

**THE LORD'S DAY – DECEMBER 19, 2021**

**MORNING WORSHIP - 9:30 A.M.**

Led by: Pastor Scott Muilenburg

Prelude

Advent Reading: Ross and Jen Brands & Family

Welcome & Silent Prayer

\*Call to Worship: Psalm 89:5-8

\*Opening Songs of Adoration: #328 *"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"* (vv. 1-5)

#344 *"Silent Night! Holy Night!"*

Standard of Righteousness: Mark 4:18-19

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

\*Song of Thanksgiving: *"By Faith"*

At this time, children ages 3-5 may be dismissed for a Bible lesson,  
located downstairs in Room 4 (the old nursery).

Musical Offering: *"Sing Again, the Christmas Story"* - First CRC Choir

Prayer of God's People

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-17 (p. 1832)

Sermon: "Who's That In the Manger?"

\*Song of Response: #395 *"Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus"*

Prayer for the Offering (Christian Education)

Offertory: *"O Holy Night"* - First CRC Choir

\*Benediction

\*Closing Song: #354 *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"* (v. 5)

**SERMON NOTES – DECEMBER 19, 2021**

**WHO'S THAT IN THE MANGER?**

Text: Colossians 1:15-17

**Reformation Matters**

Reformation Matters: "I find Christ to be Christ, and that he is far, far, even infinite heaven's height above man. And that is all our happiness. Sinners can do nothing but make wounds that Christ may heal them; and make debts, that he may pay them; and make falls, that he may raise them; and make deaths, that he may quicken them; and spin out and dig hells to themselves, that he may ransom them."

- Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661), "The Loveliness of Christ"

**THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES:**

- |       |          |  |
|-------|----------|--|
| Today | 9:30 am  | - Morning Worship  |
|       | 10:40 am | - Kids' Praise   |
|       | 10:40am  | - 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> grade meet in old council room to practice chimes |
|       | 11:00 am | - 3 <sup>rd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Christmas concert practice (with Kid's Praise)    |
|       | 11:00 am | - Choir  |
|       | 11:30 am | - 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade bells practice                             |
|       | 6:30 pm  | - Christmas program  |
| Mon.  | 2:00 pm  | - Mary Guild   |
|       | 7:00 pm  | - SWMCH Christmas concert (Bethel CRC)   |
| Tues. | 7:00 pm  | - Consistory meeting   |
| Wed.  | 6:00 pm  | - Youth Group and Kids of Grace Christmas party at First CRC                         |
|       | 7:00 pm  | - Executive Committee meeting  |
| Sat.  | 9:30 am  | - Christmas service of Lessons and Carols  |

**FUTURE DATES:**

- |         |          |  |
|---------|----------|--|
| Jan. 16 | 11:00 am | - Zoom call with Cornerstone Prison Church |
|---------|----------|--|

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

We express our sympathies and offer our prayers to the family of Henrietta Klumper, as she departed to be with the Lord on December 9, 2021. May the God of all comfort, the God who raises the dead, grant his peace to those who mourn.

Sydney VanHulzen will be traveling to Tanzania (with a group from Dordt) from December 29<sup>th</sup>-January 10<sup>th</sup>. As Sydney prepares to leave, she has requested that we join her in prayer for the following: safety as she travels, health of all those going on the trip, for opportunities to share Christ, enough time to treat everyone at each village, and a good relationship to be formed between her group (STEMM) and the communities they go to.

**Next Sundays Offering:** Alpha Center – Sioux Falls

**Stewardship Verse:**

*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10*

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today the Ross & Jenn Brands family will light the candle of love on the Advent wreath. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love for us, and by his grace we can love one another.

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

Students who are playing piano or their instruments for prelude this evening, are asked to meet at 6:15pm in the front benches of the sanctuary on the east side.

3 yr olds - 8<sup>th</sup> grade are asked to meet in the church basement by 6:25pm. (Kid's Praise kids meet on mats in the basement, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> meet in room 3, 5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> youth room, 7/8<sup>th</sup> room 2.)

Youth group, please meet at the back of the sanctuary after church this morning to practice for the candlelight service.

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!

The sound team is looking for a few more members to join them as they seek to serve the Lord and his church by helping with the sound during Sunday worship. If you are willing and able to serve in this important way, please contact Dean Elgersma (507-779-8886).

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

The Council has made available 50 copies of the "Nearer To God" devotional for congregational use. Please take on to use at home in your devotional life for the coming year.

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.

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 7<sup>th</sup>.

