

The Lord's Day – January 5, 2025

Morning Worship - 9:30 A.M.

Led by: Pastor Scott Muilenburg

Prelude: *"Arise, Shine" & "From the Breaking of the Dawn"*

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

*Greeting One Another

*Call to Worship: Psalm 100:1-2

*Opening Songs of Adoration

"Ancient of Days"

"We Will Glorify"

Standard of Righteousness: Luke 6:46

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

*Song of Thanksgiving: #591 *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (p. 1838)

Sermon: "A Ministry of Honesty and Love"

*Song of Response: #598 *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"*

Installation of New Elders and New Deacons

Prayer of the Lord's People

Offering: Sos and Kara Maletoungou

Offertory Song: *"Hallelujah for the Cross"*

*Benediction

*Parting Song: *"Step by Step"*

Next Sunday's Offering:

The Lord's Day – January 5, 2025

Evening Worship – 6:30 P.M.

Led by: Pastor Scott Muilenburg

Prelude

Introit: Luke Busker

Welcome & Silent Prayer

Expression of Dependence: Psalm 56:3-4

Pastor: When I am afraid, I will trust in you.

Congregation: In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

*Call to Worship: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

*Opening Song of Honor: #460 *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

Responsive Bible Reading: Psalm 32 (p. 869)

Prayer of the Lord's People

*Song of Gratitude: *"Before the Throne of God Above"*

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 (p. 1838)

Sermon: "Gospel Work and Gospel Witness"

*Song of Response: #463 *"O Love of God, How Strong and True"* (v. 1, 5-7)

Prayer for the Offering (Sos and Kara Maletoungou)

Offertory: Mara Busker

*Confession of the Faith: The Apostles' Creed

*Benediction

*Closing Song: #483 *"How Great Thou Art"* (v. 4)

SERMON NOTES – JANUARY 5, 2025

“A Ministry of Honesty and Love”
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

“Gospel Work and Gospel Witness”
1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

REFORMATION MATTERS: Covenant for Office-bearers in the Christian Reformed Church:

We, [the undersigned], believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, which proclaims the good news of God’s creation and redemption through Jesus Christ.

Acknowledging the authority of God’s Word, we submit to it in all matters of life and faith. We affirm three creeds—the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. In doing so, we confess our faith in unity with followers of Jesus Christ throughout all ages and among all nations.

We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. These confessions continue to define the way we understand Scripture, direct the way we live in response to the gospel, and locate us within the larger body of Christ.

Grateful for these expressions of faith, we promise to be formed and governed by them. We heartily believe and will promote and defend their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we also recognize the witness of *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony* as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith that forms and guides us in our present context.

We also promise to present or receive confessional difficulties in a spirit of love and fellowship with our brothers and sisters as together we seek a fuller understanding of the gospel. Should we come to believe that a teaching in the confessional documents is not the teaching of God’s Word, we will communicate our views to the church, according to the procedures prescribed by the Church Order and its supplements. If the church asks, we will give a full explanation of our views. Further, we promise to submit to the church’s judgment and authority.

We honor this covenant for the well-being of the church to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THIS WEEK’S OPPORTUNITIES:

Today	9:30 am	- Morning Worship
	10:45am	- Kid’s Praise, Sunday School and Catechism Resumes
	11:00 am	- Choir
	6:30 pm	- Evening Worship
Tue	7:00 pm	- Council/Consistory
Wed	9:30 am	- Coffee Break and Story Hour Resumes
	6:30 pm	- GEMS & Cadets
	7:45 pm	- Bells
Thurs	9:30 am	- Christian Fellowship

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

Jan 13	7:00 pm	- Mens Society
Jan 15	6:30 pm	- Youth Group
Jan 26	6:30 pm	- Cadet Sunday, Evening Service at Bethel CRC

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning, we will be installing our new elders and our new deacons. Those being installed as elders are Duane Baker, Ross Brands, and Dave Brons. Those being installed as deacons are Tadd Prins, Nate Stoel, and Andrew Top. We give great thanks to the Lord for providing servant-leaders in his church.

We wish to give thanks to the Lord for those who have completed their current terms as elders and deacons at First. We give thanks for Wes De Kam, Mike Hulstein, and Greg Talsma as they finish their terms as elders. We give thanks for Kirk Bleyenbug, Levi Mouw, and Marshall Pater as they finish their terms as deacons. May the Name of the Lord be praised for these servant-leaders in our congregation.

Prayer Warriors: Next week, January 12, we will meet for prayer warriors after church. If you are unable to attend, please let your prayer partner know ahead of time.

