

**THE LORD'S DAY – OCTOBER 22, 2023**  
**MORNING WORSHIP - 9:30 A.M.**  
Led by: Lee Christoffels

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

\*Call to Worship: Psalm 119:97-112

\*God's Greeting

\*Opening Song: #115 *"Not Unto Us, O Lord of Heaven"* (v. 1-3)

#453 *"Let All Things Now Living"*

God's Standard of Righteousness: Isaiah 44:6-20

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon – Isaiah 44:21-23

\*Hymn of Thanksgiving: #497 *"How Vast the Benefits Divine"*

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

Musical Offering: *"Let the Song of Praise be Heard"* - Choir

Scripture: II Chronicles 34

Sermon: *"The Marks of a Reformation"*

Prayer of Application

\*Hymn: #502 *"The Church's One Foundation"*

Congregational Prayer and Prayer for the Offering (Luke Society)

Offering

\*Benediction

\*Doxology: #134 *"You Servants of the Lord Our God"*

**Next Sundays Offering:** Christian Education

**THE LORD'S DAY – OCTOBER 22, 2023**  
**EVENING WORSHIP – 6:30 P.M.**  
Led by: Pastor Scott Muilenburg

Introit: *"Great is the Lord"* – Jaycee Kroeze

Welcome & Silent Prayer

Expression of Dependence: Isaiah 40:28-29

**Pastor:** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the  
Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary.

**People:** And his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and  
increases the power of the weak.

\*Call to Worship: 1 John 3:1a

\*Opening Song of Honor: #466 *"Sing Praise to the Lord"*

Responsive Bible Reading: Psalm 103:1-18 (p. 939)

Prayer of the Lord's People

\*Song of Gratitude: #543 *"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"*

Confession of Faith: Belgic Confession, Article 33 (selected portion)

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30 (p. 1543)

Sermon: *"Sacraments to Focus our Faith"*

\*Song of Response: *"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"*

Prayer for the Offering (Luke Society)

Offertory: *"You're Worthy of My Praise"* – Shelbi Kroeze

\*Confession of the Faith: The Apostles' Creed

\*Benediction

\*Closing Song: #618 *"Jerusalem the Golden"* (v. 4)

**SERMON NOTES – OCTOBER 22, 2023**

**THE MARKS OF A  
REFORMATION**

Text: II Chronicles 34

**SACRAMENTS OT FOCUS OUR  
FAITH**

Text: Romans 5:1-5

**REFORMATION MATTERS:** "Prayer mirrors the gospel. In the gospel, the Father takes us as we are because of Jesus and gives us his gift of salvation. In prayer, the Father receives us as we are because of Jesus and gives us his gift of help. We look at the inadequacy of our praying and give up, thinking something is wrong with us. God looks at the adequacy of his Son and delights in our sloppy, meandering prayers." - Paul E. Miller, in *"A Praying Life"*

**THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES:**

Today	9:30 am	- Morning Worship
	6:30 pm	- Evening Worship
Mon.	7:00 pm	- Men's Society
Wed.	9:30 am	- Coffee Break
	6:00 pm	- Kids of Grace
	6:30 pm	- Evening Coffee Break
		-GEMS & Cadets
	7:45 pm	- Adult Bells
Thur.	9:30 am	- Christian Fellowship (Lesson #2)
	7:00 pm	- Friendship
Sat.		- Youth Group Rake and Run

**FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:**

October 29	- Potluck
November 7	- SWMC Fall Soup and Dessert Supper
November 11	- SWC Donation Sale

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

We would like to express our sincere thanks to those who expressed their sympathy in so many ways to our family in Beverly's passing. Thank you for the cards, prayers, words of love and support, memorial gifts and food provided. Also thank you to Pastor Scott and Pastor Lee for their visits and calls. God bless you all!

Terry Cother, Amber & Levi Davis & family, Breanna Cother, Rolland & Grace Schelhaas, Al & Jan Schelhaas & family, Ray & Lori Schelhaas & family, Randy & Peng Schelhaas

The elders have received and approved the membership transfer of Justin Gunnink from the Edgerton Protestant Reformed Church. Further, the elders approved for Lexi Gunnink to make her public profession of faith here at First. She will do so at an upcoming worship service in the weeks ahead and we will also celebrate the covenant baptism of their daughter, Emmy.

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rake and Run: It's that time of year again! Need your lawn raked? The youth group will be

raking and running Saturday, Oct 28. To get your lawn on the list, please call or text Shannon Nykamp 262-366-2379. Have a few hours to spend with us in the glories of fall? We also need volunteers and extra trucks, trailers, and tarps.

Several individuals have expressed interest in the church secretary position. The council is grateful and plans to begin conducting interviews soon. If you have interest and would like to be considered, please talk to Ron Nykamp or Ryan Blom by Oct. 25.

Kids of Grace will meet on Oct 25 at Runals at 6:00. They will also meet Nov 1, 8, and 15.

There will be a church wide potluck on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Please check your mailbox for more information!

