

THE LORD'S DAY – DECEMBER 12, 2021
MORNING WORSHIP - 9:30 A.M.
Led by: Pastor Scott Muilenburg

Prelude

Advent Reading and Lighting - Kurt and Vonda Talsma

Welcome & Silent Prayer

*Call to Worship: Isaiah 61:10-11

*Opening Songs of Adoration: #340 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* (vv. 1-3)
#337 *"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"*

Standard of Righteousness: Exodus 20:1-17

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

*Song of Thanksgiving: *"O Holy Night"*

Kids Praise: *"Go, Tell It on a Mountain"*

Children's Message

At this time, children ages 3-5 may be dismissed for a Bible lesson,
located downstairs in the old nursery.

Prayer for God's People

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-14 (p. 1832)

Sermon: *"Built Up and Rooted In the Lord Jesus"*

*Song of Response: *"Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me"*

Prayer for the Offering (Sos and Kara Maletoungou - Resonate)

Offering

*Benediction

*Closing Song: #355 *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"* (v. 3)

THE LORD'S DAY – DECEMBER 12, 2021
EVENING WORSHIP - 6:30 P.M.
Led by: Pastor Scott Muilenburg

Prelude

Welcome & Silent Prayer

Expression of Dependence

Pastor: I lift my eyes to the hills; from where does my help come?

People: Our help is in the name of the LORD, Maker of heaven and earth.

*Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:28-29

*Opening Song of Praise: #412 *"Jesus Shall Reign"*

Bible Reading: Hosea 11:1-11 (p. 1407)

Prayer of God's People

*Song of Thanksgiving: Trinity Hymnal #518 *"Christ of All My Hopes the Ground"*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4 (p. 1787)

Sermon: *"The Contours of Love - Part One"*

*Song of Response: #267 *"And Can It Be That I Should Gain"*

Prayer for the Offering (Sos and Kara Maletoungou - Resonate)

Offertory: *"Christmas Medley"* - Kaitlyn Schelhaas

*Confession of the Faith: The Apostles' Creed

*Benediction

*Parting Song: #632 *"To God Be the Glory"*

SERMON NOTES – DECEMBER 12, 2021

BUILT UP AND ROOTED IN THE LORD JESUS

Text: Colossians 1:9-14

THE CONTOURS OF LOVE

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:4

Reformation Matters

"What is sanctification?" "Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness." - Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 35

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES:

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| Today | 9:30 am | - Morning Worship |
| | 10:40 am | - Kids' Praise |
| | 10:40am | - Prayer Warriors |
| | 10:40am | - 3 rd /4 th grade meet in old council room to practice chimes |
| | 11:00 am | - 3 rd -8 th Christmas concert practice (with Kid's Praise) |
| | 11:00 am | - Choir |
| | 11:30 am | - 5 th – 8 th grade bells practice |
| | 12:00 pm | - Care Group 7 potluck |
| | 6:30 pm | - Evening Worship |
| Mon. | 7:00 pm | - SWC Elementary Christmas Concert |
| | 7:00 pm | - Men's Society Lesson 4 |
| Wed. | 9:30 am | - Coffee Break & Story Hour |
| | 6:00 pm | - Youth Group and Kids of Grace Christmas party at church |
| Thurs. | 9:30 am | - Christian Fellowship |
| | 6:30 pm | - Friendship Christmas Party at church |
| Sat. | 7:00 pm | - Christmas Concert (pianist Thomas VanSoelen & cellist Meghan McGuire) |

FUTURE DATES:

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|---------|----------|--|
| Dec. 19 | 6:30 pm | - First CRC Christmas Program |
| Dec. 20 | 7:00 pm | - Southwest Christian High School Christmas concert (Bethel CRC) |
| Dec. 22 | 7:00 pm | - Executive Committee meeting |
| Dec. 25 | 9:30 am | - Christmas service of Lessons and Carols |
| Jan. 16 | 11:00 am | - Zoom call with Cornerstone Prison Church |

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The elders have received and approved the membership transfer of Joyce Christians, joining our congregation from First CRC in Sioux Falls. Please take some time this morning to greet Joyce and welcome her to our church family.

Prayer requests from Sydney Van Hulzen:

'I'll be in Tanzania from December 29 through January 10. Specific prayer requests: safety throughout traveling, health of all people going on the trip, for opportunities to share Christ

Next Sundays Offering: Christian Education

Stewardship Verse:

*But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?
Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." 1 Chronicles
29:14*

with the people there, for enough time to treat everyone at each village (last time we had to turn away sick people and it was so sad), and a good relationship to be formed between STEMM and the communities we go to.’

