellow	Brightness of God’s glory
Gluttony:	Orange	God’s provision: harvest
Lust:	Fuschia	Beauty as God intended

Each of these colors also represents an aspect of our new life in Christ, and will be expressed in a second element for the banner on Easter with lighter, brighter colors.

Next Sunday evening, Dave & Joyce Campbell, missionaries in the Republic of Guinea, plan to be with us to update us on their mission.

Offerings for February 24:

➤ **AM—Justice For All (JFA)**

JFA is an aid organization which seeks out, promotes, and offers opportunities for Christians to provide assistance to ministries who serve the poor and underprivileged. The local JFA office is located in Rock Valley. One of the main ministries of the local office is to take donated items and redistribute them to other organizations who are directly involved in helping the poor and underprivileged. This local ministry always has an open door for those who wish to help, whether it be by sorting, loading, or other volunteer positions. The contact for this ministry is Pat Vander Pol at 712-476-2804.

➤ **PM—Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM)**

CRWM seeks to fulfill the following mandate:

- ◆ Proclaim the Gospel of the growing kingdom of God.
- ◆ Call people of the entire world to repentance, faith in Jesus Christ, and obedience to God in their personal lives and societal relations.
- ◆ Build the Church of Christ. Develop peoples who are gathered for worship, who train their own membership for leadership, and who are dedicated to service in and beyond the communities in which they live.
- ◆ Relieve suffering and minister to human needs through programs of Christian education and development, with the help of CRWRC and/or local diaconal organizations wherever possible.
- ◆ Encourage and enable the congregations of the CRC to call and commission missionaries and to provide cooperatively for their support .

Additional information on CRWM can be found at www.crcna.org/pages/crwm.cfm

Scripture readings for next Sunday—the third Sunday in Lent:

Exodus 17:1-7	<i>Water from the rock.</i>
Psalms 95	<i>“Let us worship and bow down.”</i>
Romans 5:1-11	<i>Peace with God.</i>
John 4:5-42	<i>The woman at the well.</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Goslinga/Feekes Pastoral Group will meet today for a noon meal in the fellowship hall. Next Sunday the **Hoekstra/Mulder Pastoral Group** will gather for a noon meal. Please bring a hot and cold dish to share.

The Sunday Evening Adult Study Group will meet tonight, following the service. They are viewing Ray Vander Laan videos; all adults are invited to join them. Please bring a snack if able.

Youth Group: Once again, we are planning to make the trip up to Mankato to do some skiing, snowboarding, and tubing on President's Day (tomorrow). This year we will be covering the cost of the lift ticket, but not rentals. We will be caravanning with the Faith CRC Youth Group so **we will meet in their parking lot by 6:00 a.m.** On the way up we will do our customary stop at a McDonalds in Worthington. We plan to leave Mankato around 4:30 or 5:00. Please remember to bring appropriate clothing, cash, lunch (if not purchasing at the lodge), the permission slip which came as an attachment to your e-mail, and **photo ID**. Friends are invited, but they must pay their own way, and also bring a permission slip and photo ID. Please let us know **TODAY** if you plan on coming so we can make appropriate travel arrangements.

Grandpa/Grandma Alert! If you have been blessed with a new grandchild in the last few weeks, please share your news with us by way of the next Courier. Call (722-4465) or email (covenant@mtcnet.net) the church office **by tomorrow** with your name, names of the new parents and baby, date of birth, and city/town where they live. Thanks.

A Baby Shower for Katherine Lisl Young, daughter of Teresa Ter Haar and Dan Young, will be tomorrow evening (the 18th) at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please join us.

WWW.COVENANT (Warm Winter Wednesdays at Covenant):

- **THIS Tuesday**, February 19...a time for creation-care ideas, preceded by supper together, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday**, February 26...is reserved for the presentation of Covenant's new "safe-church" policy. Beth Swagman, Director of Abuse Prevention in the CRCNA, will join us.

CADETS: The Pinewood Derby will be this Wednesday **at COVENANT**, at **7:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend.

The Dordt College Nursing Club is selling homemade muffins and bread...please put your order forms, by March 2, in the drop box located on the information table in the fellowship hall.

Council nominations: The Council is receiving names of people you would like to nominate for the office Elder or Deacon on or before Monday, February 25. You can do so by contacting your pastoral Elder or Deacon, or the Clerk of Council—Hubert Krygsman, by phone, email or writing your nomination on a piece of paper and placing it in their church mailbox.