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 19<sup>th</sup>. Please return the envelopes at the Christmas day service or on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.

We embrace the joy of this time of year as we think about the coming Savior on Christmas, but many places in our world still haven't heard the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. The people of First Christian Reformed Church are helping to sow seeds of the Gospel through your recent support of the Luke Society. Besides physical healing, our world needs spiritual healing. We are grateful to have you on our team as we support doctors and nurses committed to proclaiming Jesus to the world.

## **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Southwest MN Christian Schools invites you to an evening of celebration as we honor the birth of our Savior through song. The high school students will 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!

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

## **COMMUNITY & MISC**

The Youth Group and Kids of Grace Christmas party will be Wednesday, December 22 at 6:00 pm at 1<sup>st</sup> CRC Fellowship hall.

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.

Cornerstone Prison Church, Sioux Falls, Faith Fellowship Weekend. Friday, February 18 – 6:00-8:00pm-Kick Off Worship Service. February 19 and February 20 – 7:15am-4:00pm each day. The theme for the weekend is RENEWAL. Scripture texts come from Zechariah 4:6-10 and John 15:7, 10-12 &15. Join us for worship, large group talks and small group discussions. The deadline for

signing up is Thursday, January 27. We would be happy to have you join us for part of the weekend or all of it. If you would like more information or to sign up, please contact us at [office@cornerstonepcsd.org](mailto:office@cornerstonepcsd.org) or call 507-215-3670. Thank you for considering this wonderful ministry opportunity.

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](mailto:patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org) – 712-476-2804).

**CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Advent: A Time of Love - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Angels are cool. Did you ever wonder about angels? As you read the Christmas story, listen to the angels. Each time an angel speaks, notice that the angel describes Jesus and tells how God will change the world. Listen now at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Luke 14:12-14 and ponder or discuss the following questions. In this story, Jesus encourages us to offer hospitality to people who can not repay us. In your unique context, who might that be? How might you offer food, shelter, and protection to them? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject](http://bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject))

He is our Peace - Celebrate God's compassion made visible in His son, Jesus Christ, born to bring the world hope and salvation. Share God's love with a family experiencing poverty, hunger, and injustice this Christmas with a transformational gift: a goat, ducklings, or a handwashing station. Find these life-changing gifts and more in World Renew's 2021-2022 Gift Catalog at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts), or call 1-888-WRLD-RNW.

Southern U.S. Tornado Response - World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) is working with our partners and other disaster organizations to plan a response to the devastating tornadoes that hit six states in the southern U.S. on Friday, Dec. 11, 2021. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones and possessions. To volunteer with DRS in this and other responses, email [cgibson@worldrenew.net](mailto:cgibson@worldrenew.net). To give online for Dec. 11 tornado response, click Donate at [worldrenew.net](http://worldrenew.net), call 800-552-7972, or mail your check, made out to World Renew DRS with "Winter Tornadoes 2021" in the memo line, to: World Renew, 1700 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, Mich., 49508.

**MEMBERS IN SERVICE**

**TODAY:**

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Nursery: AM – Nicole Vis, Megan Bleyenburgh, Levi VanHofwegen, Logan Bleyenbergh

Valet: Mike Hulstein

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

Medical Assistant: Brenda Kooi

**NEXT WEEK – DECEMBER 26:**

Nursery: AM – Evon Van Hofwegen, Kim Van Hofwegen, Kade Fey, Jonathan Sjaarda  
PM – Kim Veldhuizen, Carrie Top, Lydia Talsma, Makenna Moss

Valet: Kirk Bleyenburgh

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

Medical Assistant: Kim Veldhuizen

Children's Worship: No lesson

**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](mailto:scott.muilenburg@gmail.com)  
Associate Pastor ..... LeRoy Christoffels, 605-254-5590, [leechristoffels@gmail.com](mailto:leechristoffels@gmail.com)  
Secretary..... Tawni Pater, 507-442-6701, [firstcsrcsec@yahoo.com](mailto:firstcsrcsec@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer ..... Jan Schelhaas, 507-227-4667, [frcjan@gmail.com](mailto:frcjan@gmail.com)  
Custodian & Building Use Contact ..... Rod Obbink, 507-227-7619  
Music Chairman ..... Jonathan Schmidt, [jandschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:jandschmidt@gmail.com)  
4th Quarter Special Music Coordinator..... Shawna Sjaarda, 507-227-5970  
Work Groups..... Karen Fey, 507-227-6392 and Gloria Roemeling, 507-227-0071  
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