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today the Kurt & Vonda Talsma family will light the candle of joy on the Advent wreath. We are reminded that only the good news of salvation through Jesus can give us true joy and happiness.

Christmas program practice: Kid’s Praise kids will meet downstairs immediately following the service and then will join the 3rd – 8th graders in the sanctuary. 3/4th grade meet in Old Council Room right after AM church to practice chime piece till we practice together in sanctuary with 3yrs old—8th grade. 5-8th grade will meet with catechism teachers for juice and refreshments before meeting in sanctuary for practice. 5-8th grade bell players will practice after program practice till 11:50 in the balcony.

Help will be needed after AM church to set up risers and move furniture to the back. If you are able to help in this way it would be much appreciated!

Care Group 7 will be having a potluck dinner in the Fellowship hall after the morning service today. Please bring a hot dish or salad to share. Hope to see you there!

With younger students practicing songs in the front of church, prayer warriors please meet your partner in the BACK of the sanctuary today.

Would you like to know more about the mission of the Cornerstone Prison Church? On January 21, 2022 you have the opportunity to worship with the men behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary. This opportunity is open to anyone 18 and older. All visitors must fill out clearance forms before attending the worship service. Please talk to Ron or Thea Nykamp to receive the forms that need to be filled out and get your name on the list. The group will be limited to 25 and all forms must be submitted no later than December 29.

Classis Minnkota Scholarship Grant: A portion of the Classis Minnkota ministry share for Christian Higher Education received during the previous year is awarded in February to Christian college students in the form of scholarship grants. Any students attending a CRC-endorsed Christian college who completes an application form by the December 24 deadline is eligible. Contact Ryan Blom for an application or provide him with the student’s email address and a form will be emailed directly to the applicant. Please email your application to Ryan Blom. Ryan’s email address is ryan.d.blom@gmail.com

Notes from the December Council meeting:

The Council elected new Council Officers for 2022. Officers are President – Ryan Blom, Vice President – Brian Busker, Clerk – Greg Talsma, Recorder – Jon Schmidt, Assistant Recorder/Vicar – Mike Hulstein, and Chairman of the Deacons – Brad Prouty.

The Council has approved the recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee to replace the carpet in the Sanctuary and south foyer. The installation is tentatively set for the week of March 7th.

The Van Soelen / McGuire piano and cello Christmas concert on Saturday, December 18 at 7PM will be live streamed on First CRC’s YouTube channel. For those in attendance, an offering will be taken up for Southwest Crisis Center (mnsbcc.org), and refreshments will be served afterwards.

The Council regrets that the Thanksgiving envelopes were not made available for the Thanksgiving Day service, and any inconvenience or confusion that it caused. Instead, the Council would like to give another opportunity to use the Thanksgiving envelopes, for those who desire. They will be placed in the mailboxes on Sunday, December 19th. Please return the envelopes at the Christmas day service or on Sunday, December 26th.

Over the last couple months, the Congregation has heard from missionaries Sos and Kara Melatongou (Resonate Global) and Margaret Njuguna (En-Gedi Children’s Home) during fellowship time after church. The Deacons wish to inform the Congregation that \$5000 was sent to Sos and Kara to help with a budget deficit and \$5000 was sent to Margaret to meet the need for wheelchairs.

The Executive Committee will meet December 22 at 7PM to assign council duties and Care Group Elder/Deacon teams.

The Council has made available 50 copies of the “Nearer To God” devotional for congregational use. Please take one and use at home in your devotional life for the coming year.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southwest MN Christian Schools invites you to two evenings of celebration as we honor the birth of our Savior through song. The elementary students share classic carols and hymns along with some new favorites while the high school students feature instrumental and vocal ensembles - all proclaiming the good news of Christ's birth and the Christmas story! The students have been working hard and are so excited to share their musical gifts with

everyone! Let the joyful sounds of music fill your hearts with Love, Joy & Peace this holiday season and throughout the New Year!

