

FAMILY RESOURCE TABLE

DECEMBER THEME: Advent Devotionals

❖ *Preparing for Christmas: Advent*

Devotional. See the resource in today's bulletin for individual, family, and small group use! Or pick up a different one at the table outside the office.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITY

Be a special part!! One of the ways we express love for God and others (and are shaped by Him) is through serving others.

One opportunity to check out is:

❖ **Join the Sunday AV Team!** Looking for a place to serve that supports the church and each other? The AV team might be a perfect fit! **Technical knowledge is NOT required and great training will be provided!** You'll be placed on a rotation schedule and help with our Sunday slide presentations! All who are interested (middle school through adult) and wanting to learn more can contact Jake Jacobs at jake@rfcov.org or Emily Gabriel at emily@rfcov.org.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

ELECTRONIC GIVING:

Go to www.rfcov.org and click on the **Electronic Tithing** link under Resources.

Weekly Operational need: \$12,794.00
Regular Giving 11.25.18 \$10,320.60
Mortgage balance as of 11.1.18: \$552,644.81
Attendance on 11.25.18: 106 & 178 = 284

CONTACT US!

rfcov.org | 715.425.2640 | office@rfcov.org
[Facebook.com/firstcovenantchurch](https://www.facebook.com/firstcovenantchurch)
Instagram & Twitter: @FirstCovRF
Todd Ertsgaard | Lead Pastor: 715.425.6991
or todd@rfcov.org
Brian Majerus | Pastor of Christian Formation & Family Ministries: 715.426.3097
or brian@rfcov.org
Neil Vance | Youth Director: 715.307.2645 or neil@rfcov.org
Emily Gabriel | Interim Worship Co-Leader:
715-307-3351 or emily@rfcov.org
Jake Jacobs | Interim Worship Co-Leader:
715-222-8611 or jake@rfcov.org

THANK YOU!

GREETERS: (8:15) Terry & Linda Traynor
(10:45) Brent & Sonja Wiersma
WORSHIP TEAM: Emily Gabriel, Jake Jacobs,
John Witt, Pat Nelson, Jerry Nelson, Isaac Gabriel
SOUND | LIGHT: Andrew Ertsgaard
VIDEO: Ben Gabriel
THE HUB: (8:15) Judy Sambs (10:45) Sarah Vance
NURSERY: (8:15) 0-4: Robert Curtis, Danielle Ertsgaard,
Kyla Kubera
(10:45) 0-4: Kay Zwald, Annette Schalla, Brianna Strehlau
JR. CHURCH: (10:45) Clint & Joy St. John
USHERS: (8:15) Gregg Quam, Brian Halling
(10:45) Matt Fitzgerald, Adam Johnson
PRAYER PARTNERS: (8:15) Gary Sumner
(10:45) Melissa Ertsgaard, Bill Hickox
COFFEE FELLOW SHIP: Bonnie Swanson,
Bonnie Van De Mark
PRODUCE PICK UP: Dan Larson

THIS WEEK

TODAY 12/2 Advent 1

8:15 & 10:45a Worship Services w/Communion
9:30a Sunday School Classes for all ages w/
Adults, Middle School & High School in Worship Center
12:00p Baptism service
12:30p College Lunch / Optional Bible study after

TUESDAY 12/4

9:15a MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)
12:00 & 5:30p Classroom Use: Weight Watchers

WEDNESDAY 12/5

3:30p Confirmation Class
5:30p Fellowship Supper
6:30-8:00p Awana, Confirmation, Sr. High SOLID
6:30-7:30p Prayer Group (All welcome)

THURSDAY 12/6

6:30p Leadership Team Meeting
8:15p Iron: Men's Group

FRIDAY 12/7

9:45a Women's Bible Study Fellowship

SATURDAY 12/8

9:00a Setting up for Living Nativity
4:30-7:30p Living Nativity Drive Thru

SUNDAY 12/9 Advent 2

8:15 & 10:45a Worship Services
9:30a Sunday School classes for all ages w/
Adults, Middle School & High School in Worship Center
6:30p Light in the Darkness Service

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

"On the Journey: Sharing Christ, Growing Together"

Sunday, December 2, 2018 | 8:15 & 10:45a

OPENING SONG

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:15: Grant Dicus & Family

First Year Confirmation Students

10:45: Lillia Gray & Family

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SONGS

OFFERING

10:45: Children ages 5-7 can go to Rm 303 for Junior Church.
Please pick up your child there after the service.

