

THE LORD'S DAY – DECEMBER 11, 2022
MORNING WORSHIP - 9:30 A.M.
Led by: Pastor Scott Muilenburg

Prelude

Advent Reading - Nancy Hensley and Marj Nibbelink

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

*Call to Worship: Nehemiah 9:5b-6

*Opening Songs of Adoration: #328 *"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"* (v. 1-4)

"O Holy Night"

Standard of Righteousness: Exodus 20:1-17

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

*Song of Thanksgiving: *"Arise, My Soul, Arise"* - Trinity Hymnal #305

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

Musical Offering: *"Christmas Hymn"* - First CRC Choir

Scripture: Luke 1:26-45 (p. 1588)

Sermon: "Windows into Christmas—Mary"

*Song of Response: #412 *"Jesus Shall Reign"*

Prayer of the Lord's People

Offering: Talking Bibles

Offertory: *"Can You Hear the Christmas Bells"* - First CRC Choir

*Benediction

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

NEXT SUNDAYS OFFERING: Alpha Center of Sioux Falls

THE LORD'S DAY – DECEMBER 11, 2022
EVENING WORSHIP - 6:30 P.M.
Led by: Pastor Scott Muilenburg

Prelude

Introit: *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* - Ellia Van Dyke

Welcome & Silent Prayer

Expression of Dependence: Psalm 138:6-7

Pastor: Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.

People: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me.

*Call to Worship: Jeremiah 9:23-24

*Opening Song of Delight: #244 *"God Himself Is with Us"*

Bible Reading: Psalm 24 (p. 862)

Prayer of the Lord's People

*Song of Gratitude: #497 *"How Vast the Benefits Divine"*

Confession of Our Faith: Belgic Confession, Article 23 (selected portion)

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14 (p. 1628)

Sermon: "Going Home Justified"

*Song of Response: *"In Christ Alone"*

Prayer for the Offering (Talking Bibles)

Offertory: "O Holy Night" - Mikiaiah Van Dyke

*Confession of the Faith: The Nicene Creed

*Benediction

*Parting Song: #620 *"By the Sea of Crystal"* (v. 3)

REFORMATION MATTERS: "A purely natural, as distinguished from a supernatural, Christ would be just a teacher and example. There have been many teachers and examples in the history of mankind. It would place no particular demands upon our faith if we were told that this teacher and example was a little better than any of the others. But then, you see, we are not looking for a teacher and example. We are looking for a Savior. And a purely human, a merely natural, as distinguished from a supernatural, Christ can never be our Savior." - J. Gresham Machen, in "Things Unseen"

THIS WEEK’S OPPORTUNITIES:

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| Today | 9:30 am | - Morning worship |
| | 10:40 am | - Prayer warriors |
| | | -9th & 10th grade Catechism |
| | 10:40 am | - Pre-k - 8th graders meet in their classrooms & program practice |
| | 11:00 am | - Choir practice |
| | 11:20 am | - 5 th grade nativity pictures |
| | 11:30 am | - 5 th -8 th grade bells practice (11:30-11:50) |
| | 6:30 pm | - Evening worship |
| Mon. | 9:30 am | - K-4 Christmas program (SWC) |
| Wed. | 9:30 am | - Coffee Break (video and lesson 6) |
| | 3:15 pm | - GEMS Christmas Party |
| | 6:00 pm | - Kids of Grace |
| | 6:30 pm | - Evening Coffee Break |
| | 6:30 pm | - Cadets |
| Thurs. | 6:30 pm | - Friendship Christmas Caroling and Party (Verdoes Room) |
| Sat. | 7:00 pm | - Van Soelen/McGuire piano and cello Christmas Concert |

FUTURE DATES:

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|-------------|---|
| December 18 | - Christmas Program (evening service) |
| December 19 | - SWC Christmas Concert, grades 5-12 (7:00pm) |

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you to our loving church family for the memorials, food, cards, and special words that were gifted after the passing of Evie. The Lord gifted us 61 years together and I thank God for those 61 years and for the Lords leading and guiding us in our marriage. – Gerhart VanDam & families & grandchildren

Congratulations to Allen Brands and Mavis Fey on their recent wedding! We rejoice with the couple during this season of joy!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Nancy Hensley and Marj Nibbelink 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.

Prek-8th grade Sunday school & Catechism students are asked to go to their classrooms directly after the morning service today to get their cookies & eat them in their classroom with their teachers. After that they will be dismissed to practice for the Christmas Program until 11:30 am. 5th-8th grade have bells practice 11:30-11:50 am.

A few able bodied helpers are needed for moving risers immediately after the AM worship service today and next week (December 11, 18). If you are able and willing, please stick around and wait for instructions.

Prayer Warriors: We will be meeting immediately after the morning service today.

High school youth group- please stay in the sanctuary after your prayer warriors meeting to practice our Christmas program song.

Contact Brian Busker for custodial duties December 5th – December 25th. Rod is on vacation time, but you may contact him for setting up church usage dates.

Pastor Scott will be off December 12-16. Please contact your care group elder or deacon if you have a need that arises during this time.

