

*F*or the  
Word of God  
is living  
and powerful.

Hebrews 4:12a NKJV

Covenant Reformed Church

December 27, 2009 AM



**Welcome to all who worship with us this morning!**  
Our services will be led today by our pastor, Rev. Patrick Edouard.

### Prayer Matters

#### **Illness**

Peter Rus (Parish 9) remains in the Skilled Care section of the Pella hospital, where he is receiving physical therapy for a recent hip surgery.

Harold Den Besten (Parish 8) continues to receive care at Comfort House due to lung cancer.

The doctors at Iowa Methodist Hospital decided to send Verlan Van Gorp (Parish 8) to Iowa City, where he is expected to receive more specialized treatment and undergo further tests for his continuing weakness.

John Vande Haar (Parish 11) will undergo knee replacement surgery on December 30, the Lord willing at Mercy hospital in Des Moines.

#### **Birthdays**

We wish God's blessings to Peter Rus (Parish 9) who will be 96 on December 28. His address is 1333 Hazel, Pella.

#### **Sympathy**

We express our Christian sympathy to the Jerald and Dorothy Van Wyk family (Parish 14) in the death of Jerald's sister-in-law, Jan Van Wyk, on Saturday, December 19. The funeral was held last Wednesday at First Baptist Church in Pella.

We also express our Christian sympathy to Lawrence and Irene Blom (Parish 13) and the Mike and LuAnn Blom family (Parish 4) in the death of Lawrence's brother and Mike's uncle, Ernie Blom, on Saturday, December 19. The funeral was held last Tuesday at Trinity Reformed Church in Pella.

#### **New Members**

As a congregation, we welcome into our fellowship (Parish 10) Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Judy Farwell and daughter Emma. They come to us from the Palos Heights Christian Reformed Church of Palos Heights, Illinois. We know that our Heavenly Father will strengthen us as He uses their gifts among us. They will be formally welcomed at a later date.

## *Christmas & The Battle of the Seeds*

Scripture Reading & Text: *Matthew 2:13-23*

God successfully protects the Seed of the woman from the seed of the serpent:

I. The providential flight to Egypt; and

II. The terrible plight of Bethlehem; and

III. The cautious fright in Galilee

## *Today at Covenant...*

### **Morning Worship Service**

9:30 am

### **Evening Worship Service**

6:30 pm

Scripture: *I Timothy 3*

Sermon: *The Church Amidst the World (Part 4)*

### **Offerings**

(am) CEAF

(pm) Luke Society

### **Infant Nursery**

(am) Ruth Gorter, Irene Blom

(pm) Erma Stursma, Coretha Rozendaal

### **Toddler Nursery**

(am) Chris & Amy Stolfus, John Meinders

(pm) Amanda Bohanan, Mitchell Fopma

Floater - (am) Rochelle De Bruin (pm) Sharon Fopma

### **Enfolding**

Bob & Mary Vander Wilt

### **Greeters**

Jim & Diane Van Gorp

### **Impromptu Hospitality Hosts**

Clarence & Marlene Hettinga

### **Librarians**

(am) Mary Ann Olivier, Ruth Gorter, Erma Stursma

(pm) Jan Dieleman, Cheryl Fynaardt, Rochelle De Bruin

## Explanation of Our Worship

This brief explanation is intended to help explain the rationale for our mode of worship. In our day, it is customary to classify worship as "traditional" or "contemporary." Since the God we are worshipping is timeless, we avoid such time-bound references to characterize His worship. We prefer to call our worship "biblical."

While worship is the highlight of our week, indeed of our lives, and while it reunites us with our church family, the focus of worship is not on ourselves, but on God. There are two fundamental principles involved in biblical worship: (1) Worship is governed by what God has revealed about Himself in His Word. A corollary is that worship is to be in accord with what He has prescribed as acceptable worship. (2) Worship is a dialogue between God and His covenant people. So defined, worship is a communication. In this communication God speaks to us through His Word and we respond to Him either in prayer or in singing. Every aspect of worship must have a biblical reason and a biblical defense. It is of utmost importance that we assume a reverential posture in the presence of God.

The Consistory supervises and is responsible for every aspect of our worship service. The pastor, or guest pastor, leads us in worship, under the authority of the Consistory.

The songs we sing are chosen primarily for their theology or biblical accuracy. Biblical worship is aware of the importance of music to God, and has always appreciated melody, harmony, and rhythm. But all of that is secondary to a higher, primary concern: faithfulness to Scripture. Our songs are intended to complement, support, and apply the theme of the message.