SERMON

Trimming Stress from our Lives

Pastor Todd

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Moment of Silent Reflection

PROCESSIONAL COMMUNION

(Please come to the front to receive the bread and the cup.)

SONG OF COMMUNION

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

(Prayer Partners for your prayer needs are up front after the services.)

A D V E N T

Christmas

DECORATIONS

WELCOME TO OUR TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!!

Guests, we welcome you!

- ✓ **WELCOME PADS** help us to care and connect! Please write your contact info, pass it down the row, and then pass it back. Inside are cards for prayer requests, sign up for the weekly e-news, and more. *If you leave your address, we will send you a Welcome Letter with next step ideas to get to know us...and no extra mailings!*
- ✓ **CHILDREN/FAMILIES:** (The Ushers would love to help you too!).
 - ***Nurseries** (Infants to 4 y.o.).
 - ❖ 8:15- Nursery Room (To the right of the main entrance).
 - ❖ 10:45- Nursery Room.
 - ***Infant Room**—Hear the service too. On right as you enter Worship Center.
 - ***10:45- Junior Church**—5-7 y.o. in Rm 303.
 - ***Children's Activity Bulletins** (ages 4-7) and **Jr. Sermon Notes** (ages 8-12) are available on the usher's cart AND **"Busy Bags" for kids** @theHub!
- ✓ **OFFERING** is an act of worship and a privilege of our church family. We are just glad you are here to worship with us today!
- ✓ **FREE GIFT:** As an expression of appreciation, pick up a gift @theHub and get to know us from the info.

Drive-Thru Living Nativity

This Saturday, December 8 | 4:30-7:30p

Invite!! Use the postcard in your bulletin.

How will you help?

Sign up today @theHub or tinyurl.com/yb7mdt9w or call Laura Schatz at 715.441.4192.

Donate cookies, fruit & veggies for workers' breaks.

Other Opportunities Still Available:

Help to set up scenes 9:00a Saturday with prop set up in the scenes at 10:00a. Help with directing traffic (3). Guys to play Herod, Wise man, 2 guards for Caesar, & Joseph. Boy/girls for roaming Roman soldiers (2-3)

CHURCH LIFE

- ❖ **TODAY: ADVENT BEGINS!** *Prepare for Christmas* with the **bulletin resource** that has personal, small group, and family ideas!
- ❖ **TODAY! BAPTISM SERVICE after 10:45a.** Everyone is invited to celebrate with Yihui Dai (Giselle), Alanna Bram, Sierra Emerson, Teigen Gentry, Aryanna Plummer, Kayla Barber.
- ❖ **TODAY! COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT LUNCH** following the baptism service. Optional Bible study after the lunch.
- ❖ **NEXT WEEK: (Dec. 9)** Pastor Brian continues our *Christmas Decorations* series with Matthew 2:1-12 on seeing God's signs in "everyday" life and how we can respond.
- ❖ **THE BLUE ENVELOPES** are for benevolence offering, which helps those in need in our church and supports ARC (community help).
- ❖ **D-TERM SUNDAY SCHOOL** for adults, middle school and high school students in the Worship Center **today and next Sunday** at 9:30a with Dr. Juan Hernandez. Theme: Gospel Portraits: Matthew.
- ❖ **WED. NIGHT SUPPER: 5:15-6PM** This week: Pizza/ Sign up on Welcome Pad. Cost: \$3:
- ❖ **FOCUS ON LIFE DECEMBER THEME:** Starvation/Hunger. See the Dec. Clarion for more info or the blog.
- ❖ **VOLUNTEER AT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** packing facility in Eagan. Mon., Dec. 10 from 12:00-2:00p, leaving church at 11:00a. Sign up @theHub, e-news, or office.
- ❖ **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY:** FirstCov will be hosting this starting on Mon., Jan. 14, 2019 for nine weeks. Please see the Dec. Clarion newsletter or the weekly e-news for more details.

GIVING TREE

- ❖ **GRAB A TAG & RETURN NEXT SUN., DEC. 9!** Show others the love of Christ. Help those who don't have enough resources to provide for their families this season. **We'll be helping 6 families (11 children) this year.** Grab a tag from the tree and return gift unwrapped by Dec. 9.

CHILDREN'S/BLAST

- ❖ **AWANA:** Dec. 5: Awana store for T & T. Dec. 12: Awana store for Sparks. Grand Prix cars will also be sold both nights.

