

**The Lord's Day - December 17, 2023**  
**Morning Worship - 9:30 A.M.**

**A THRILL OF HOPE – THE HOME WE  
NEED**

Text: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Rita Fey & Vicki Van Essen

Silent Prayer

\*Call to Worship: Psalm 90:1-2

\*Opening Songs of Adoration: *“How Great Our Joy”*  
*“Joy Has Dawned”*

Standard of Righteousness: 2 Peter 3:13

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

\*Song of Thanksgiving: #337 *“Joy to the World! The Lord is Come”*

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

Musical Offering: *“O What a King”* - The Prins Family: Erica, Kathryn, Victoria, and Jenna

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (p. 1466)

Sermon: ðA Thrill of HopeóThe Home We Needö

\*Song of Response: *“O Holy Night”*

Prayer of the Lordø People

Offering: Christian Education

\*Benediction

\*Parting Song: #354 *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”* (v. 5)

**Next Sunday's Offering:** Word and Deed

**REFORMATION MATTERS** "To know Christ by faith, to live the life of faith in him, to abide in him daily by faith, to flee to him in every storm of conscience, to use him as our refuge in every day of trouble, to employ him as our Priest, Confessor, Absolver, and spiritual Director, every morning and evening in our lives - this is to be at home spiritually, even before we die. To all sinners of mankind who by faith use Christ in this fashion, Christ is in the highest sense a dwelling place." - J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), in *"Practical Religion"*

**THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES:**

Today	9:30 am	- Morning Worship
	6:30 pm	- Christmas Program
Mon.	7:00 pm	- K-8 Christmas Concert (Elementary gym)
Wed.	9:30 am	- Coffee Break
	6:00 pm	-Kids of Grace
	6:30 pm	-Evening Coffee Break
Thurs.	6:30 pm	- Friendship Christmas Caroling and Party in the Verdoes Room

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Congratulations to John and Jana Top as they welcomed home their new daughter this week, Grace Evonne Top! We praise the Lord for his love and goodness in the precious gift of life!

Next Sunday evening (12/24), there will be a combined Christmas Eve service at First CRC in Edgerton. The service will begin at 6:30 PM and all are welcome to attend. Pastor Scott will be preaching and there will be an offering taken for the work of Word and Deed Ministries.

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We welcome Kim Van Hofwegen as the new church secretary! Please contact Kim for any bulletin or secretarial needs.

Christmas program practice: 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas practice today until 11:30 on the sanctuary front steps. After practice, the 5-8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in playing bells will meet. Volunteers needed to help set up risers following the service.

Youth Group: Please meet in the sanctuary immediately after morning church today. We will do a quick practice for our candlelight song this evening. Thanks!

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 current student attending a CRC-endorsed Christian college who completes an application form by the December 24 deadline is eligible. Contact Pastor Scott for an application

or provide him with the student's email address and a form will be emailed directly to the applicant.

"At the request of Bethel CRC's Council, their Executive Committee met with four of First's Elders this past Monday night. At Bethel's Council meeting, they heard of the communication that was sent to our congregation on October 29, and they wanted to learn more about it. We discussed the communication and denominational matters, and agreed to mutually pray for one another. If you wish to know more about this meeting please contact Elders Ron Nykamp, Wes DeKam, Ryan Blom and Cody Top."

**SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SWC K-8 Christmas Concert, Monday, December 18 at 7:00pm, Location: Elementary Gym  
The SWC Elementary and Junior High students invite you to a night of Christmas joy! The evening will include a variety of lively and elegant musical selections all focused on our Lord and Savior born to us in a manger. A few of these selections are Patapan, Go Tell it on the Mountain, The Holly and the Ivy, and King of Kings. We look forward to an evening spent sharing our student's God-given gifts!

\*Christmas concert will be live streamed

**COMMUNITY & MISC**

"A Night of Christmas" Music Recital - December 22, 2023 at 7:00pm - First CRC Edgerton - Join us for a fun evening filled with a variety of Christmas music. The recital will feature Benjamin Feikema on Cello, Brittany Forness on Piano, and Katherine Feikema on Flute.