Designated offering(s) from last week: Mission Support: Crulls--\$662.76.

General Fund and Christian Education Fund updates: The General Fund receipts for January totaled \$18,471. On average, to meet the 2008 budget, the General Fund requires \$22,663 per month. The Christian Education Fair Share amount which has been paid through January totaled \$76,356. The amount due to the Christian Education Fair Share fund through January is \$79,799. We thank the congregation for their continued giving to the ministries of Covenant CRC.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday	12:00 Noon	Goslinga/Feekes Pastoral Group Dinner
	6:00 PM	Evening Worship
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Adult Study Group
Monday	6:00 AM	Young People's Trip to Mankato—meet at Faith
	7:00 PM	Baby shower for Katherine Lisl Young
	7:00 PM	Pre-confession Class
Tuesday	6:00 PM	<u>WWW.COV</u> Supper & Creation-Care Ideas
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Coffee Break
	<u>7:00 PM</u>	Cadets—Pinewood Derby at COVENANT
Sun., Feb. 24	12:00 Noon	Hoekstra/Mulder Pastoral Group Dinner

GREETERS are asked to write:

David & Joyce Campbell
La Mission Protestante Reformee
B.P. 34
Dalaba, Republic of Guinea
West Africa
amourdevivre@juno.com

Kelly & April Crull
c/Jesús del Valle 31, 4A
28004
Madrid, Spain
crulls@caimail.net

Dan & Jeananne Kuiper
11408 Randy Petri Lane
El Paso, TX 79936
Djkuip@aol.com

Ryan & Tiffany Postma
c/o Worldwide Chr Sch
629 Ionia Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
rpostma@wwcs.org

Bulletin announcements are due by noon on Thursday.

Email: covenant@mtcnet.net **Phone:** 722-4465 **Website:** www.covenantcrc.net

Regular office hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

TODAY

VALET PARKING ATTENDANTS:

AM & PM: Matthew Lesage with Jasper or Phyllis

GREETERS:

AM: E&M Westra, S&K Westra, R&V Zonnefeld

PM: J&L Zwart, C&P Adams, W&J Alberda

NURSERY:

AM INFANT: E&N Brummel, Julie Verwoerd,
Amanda Arkema

AM TODDLER: N&J Breems, E&D Brue

PM: K&L Boersma, P&R Clousing

Mom of the Month: Janelle Swager

USHERS:

AM: C Goedhart, Deb Hibma, M Horstman,
C Jongsma, M Kamp

PM: B Kooi, J Lesage, J Maatman

Subs: N Lantinga, R McCarthy, B Mellema

COFFEE: J Zwart, P Adams, J Alberda, D Altena,
S Altena, J Bajema, K Boersma,
Amanda Arkema, Elbert Bakker
(Sub: J Breems)

NEXT WEEK

VALET PARKING ATTENDANTS:

AM & PM: Niki Altena with Dan or Sandi

GREETERS:

AM: W&J Alberda, S&J Altena, E&D Brue

PM: D&J Bajema, N&J Breems, A&I Castelan

NURSERY:

AM INFANT: S&P Crull, K De Wit, Liz Brand

AM TODDLER: M&L Christians, B&J Christians

PM: D&P DeJong, D&M DeBoer

Mom of the Month: Janelle Swager

USHERS:

AM: C Goedhart, Deb Hibma, M Horstman,
C Jongsma, M Kamp

PM: B Kooi, J Lesage, J Maatman

Subs: N Lantinga, R McCarthy, B Mellema

COFFEE: J Zwart, P Adams, J Alberda, D Altena,
S Altena, J Bajema, K Boersma,
Micah Schuurma, Nathan Smith
(Sub: J Breems)

GREETERS: *The first name/family scheduled for today should stand by the main entrance; the second name/family by the northeast entrance and the third name/family by the southwest entrance.*

GREETERS, NURSERY ATTENDANTS, and USHERS are asked to wear name tags.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: *It would be helpful, when trading with others for nursery duty, if a trade was done evenly. If you're a couple, please trade with another couple (not a family); if you're a family, trade with another family--preferably of similar size and similar ages of children. Also, please notify the church office of any trades. Thanks for your help in caring for the youngest members of our body.*