

**WORSHIP IN THE SEASON OF ANTICIPATION**  
**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 6, 2009 – 11AM**  
**Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Welcome Pastor John Benson

Families with children are welcome in worship.  
Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers  
downstairs throughout the service

Prelude Sandra Benson, Organist  
Becky Ericson, Pianist

*O Magnify the Lord* – arr. Doran

\*Call to Worship Luke 1:77-79

Leader: By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

People: *To give Light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

\*Hymn 138 *People, Look East*

\*Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath the Karlson Family  
The Apostles' Candle

First Lesson Malachi 3:1-4 LisaAnn Abranchess, Reader  
+The children's bulletin's for today are based on this passage +

Unison Prayer of Confession: Hymnal No. 903

The Gospel Luke 3:1-6

Our Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory + Special offering today Helping Hand Fund +

\*Hymn 183 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn 127, Stanzas 1,2 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Sermon Philippians 1:3-5

**APOSTLES SHARE THE GOSPEL**

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

\*Prayer of Adoration Hymnal No. 896

\*Words of Institution 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

\*Hymn 140 *Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Those who are able please stand.

**Welcome!** Whether this is your first time with us, a return visit, or something you do every Sunday, we're happy that you're here! Please fill out the Home Page insert in this bulletin, including your address and prayer requests, and make it part of your offering this morning. The offering is an opportunity to share financially in the ministries and mission of this congregation – if you're a visitor or a newcomer, as our guest you are under no obligation to participate. We hope to see you again soon!

## SERVING TODAY

Greeter: Ruth Kendrick  
Ushers: Bob Ericson  
Reader: LisaAnn Abranchess  
Nursery/Assistant: Claire Bentley/Betty Sloat  
Sound Tech: Jim Hamilton  
Snack: None Scheduled

## SERVING NEXT WEEK: December 6

Greeter: To Be Announced  
Ushers: Rob Ericson  
Reader: Bill Anderson  
Nursery/Assistant: To Be Announced  
Sound Tech: To Be Announced  
Snack: The Bensons

## Birthdays and Anniversaries Celebrated this week:

Monday Ed Doyle  
Tuesday Per Kullstam  
Wednesday Anna Bentley  
Thursday Christina Coussa

## When you come to church on Sunday, remember to . . .

*Bring your Bibles* – It's not all in the bulletin

*Bring canned goods* for outreach to those in need through the food pantries at ECHO and Rising Hope

*Bring change* for the change box to fund capital improvements

*Bring a dollar or two* to help our Youth Group support Yohannes Makalew, our Compassion International sponsored child in Indonesia

## COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

*Celebrating our 37<sup>th</sup> year of Ministry*

7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152

CCC Webpage [www.covenantchurchva.org](http://www.covenantchurchva.org)

Blog – <http://covenantchurchva.blogspot.com>

703-455-4150 [communitycovenant@verizon.net](mailto:communitycovenant@verizon.net)

*Our mission as a congregation is calling people from this community and around the world into communion with Christ. Our communion with him and with each other grows as we enter into the promises and challenges that a covenant with Christ includes.*

## THIS WEEK

**Today** 9:30 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship Service  
**6:30 PM Discussion of The Shack**

**Tuesday** 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study

**Saturday** **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
**Bring a guest! Sign up today!**  
**5:00 PM Appetizers**  
**6:00 PM Dinner**

**Special Christmas Program:**  
**"It Was a Dark & Starry Night"**

**-All ages participating**  
**-Songs and Biblical Narration**  
**-Guests from Riverside Covenant**

**Next Sunday, December 6 – The Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM The Service of Worship  
Lighting of the Martyrs' Candle

**We're celebrating the Lord's Supper today.** If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your hearts that God raised him from the dead, you are welcome to join us – even if you're not a member of this congregation. Everyone will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and the cup. If for any reason you do not wish to participate, please feel free to remain in your seat. Children are welcomed at the Lord's Table – the youngest are given grapes. Older children may receive the bread and the cup if, in the opinion of their parents, they understand the significance of the celebration and have put their faith in Christ.

**Remember that this building is regularly used** by many other groups. If you are planning an activity, please check the complete calendar in the church office and contact Aaron Knowles, our Administrative Assistant, before scheduling an event. Aaron can be reached by calling the church office or 703-425-5633. The deadline for bulletin announcements is 9 AM Friday.

**Scripture Lessons to read for Sunday, December 13:**

Zephaniah 3:14-20	Disaster has been removed
Philippians 4:4-7	The Lord is near
Luke 3:7-18	The axe at the root of the tree

**School Supplies for Afghan children** – according to Phil Zeman, who is deployed in Afghanistan, there is a great need! If anyone is interested in donating to a “school supply” care package, please contact Kristin Zeman. Donations can be put in the box next to the credenza.

**The Shack**, by Wm. Paul Young, is the book scheduled for discussion on Sunday, December 6, at 6:30 PM in the church kitchen. A lot of people are reading and talking about this best-selling book and so should you! According to Eugene Peterson, “This book has the potential to do for our generation what John Bunyan’s Pilgrim Progress did for his. It’s that good!” See if you agree – read it and join our conversation about this unusual book which addresses the question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?

**We need readers and special music for Christmas Eve.** Sign up at the table in the hallway today if you or someone in your family can serve as a scripture reader (we need 8) or can provide special music (vocal or instrumental) at the service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10 PM. We also need ushers and a candlelighter.

**A Sign-up Sheet for Holiday Volunteers** is on the table in the hallway. If you will be here during the Thanksgiving Advent, Christmas, and New Year Holiday Season, we can use you to meet our many volunteer needs on Sunday Morning. Please consider signing up today!

**Annual Christmas Dinner!** Save the date – Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Appetizers are at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by a special Christmas program. Invite your friends and neighbors. Please sign up today on the poster at the table in the hallway to bring food for our festive holiday gathering.

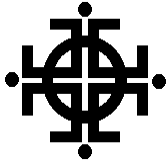
**In the Covenant Companion:** “Learning the Biblical Rhythms”- In a new Companion series, Ellen M. Kogstad offers a way to expand our life with God by attending to the cycles of the church year. Excellent reading for the first week in Advent. Subscriptions to our award-winning denominational magazine are \$19.95 a year. Call 773-784-3000.

**How to contact Pastor Benson:** By phone (703-451-6624; 703-455-4150; 703-505-0626) by mail (6624 Reynard Drive, Springfield, VA 22152) or by email (johnsbenson@hotmail.com). Please get in touch immediately when you or someone in your family is in the hospital, facing surgery or in need of pastoral care.

**Get Connected with Covenant Newswire** – this free service delivers the latest news from Covenant Churches around the world to your home or office in a single daily email. It's a great way to keep informed about what's happening among the mission friends. To sign up, visit the Covenant Web Page ([www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)) and click on the Newswire button.

***Covenant World Mission Prayer Line: 1-800-FON-PRAY***

**Did you miss last week's sermon?** Hear it and read the bulletin each week on the church website. It is updated weekly. Please visit us at [www.covenantchurchva.org](http://www.covenantchurchva.org).



*The character of the Evangelical Covenant Church is expressed by our logo: at the center is the cross. Next is a circle – the symbol of our unity in Christ. Then four different people, joined together, reach out to the world in love. Find out more about the Covenant at [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)*