The Minnkota Deacons Association is seeking applicants for the Volunteers in Mercy Coordinator position effective January 1, 2024. Responsibilities include coordinating referrals from SW MN and SE SD agencies with diaconal outreach, initiating bi-monthly MDA/VIM board meetings, and submitting Classis reports and yearly newsletters. Please contact Ray Talsma at 507-227-1660.

Justice For All is planning a MISSISSIPPI BUS TOUR, highlighting our ministry partners: John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation and Voice of Calvary Ministries of Jackson, MS and Mississippi Christian Family Services of Rolling Fork, MS. The dates are April 3-10, 2024. Join us, learn, and see how God is using beautiful ministries to share HIS love and hope to those who live in communities of needs in MS. We'll also explore the rich history, culture and stories of slavery, Jim Crow, and Civil Rights. A day in Branson on the way home will round out a great trip! 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).

**2023 SWC Property Purchase Society Vote**

**Please attend on December 20 at 6:30pm at the Elementary gym**

SWC has been evaluating our current facilities use and the possibility of expansion for several years. Please visit our school website at [www.swcschools.org](http://www.swcschools.org) to read an important, time-sensitive

update regarding residential properties to the west of our elementary building. A paper copy of the update can also be picked up at either of the school offices. On December 13 an informational meeting was held at the elementary campus. **On December 20 at 6:30pm there will be a SWC society vote** on the proposal to purchase the properties and then put the houses on those properties up for sale to be moved. If you cannot attend the society meeting but wish to vote, absentee ballots are available at the school offices through December 20.

### **CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - “. . . and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” In what ways might you make more space for Jesus in your everyday life? Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

**Kids Corner: The Shepherds' Joy** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). At the beginning of Luke 2, the shepherds were kind of like the last ones to be picked. They got the long and boring night shift job that nobody wanted to do: watch the stinky sheep. But God picked them for a special task the night Jesus was born. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible story podcast “The Shepherds.”

**Groundwork: Jesus: Our Everlasting Father** - Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the Messiah when he called him the “Everlasting Father.” Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, and 1 John 3:1-3 to better understand how this revolutionary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging offered to us in Jesus, our Everlasting Father. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**We Need a Short-Term Accountant in Nigeria** - Resonate Global Mission is looking for an accountant to serve for 2-3 weeks in Nigeria. You'll be working with our Nigeria Business Manager to update the accounting system to help our mission run more smoothly. This is a great opportunity to use your gifts and skills to join God on mission. Timeframe for serving is flexible. Learn more at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/accounting](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/accounting)

**Christmas Greeting Video from The Banner** - Watch a warm year-end video message where Banner editor Shiao Chong explains the impact The Banner has with its journalistic ministry that reaches thousands of people. He shares Christmas greetings to all readers. View it now! [tinyurl.com/BannerChristmas23](http://tinyurl.com/BannerChristmas23)

## MEMBERS IN SERVICE

### TODAY – DECEMBER 17

Nursery: AM – Ruth C, Lori VE, Kirk & Megan B, Josimar VH, Sawyer VH  
PM – Christmas Program, No Nursery

Valet: Dale M.

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

Sound: AM – Jesse VH      PM – Jesse VH

Video: Grant B

Projection: Kirk/Blair

Medical Assistant: Gord P.

Children's Worship: Shannon N, Max VH

Praise Team: Jayden B, Hannah M, Victoria P, Ava B, Brooklyn T, Lydia T

Keyboard: Kaitlyn S

### NEXT WEEK- DECEMBER 24

Nursery: AM – Kim VH, Andrea L, Alisha E, Dana H, Myah J, Jorja H.  
PM – Christa B, Karen F, Ryan P, Clint S

Valet: Dan H

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

Sound: AM – Jesse VH      PM – Ray S

Video: Kade F

Projection: Orey/Jody

Medical Assistant: Carmen F

Children's Worship: Andrea L, Carson V

Praise Team: Greg & Hannah M, Brian & Avan B, Tadd & Victoria P, Kurt & Brookyn T

Keyboard: Karrie J

## 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

## CHURCH INFORMATION