The new sound system is ordered and scheduled to be installed in late January pending no delays. Due to the congregation's generous support, we have currently received approximately \$20,000 of donations towards this project!

Notes from Building Addition Finance: We are happy to report that our gifts received in November, which includes the Thanksgiving Offering, totaled \$27,331.43. In addition to those gifts, three of our private lenders gifted their interest charges back to us, amounting to another \$6,646.88. Your generosity is one of our many Blessings here at First! Thank You!

The Van Soelen/McGuire piano and cello Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm will be live streamed on First CRC's YouTube Channel and refreshments will be served afterwards in the fellowship hall. The designated free will offering is for Southwest Crisis Center HOME | sowecc (mnsbcc.org)

Nursery Volunteers Needed. Coffee Break Bible Study and Story Hour is in need of caring

individuals to help out in the nursery on Wednesday mornings from 9:15 - 11:00 starting in January 2023. You do not need to be available every Wednesday. Even if you can help only once a month it would be great. Coffee Break finishes its current session at the end of March. Contact Thea Nykamp (507-227-9513) for more information.

War in Ukraine - New Life Church Land Opportunity – As the war in Ukraine continues, Vasya and Maranda Heytsi would like to purchase 5 acres of cropland to begin raising fruit and vegetables next spring to facilitate a long term solution to their food needs instead of relying solely on donations to feed the 100+ refugees that have settled in their village and joined their church. Please contact Deacon Nick Sjaarda with any questions (507-227-5736).

If you are a *current* student (or the parent of one) attending one of the colleges or universities endorsed by the Christian Reformed Church and would like to apply for a scholarship grant from Classis Minnkota, please speak with Pastor Scott or with Ryan Blom to receive an application. We have paper copies of the application, but it can also be emailed.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Basketball and Burgers! SWC boys basketball team will be playing Pipestone at home on Tuesday, December 13. SWC Circle #5 will be serving grilled burgers from 5-7:30 pm. Meal includes Grilled hamburger with all the fixings, chips, milk/water and a homemade bar. Come on out for a great meal and enjoy watching the boys basketball team play Pipestone all while supporting SWC!

COMMUNITY & MISC

Justice for All is having a meeting with information about Service & Learning Trips at Justice for All ministry center on Tuesday January 10, 2023 at 6:30pm. Address is for the ministry center is 1335 Valley Drive Rock Valley, IA 51247. There will be light refreshments available. With questions please contact Nick at Justice for All 712.476.2804. Consider going on a trip this year to work alongside others in a different community.

Justice For All is planning a KENTUCKY BUS TOUR, focusing on our 4 major ministry partners: Grace Covenant Ministries, Annville, KY; Helping Hands, Hyden KY, Appalachia Reach Out Inez, KY; and Appalachian Mission of Hope, Berea, KY. The dates are April 12-18, 2023. Join us, learn, and see how God is using beautiful ministries to share HIS love and hope to those who live in very poor communities throughout Kentucky. We'll be exploring the rich history, culture and stories of the mountain 'hollers', coal, and horses! And God's amazing creation will also be on display! If you are interested or want more information, please contact Pat Vander Pol at JFA (patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org – 712-476-2804).

MEMBERS IN SERVICE

TODAY:

Nursery: AM – Marshall and Tawni Pater, Nick & Shawna Sjaarda, Parker Bleyenbergh, Zachary Moss

PM – Thea Nykamp, Brigitte Pap, Tyler Pap, Kaden Schmidt

Valet: Coleton Hilarides

Ushers: Jim Van Hofwegen, Brian Schelhaas, Brett Kroeze, Duane Vandenberg

Medical Assistant: Brenda Kooi

Children's Worship: Alisha Ekkel, Blaire Talsma

NEXT WEEK – DECEMBER 18:

Nursery: AM – Kirk & Megan Bleyenburgh, Levi & Mara Mouw, Kathryn Prins, Hannah Masselink
PM – No nursery

Valet: Dale Mesman

Ushers: Jim Van Hofwegen, Brian Schelhaas, Brett Kroeze, Duane Vandenberg

Medical Assistant: Kim Veldhuizen

Children's Worship: Becky Schelhaas, Ellia VanDyke

Praise Team: Kalli Blom, Jayden Brands, Ava Busker, Hannah Masselink, Brooklyn Talsma, Lydia Talsma, Victoria Prins

Keyboard: Kaitlyn Schelhaas

MISSIONARIES

Margaret Njuguna
En-Gedi Children's Home,
Kenya

Sos and Kara Maletougou
Christian Reformed World Missions
West Africa

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

K & K
Global Serve International
Central Asia

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, firstcsec@yahoo.com
Treasurer Jan Schelhaas, 507-227-4667, frcrcjan@gmail.com
Custodian & Building Use Contact Rod Obbink, 507-227-7619
Music Chairman Jonathan Schmidt, jandschmidt@gmail.com
4th Quarter Special Music Coordinator..... Shawna Sjaarda
Work Groups..... Karen Fey, 507-227-6392 and Gloria Roemeling, 507-227-0071
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