

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
Advent, the Season of Anticipation  
Sunday, December 14, 2008 - 11 AM

*Americans spend 450 billion dollars on Christmas every year.  
10 billion dollars would bring clean water to every person on the  
globe.*

Source: [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org)

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

*People, Look East!* Arr. D. Wood

-Find the words to this Advent hymn at #138-

Call to Worship Romans 13:11b-12a

\*Hymn 135

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

\*Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

An Advent Duet on "What Child Is This?" Bill Anderson &  
Doug Thorpe

*Carol for Advent* by Don Besig and Nancy Price

First Lesson Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Julie Fann, Reader

A Word to the Children "Christmas Is On the Way"

Week 3- "Joseph's Dream" – Matthew 1:18-25

Special Music The Sunday School Children

*The Friendly Beasts*

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Children age 3 to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are dismissed to go downstairs for Jr.  
JAMboree on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month

Offering

\*Hymn 154, Stanza 4

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn- Insert

*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine*

The Message

The Purpose of Christmas  
**A TIME FOR SALVATION**  
John's Testimony

\*Hymn 173

*Good Christians, All Rejoice*

\*Benediction

1Thessaloonians 5:16-24

\*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 the offering today. The offering is an opportunity to share financially in the ministries and mission of our congregation- if you're a visitor or a newcomer, you are under no obligation.

## SERVING TODAY

Greeters: Erik and Anna Karlson  
Ushers: Aaron Knowles and Bob Ericson  
Reader: Julie Fann  
Nursery: Claire Bentley  
Snack: Connelie Family  
Sound Technician: Tom Connelie  
Candle Lighter: Jared Connelie

## SERVING NEXT WEEK: December 21

Greeters:  
Ushers:  
Reader:  
Nursery:  
Snack:  
Sound Technician:  
Candle Lighter:

Birthdays and Anniversaries Celebrated this week:

**Remember** that this building is regularly used by other groups. If you are planning an activity, remember to check the complete calendar in the church office. Please speak to Aaron Knowles, our Administrative Assistant, before scheduling any event. (Call 703-455-4150.) The deadline for bulletin announcements is 9 AM Friday

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH  
**Celebrating our 36<sup>th</sup> year of Ministry**  
**7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152**  
CCC Webpage [www.covenantchurchva.org](http://www.covenantchurchva.org)  
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.

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

- Bring *canned goods* for outreach to those in need in our area through the food pantries at ECHO and Rising Hope
- Bring *change* for the change box to fund capital improvements
- Bring *a dollar* to help our Youth Group support Yohannes Makalew, Compassion International sponsored child in Indonesia

*Our Life Together This Week*

- Today      9:30 AM      Sunday School classes for everyone  
Youth and Adult Classes –  
The Purpose of Christmas:  
*A Time for Salvation*
- 11:00 AM      Worship Service
- 12:15 PM      Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Bell Choir
- Tuesday      10:00 AM Women’s Bible Study  
*The Purpose of Christmas*
- Sunday**      9:30 AM      Sunday School – classes for everyone  
Dec. 14  
Youth and Adults Classes: Session 2  
Of Rick Warren’s video-based study  
The Purpose of Christmas with small group  
*A Time for Reconciliation*
- 11:00 AM      Worship service  
Special Music: Shellie Connelie  
Message: The Prince of Peace

**Christmas Eve Service:** We cordially invite you and your guests, family, friends and neighbors to our festive and Holy Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 10 PM on Wednesday, December 24. The Service is a Celebration of Lessons and Carols, featuring lots of special music and hymns, as well as the reading of Scripture Lessons which tell “the tale of the loving purpose of God from the first days of our disobedience, which is common to us all, unto the glorious redemption which is brought us by this child.”

**Schedule for Christmas & New Year’s Sundays:** Sunday School will not be held on the Sundays of December 28, and January 4. Services are at 11 AM. Dec.28 is our annual “Choose Your Favorite Christmas Carol Sunday” and a reception for newlyweds Josh and Elly Reitman will be held following the service. The Day of Epiphany and the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, January 4. Sunday School Classes will resume at 9:30 AM on Sunday, January 11.

**Volunteers needed:** We need greeters, ushers, readers, nursery workers, sound technicians and candle lighters for the Christmas Eve Service at 10 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Sign up at the in the hallway this morning.

**Help our apple tree** continue to blossom and bear fruit! 76 personal invitations have been extended to children and their families to participate in a church activity (our goal for the year is 100). 684 hours have been donated in supporting our ministry to children (our goal is 1000). \$2809 has been contributed for better equipping our children ministry (our goal is \$5000). Please help us achieve these over and above stewardship goals.

**Lessons to Read for December 21 -The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-16	The “House” of David
Luke 1:47-55	Mary’s Christmas Song
Romans 16:25-27	God is able to strengthen you
Luke 1:26-38	The angel Gabriel appears to Mary

**Angel Tree** – once again we are inviting you to purchase a Christmas gift for the child of someone in prison. Visit the Angel Tree by the coffee table and take an ornament from the tree with a child’s name and request. \$20 to \$25 is the suggested amount to be spent per gift. If purchasing clothes, please enclose a gift return receipt, as sometimes the clothes don’t fit even when they are the requested size. Tell Mary Hamilton about your choice and she will tell you when and how the wrapped present is to be brought to the church and put under the tree for distribution to our Angel Tree Children. (Mary’s phone – 703-912-4705)

**Mark Enstrom, CCC Financial Secretary**, has requested that you turn in your World Relief Banks and Offerings ASAP. If you want your contribution to be counted and credited toward your annual giving for taxes, your name should be on the bank. If your check for the World Relief is made out to Community Covenant Church and designated for World Relief, you will also be given credit. When offerings have been gathered and accounted for, we will send one check to Covenant World Relief.

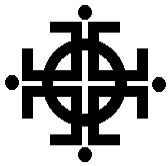
**Got any Christmas recipes** that ought to be in the Church Cookbook? Or other great recipes to share? Make sure they are put in the folder on the table in the hallway or given to Kathy Knowles before the cookbook goes into print . . . soon!

**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).

**In the Covenant Companion** – Seasonal articles on Julfest at 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant, Mary’s Magnificat, Joseph as a Stepfather to God, the Awesome Child, Bethlehem Today, and the Humble Stable. Subscriptions to our award-winning denominational magazine are \$19.95 a year. (Online at [www.covchurch.org/communications](http://www.covchurch.org/communications) or call 773-784-3000)

**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.

**How to contact Pastor Benson.** Call him at the parsonage, where he maintains an office, at any time: 703-451-6624; or by email-[johnbenson@hotmail.com](mailto:johnbenson@hotmail.com). Prayer requests and other matters can be brought to his attention by using the home page insert in this bulletin. Please get in touch immediately when you or someone in your family is in the hospital, facing surgery, or in need of pastoral care.



*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 being united in Christ. Then four different people, joined to one another, reach out to the world in love. The Covenant Web Page: [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)*

**A Covenant Affirmation:** We affirm the necessity of the new birth. The Apostle Paul wrote, “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.” (2 Cor. 5:17) New birth in Christ means committing ourselves to him and receiving forgiveness, acceptance and eternal life. It means being alive in Christ, and this life has the qualities of love and righteousness, joy and peace. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Pastor Benson or a church member today.