The choral group Bel Canto will be singing a number of times during our evening worship service on October 29. We look forward to hearing their ministry of music during the service!

The elders wish to heartily commend to the congregation of First CRC our evening worship service. Though viewed as irrelevant by the world, the Word preached is the very means of grace and the primary origin of faith (Rom. 10:17, HC Q&A 65). The Fourth Commandment is still valid, and the entire day belongs to the Lord; the Sabbath's higher purpose is to take spiritual rest by communing with God and the saints.

We understand many things compete for our people's time. Yet, we continue to call you to worship, both morning and evening, not out of tradition or stubbornness, but because of our charge to "present everyone mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28), and because we are convinced that there is no better place to be or better activity to be engaged in than gathering with God's people to hear the Words of our Savior and the bread of life, the Holy Gospel proclaimed. To worship here on earth is a foretaste of heaven, and the Chief Shepherd himself calls you to assemble with His flock.

It's time for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes are here and ready to be filled. As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. Please donate the \$10.00 online or by check using the postage paid envelope in the box. Thank you in advance for your gifts.

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – Coffee Break Ministry is looking for volunteers to help out in the nursery. Would you be willing to help and give young mothers the opportunity to study God's word? Coffee Break meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at First CRC in Edgerton. We could use a volunteer on the first and 3rd Wednesday of the month and substitutes. Please contact Thea Nykamp (507-227-9513).

## **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Southwest MN Christian High School Circles invite you to their annual FALL SOUP and DESSERT SUPPER on Tuesday, Nov. 7th. Serving time is 5:30pm - 7:30pm. Menu choices include chili, cheesy vegetable, pea, and chicken rice soups, BBQ's and desserts. Free will donations are gratefully accepted.

**MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!** The SWC Donation Sale will be held on Saturday, November 11 at 6:00pm and there are a few changes in store! First, the sale is on a SATURDAY this year, so plan your weekend accordingly! Second, we're bringing the supper back. You'll be able to enjoy delicious BBQ's, chips, and homemade bars, along with a beverage, from 4:00-6:00. Your freewill donation for this meal will be gratefully accepted. Third, this is the one and only Donation Sale for the school year, so we thank you in advance for taking this opportunity to bless SWC Schools with your donations, along with your financial and prayerful support through this Sale. Donations are greatly appreciated and can always be brought to either school office. Early donations are advantageous as they can then be processed onto the Bill of Sale timely. Watch for more details regarding the Donation Sale in the coming weeks! With your help and rooted in Christ, SWC strives to cultivate the faith and knowledge of students, so they will grow in wisdom through the Spirit and bear fruit in the world to the glory of God. We are thankful for your continued support of this mission!

## **COMMUNITY & MISC**

**Word & Deed Prayer Update – Guatemala** - Last week, we were notified by our partner, AMG Guatemala, that mass protests, called by the president-elect, are effectively shutting everything down in the country. This has caused violence to erupt in several areas, resulting in the loss of life. Goods, including food items and gasoline, cannot be transported due to blockades on roads. This is resulting in food shortages and also the cancellation of flights in and out of Guatemala. As a result of this situation, the AMG schools are all closed. The students in Guatemala are at the very end of their school year and have just to write their final exams before class is finished for the season. Please pray that these tests can be written soon and that blockades would dissipate, allowing for food, gasoline, and other supplies to travel freely in this country once again.

**ATLAS for Life – Pipestone, Advance Date: Christmas Rummage and Boutique** – Saturday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Join us for this annual fundraiser to purchase some delightful Christmas décor items and potted Christmas arrangements. If you have Christmas décor items to donate, please bring them to the ATLAS office (101 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE - Pipestone) by Tuesday, November 7 during regular office hours. Your gently used or new Christmas items will be a great addition to the fundraiser to encourage, inspire, and bring God's love story to individuals in our southwest Minnesota communities.

## MEMBERS IN SERVICE

### TODAY:

Nursery: AM – Ruth C, Kirk & Megan B, Kim VH, Sawyer VH, Max VH

PM – Carrie T, Rosann VB, Vera P, Nicole S

Valet: Nathan B

Ushers: Tyson B, Logan B, Lester S, Steve E

Sound: Dean E

Video: Kade F

Projection: Orey F/Jody DK

Medical Assistant: Carmen F

Children's Worship: Tawni P, Jorja H

### NEXT WEEK – OCTOBER 29:

Nursery: AM – Marshall & Tawni P, Levi & Mara M, Ava B, Carli S

PM – Jana T, Andrea L, Tage M, Grant B

Valet: Darrin DK

Ushers: Tyson B, Logan B, Lester S, Steve E

Sound: Ray S

Video: Kevin VH

Projection: Jan S/Jonathan S

Medical Assistant: Barb O

Children's Worship: Brigette P, Shelbi K

## MISSIONARIES

### **Margaret Njuguna**

En-Gedi Children's Home,  
Kenya

### **Sos and Kara Maletoungou**

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