1. *Call to Worship*: The Lord officially summons us to worship Him. This is usually done with the reading of an appropriate Scripture passage.
2. *Prayer of Invocation*: We call upon the Lord to assist and prepare us for the solemn task of worshipping Him; that our worship would be acceptable to Him.
3. *Hymn of Praise*: We extol the Lord in singing.
4. *God's greeting*: God welcomes us in His house of worship, and greets with His "Grace, Peace, and Mercy."
5. *Reading of the Law*: Here we hear God's law proclaimed to us. The Law is normative for our lives and reveals God's will for Christian living.
6. *Hymn of Confession*: In acknowledgement of our failure to keep the Law, we implore the Lord's mercy, or sing of His mercy. In some cases, a song of gratitude may also be sung at this point.
7. *Assurance of Pardon*: In response to our song of penitence, the Lord responds with the assurance that our sins are forgiven in Christ, wholly by grace.
8. *Congregational Prayer*: Here, the worship leader addresses the Lord with the petitions of the congregation. Prayer is often composed of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication, or ACTS.
9. *Hymn of Preparation*: This song prepares us to hear the word of God, often anticipating the theme of the sermon.
10. *Sermon*: This is the center of the worship service. It is not because we place a premium on oration or human eloquence. It is because at this point the Lord speaks to His people, through His word and servant. The purpose of a sermon is to focus on Christ and His finished work. The desired response is *never* "what a preacher," but *always* "what a Savior!"
11. *Hymn of Response*: We respond with appropriate singing, again emphasizing the theme of the sermon.
12. *Offerings*: This is an offering to the Lord, usually for a cause we support.
13. *Doxology*: This is a song in which we celebrate the glory and supreme majesty of God, while accentuating our complete dependence on Him and His goodness to us.
14. *Benediction*: The worship service is officially over. The Lord dismisses us with His blessing.

If you have any further questions about our church or ministries, please do not hesitate to contact one of our elders or the Pastor.

Dear Visitor,  
We heartily welcome you. The Lord will richly bless you and avail ourselves to make you more aware of His love. Please take a moment to fill out this card.

### Name

- Mr.  
 Mrs.  
 Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently a member of \_\_\_\_\_

### Future Contact

- I live in the area,  
 I live in the area a  
 I am just passing  
 I just moved here  
 I would like a visit  
 I would like a visit  
 I would like to ob

Please let us know \_\_\_\_\_

### Comments:

me you to our worship service today. It is our prayer that the  
s us as we worship Him. In our attempt to get to know you,  
s of your spiritual needs, we have designed this form to make  
your presence, and if desired to establish contact with you.  
ment to fill it out, and drop it in the offering plate.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First)

\_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

) \_\_\_\_\_

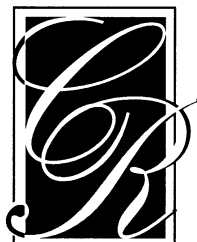
member of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

and do not belong to any church.  
and belong to a local church.  
through town on a visit, business, or vacation.  
e and am looking for a church to affiliate with.  
t from the deacons.  
t from an elder or the pastor.  
tain literature about your church.

in what way we may be of service to you:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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### **Covenant Reformed Church**

2805 Fifield Road, Pella, IA 50219

Phone: 641/620-1777

Worship Times: 9:30 am and 6:30 pm

E-mail: [covenant@iowatelecom.net](mailto:covenant@iowatelecom.net)

Website: [www.covenantpella.org](http://www.covenantpella.org)

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

### **Pastor: Rev. Patrick Edouard**

Phone: 641/621-1438

E-mail: [edouardness@mchsi.com](mailto:edouardness@mchsi.com)

### **Covenant's Media Ministry**

In addition to our downloadable internet sermons,  
Covenant Radio Ministry can be heard on KCWN 99.9 FM

Our worship services are broadcast live every Sunday at  
9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

We also sponsor the Reformed Pulpit heard every weeknight  
on KCWN at 8:05 p.m.

Our services can also be heard on KCOB 95.9 FM or 1280 AM  
at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday Mornings.

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The congregation is requested to be seated at 9:25 am and 6:25 pm  
so that they can enjoy the prelude and adopt a  
worshipful attitude in preparation for the service.

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Although Covenant Reformed Church is equipped with ample nursery capacity for  
both infants and toddlers, parents who wish to take their young children to the  
sanctuary during worship are welcome to do so. However, if a child becomes  
disruptive at any time during the service, parents are urged to remove the child  
promptly in order that the congregation may worship undisturbed.

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If you are interested in becoming a member of Covenant Reformed Church  
or for more information about our church or its ministries,  
please contact the pastor or the elder at the door.