HOPE FOR THE HURTING

Light in the Darkness: A Service of Hope for the Hurting

- ❖ **NEXT SUN., Dec. 9 at 6:30p.** Whether loved ones you miss, trials of body or mind, hopes unmet or dreams lost, let's come together for comfort and hope for this season...and the new year to come. **To share a prayer need about your trial OR the name of someone you'd like remembered** at the service, please drop them off in the office or send to office@rfcov.org. Feel free to invite neighbors & friends.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

...see the rest of the bulletin too!

- **Sunday, Dec. 16**
 - Advent Series
 - **9:30-10:30a**
 - Adult Christmas Tea (Bring a treat!)
 - Children's Christmas practice
 - **4:00p** Children's Christmas Program
- **Sunday, Dec. 23**
 - Advent Series (8:15a & 10:45a (No Sun. School))
- **Monday, Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 3:00 & 5:00p
- **Wednesday, Dec. 26** No Wednesday Ministries
- **Sunday, Dec. 30**
 - Special Time: 10:00a (One Service Only)
 - No Sunday School
- **Wednesday, Jan. 2**
 - No Wednesday groups *but Confirmation Parent Conferences will be held.*
- **Sunday, Jan. 6** ALL (2 y.o to Adult) Sunday School classes resume
- **Wednesday, Jan. 9** All Wednesday Ministries resume

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK

December 2, 2018

- ❖ For our December Focus on Life: Starvation/Hunger
- ❖ For our Living Nativity: Pray for the provision of volunteers and for preparations
- ❖ For our Missionary of the Week: Judy Gomoll
- ❖ For our College Student of the week: Curtis Hanson
- ❖ For Healing and Help: Jean Elefson, Angie Martini, Jean Hickox, Juanita Amundson, Lila Hilden, David Petersen, Nancy Erickson, Barry Hophan
- ❖ As we move forward from our Vitality, continue to pray for our next phase called Strategic Ministry Planning and for these team members: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Melissa Falde, Jason Hull, Evan Carstedt, Kathi Nelson, Krista Majerus, and Pat Stevens
- ❖ For our Northwest Conference Leaders (see below)
- ❖ For our church staff: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Neil Vance, Jackie Wallace

We are glad to pray for you in joy or in times of need. Needs will be listed for up to four weeks, but please let us know if you would like it longer.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY

For: Sam & Isaac Witt, Brent Wiersma, Roland Pomfret, Mike Findlay, Aaron Riess, Ryan Neel, John Meier, Colin Arneson, Mckenzie Curtis, Max Elliott

OUR NORTHWEST CONFERENCE LEADERS

Northwest Conference Office: 3106 47th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN

The Mission of the Northwest Conference is to engage, empower and equip healthy missional leaders, as we believe that this is a key to growing healthy missional churches.

Mark R. Stromberg, Superintendent; **Mike Brown**, Director of Church Planting;
Jon Kramka, Director of Congregational Vitality; **Bryan Malley**, Director of Communications;
Ginny Olson, Director of Youth Ministry; **Kara Stromberg**, Director of Children & Family Ministry; **Jeff Burton**, Director of Pastoral Care & Development;
Greg Ellis, Coordinator for CHET NWC; **Sandy Norris**, Director of Finance;
Cheryl Theilen, Director of Administration; **Jessa Anderson**, Administrative Coordinator

COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Curtis Hanson, son of Rod & Debra Hanson. Curtis is a Senior at UW Stevens Point with a major in music performance and music education. He will graduate May 2019 following a semester of student teaching in the spring. Please keep him in prayer.

His e-mail is: curtis.a.hanson@uwsp.edu

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Judy Gomoll, serving with **The Navigators** in Colorado. Remember her in prayer. She thanks you for partnering with her for 34 years! Keep in touch! Address: 11961 Ridgeview Lane, Parker, CO 80138. e-mail: judygomoll@usfamily.net



Trimming Stress from our Lives

Luke 2:1-7 | Pastor Todd Ertsgaard

Today, we begin an Advent series entitled, "*Christmas Decorations.*" In this series, we will look at attributes that reflect the significance of what Christ's coming at Christmas means for us and the world. We begin this morning, by looking at how to trim stress from our lives by staying in touch with God's purposes. It involves:

1. Making _____.

2. Reaching _____.

3. Realizing _____.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33 (NIV)