"Children, Adore Him!" - Elementary Concert (K-8) at the Elementary Gym: December 13 at 7:00pm

"Wonder of Wonders" - High School Concert at Bethel CRC: December 20 at 7:00pm

COMMUNITY & MISC

Christmas Concert: Pianist Dr. Thomas Van Soelen and cellist Meghan McGuire will perform together at 7 p.m. on December 18 at First Christian Reformed Church in Edgerton. The concert will feature music from a variety of traditions, including special arrangements of Christmas carols. McGuire and Van Soelen have been partnering in concerts since 2013. The concert is free, but will feature a freewill offering supporting the domestic violence efforts at The Southwest Crisis Center.

Justice For All is planning a UTAH BUS TOUR, focusing on our ministry partners Great Commission Utah and Grace Reigns. The dates are April 5-11, 2022. Join us, learn, and see how God is using these amazing ministries to share His love and grace to those within the FDLS communities in Utah. We will be spending time in Salt Lake City and Hildale, UT/Colorado City, AZ. We will also enjoy some of the amazing beauty of God's creation in UT. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Pat Vander Pol at JFA (patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org – 712-476-2804).

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Renew

Advent Means Hope - With World Renew's 2021-2022 Gift Catalog, you can help a family plant seeds to grow food after COVID-19 lockdowns, give a child the supplies they need for health with a nutrition kit, or provide safety for a disaster survivor. Choose a gift that gives someone who is struggling with hunger and income insecurity the opportunity for transformation today and hope for the future. Give online at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 1-888-WRLD-RNW.

Faith Formation Ministries

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Leviticus 19:33-34 and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) Leviticus 19 is full of commands for how to be holy. One of those commands is to love strangers (in this case people who are from other lands) as you love yourself. How do you live out this command? What are some ways that you, your family, your church, your wider community, and your nation could love people from other lands as yourself?

ReFrame Ministries

New Video: Kids in Action - Kids in Action host Simone meets Kyra, an accessibility leader at her school. She was part of a team that made renovations happen, and now her school is new and improved. kidscorner.net/kids-in-action/accessibility-leader. It's Kids in Action, putting on a hard hat and creating great spaces for all God's children. Please share this video and amplify the voices and stories in the disability community.

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Advent: A Time of Joy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What has God done today that brought you joy? What makes you want to glorify and praise him? Look for God's blessings and anticipate that he will do something. He always does! Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

Groundwork: Christmas Hope: Ruth - When the trials and challenges of life drag on with no end in sight, it's easy to wonder if God cares, or if continued faithfulness is worth our effort. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Matthew 1:3-6, Ruth 1-4, Luke 16:10, and Micah 6:8 to discover how God uses the simple faithfulness of Ruth and Boaz to ensure the continuation of the Messiah's family tree. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

MEMBERS IN SERVICE

TODAY:

Nursery: AM – Cindy Spronk, Christa Blom, Ryan Pap, Sawyer Vander Haar
PM – Rosann VandenBerg, Ashley Schelhaas, Morgan Pap, Kylee Brands

Valet: Loren DeKam

Ushers: Greg, Talsma, Arlyn Schmidt, Micah Schaap, Ben Hanson

Medical Assistant: Carmen Fey

Children's Worship: Shannon Nykamp, I Jayden/Lucas Brands

Praise Team: Kirk Van Hulzen, Brad Prouty, Kurt Talsma, Mark Boeve

Keyboard: Brittany Forness

NEXT WEEK – DECEMBER 19:

Nursery: AM – Kaitlyn Schelhaas, Tawni Pater, Nilson Van Hulzen, Parker Bleyenbergh
PM – Christmas Program

Valet: Mike Hulstein

Ushers: Ray Schelhaas, Jamie Pap, Justin Moss, Kurt Talsma

Medical Assistant: Barb Obbink

Children's Worship: Julia Holm, Hannah/Izzy Masselink

MISSIONARIES

Friendship Community Church
Christian Reformed Home Missions
Sergeant Bluff, Iowa

Sos and Kara Maletougou
Christian Reformed World Missions
West Africa

Rev. William & Aletha Green
Latin Amer. Fellowship of Reformed
Churches, Costa Rica

Margaret Njuguna
En-Gedi Children's Home,
Kenya

Cornerstone Prison Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

CHURCH INFORMATION

Pastor Scott Muilenburg, 507-215-3590, scott.muilenburg@gmail.com
Associate Pastor LeRoy Christoffels, 605-254-5590, leechristoffels@gmail.com
Secretary Tawni Pater, 507-442-6701, firstcsrcsec@yahoo.com
Treasurer Jan Schelhaas, 507-227-4667, frcjan@gmail.com
Custodian & Building Use Contact Rod Obbink, 507-227-7619
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