If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in our church, please talk to Pastor Scott. There will be a class beginning in the first couple months of 2025 for those who are interested.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have an hour available on Friday mornings? Come join Moms in Prayer. We meet each Friday morning throughout the school year, starting August 23. We meet at 8:15 at SWC High School. We pray over our school, students, teachers and staff. We'd love for you to join us. This is open to all moms, no matter the age of your kids. Join us each week, or whenever a Friday morning works for you. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Kimber Van Essen at 507-220-3465

COMMUNITY & MISC

Wednesday, January 22- "March for Life" at MN State Capitol. We often ask "What can we do besides pray for our state and our country"? Here is an opportunity for you to join others and show your support for LIFE! Join others and go along to our State Capitol on Wednesday, January 22. A comfortable Motorcoach will be departing at 6:45 am from Pipestone CRC and departing Woodstock Community Church at 7:05 am. Cost is \$55. Please take a sack lunch for noon and we will stop for a hot meal on the way home. Be back around 7 pm! Call 507-227-0905 asap, or email to roxiestours@gmail.com to reserve your spot. We are only at the capitol for a little over an hour. You are able to go inside the rotunda, march a little while in front of the capitol and then MCCL has a time of remembrance for the 12,000 aborted last year in MN/ prayer/ message. Motorcoach is parked nearby if you need to warm up or sit. If you can't go, would you join the 1000's that will gather at our capitol that day in prayer on this day of remembrance?

RESGEN Men's Summit 2025 is a half-day conference that equips and encourages men, ages 17 and up, to grow and fulfill their purpose as leaders, husbands, fathers, and Christ-followers. The theme for this year's event is 'Being a Man who is All HEART' and features five dynamic speakers including resources. Bethel CRC in Edgerton is simulcasting the Summit which runs from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM on Saturday, February 1. Cost to attend the simulcast is \$25 per person which includes morning snacks and a light lunch. To register, please look for the QR code on the information table in the back of church.

Edgebrook Care Center will be working to put together a cookbook in memory/honor of past and present residents of Edgebrook. If you are interested in submitting a recipe, they ask that you include the recipe name, the residents name of who the recipe is in honor/memory of and if you have a baking memory to go with it. You can drop the recipe off at the business office, mail it to Edgebrook Care Center, Attn: Cookbook Committee, 505 Trosky Road W, Edgerton MN 56128 or by emailing cassandra.schelhaas@good-sam.com. Please also include if you would be interested in purchasing a cookbook as this will give them a better idea of how many to make. The deadline to have your recipe included is January 15, 2025.

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey & the Seven Churches of Revelation (May 27 - June 8, 2025): Visit ancient sites connected with Paul's First, Second, and Third Missionary Journeys as well as the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational biblical tour. Contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

JUSTICE FOR ALL is planning the **2025 Service and Learning Opportunities** and would love to have you join one of the teams! These weeks are wonderful opportunities to serve others but also to experience and understand God's Kingdom in new and important ways! **Dates and places:** Harvest Hands Ministries, Juarez, MX – January 17-25; JVMPerkins Foundation, Jackson MS – February 1-7; Voice of Calvary Ministries, Jackson, MS - February 8-14; Grace Covenant Ministries, Annville, KY – March 1-7; Grace Reigns, Colorado City AZ – April 4-12. Each week is a wonderful opportunity of building relationships with people from a community which is very different than our own, through serving, learning, and studying God's Word together. **Nick LeLoux, Service and Learning Coordinator will be holding an informational meeting Monday, September 16, 6:30PM at the JFA Ministry Center.** If you can't make it to the meeting but would like more information or sign up for a project, please contact **Nick at JFA 712-476-2804 or email nickl@jfa-nwiowa.org.** You can also check out our **website: jfa-niowa.org**

MEMBERS IN SERVICE

TODAY- JANUARY 5:

Nursery: AM – Megan Ble, Kirk B, Christa B, Carter B, Isaac S

PM- AnnMarie B, Ruth C, Vera P, Sydney VH

Valet: Dale M

Ushers: Josh K, Eric S, Derek F, Micah F

Sound: AM – Devin S PM- Devin S

Video: Jacob M

Projection: Kirk/Justin

Medical Assistant: Brenda K

Children's Worship: NO LESSON- CHRISTMAS BREAK

Praise Team: Greg, Hannah, Brian, Ava, Tadd, Victoria, Kurt, Brooklyn

Keyboard: Kaitlyn

NEXT WEEK- JANUARY 12:

Nursery: AM – Amber T, Shawnie V, Carmen F, Shelbi K, Kalli B

PM- Jen B, Kaitlyn S, Carli S, Jaden B

Valet: Darrin D

Ushers: Josh K, Eric S, Derek F, Micah F

Sound: AM – Jeff S PM- Jeff S

Video: Kade F

Projection: Orey/Jody

Medical Assistant: Kim V

Children's Worship: Mindy B & Max VH

Praise Team: Shelbi, Mara, Vera, Jorja, Kinley, Carli, Blaire

Keyboard: Sarah

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

A&K L.

Global Serve International
South East Asia

CHURCH INFORMATION