

Opportunities to Serve

| | Today – December 16 | Next Sunday – December 23 |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Coffee/Juice Servers | Joel & Krista Sikkema Phil & Liz Van Maanen John & Janna Wesselius | David & Sally Vander Tuin Dennis & Dione Visser Leen & Soyen van Beek |
| Greeters | Jim & Nancy Mouw Lauren & Barb Ochsner | Tim & Mel Klein Mike & Heidi Ochsner |
| PM | Darrel & Rachel Raih Cornie & Dolores Rylaarsdam | Dean & Darlene Reichert Gladyce Nyhof |
| Upstairs | Derick & Arnola Roos | Jason & Tami Koelewyn |
| Roving Greet | David & Sally Vander Tuin | Scott Visser |
| Sound | Dale Vander Berg | Matt Van Roekel |
| Video | Andrew Louwerse | AM - Andrew Louwerse PM - Phil Van Maanen |
| Power Point | Darlene Reichert | Wayne Klein |
| Broadcast | Wes Kroeze | Rich Haan |
| Children & Worship | Teacher: Sarah Sj Helpers: Katy T, Shay M | No Children & Worship |
| Nursery | A.M. Infant P.M. Whitney J Mel Kl Megan F Rikki H Sarah T Brittney K Adalade O Parker VR Hannah C Morgan F | A.M. Infant P.M. Stacy K Denise K Marsha M Tammy L Emily M Tami K Kellan M Omar A Emma K Karissa R |
| Bus Driver / Asst | Loren De Stigter / Denny De Kruyf | Curt Moerman / Scott Visser |
| Valet Parking | AM- Keith Bonnema / Cheney Vander Berg PM- Kevin Hulstein / Cheney Vander Berg | Mike Ochsner / Jeff Heldt |
| Ushers | Lisa Dykstra, Marv Hooyer, Dean Reichert, Ross Vander Berg | Lisa Dykstra, Marv Hooyer, Dean Reichert, Ross Vander Berg |

Youth Group

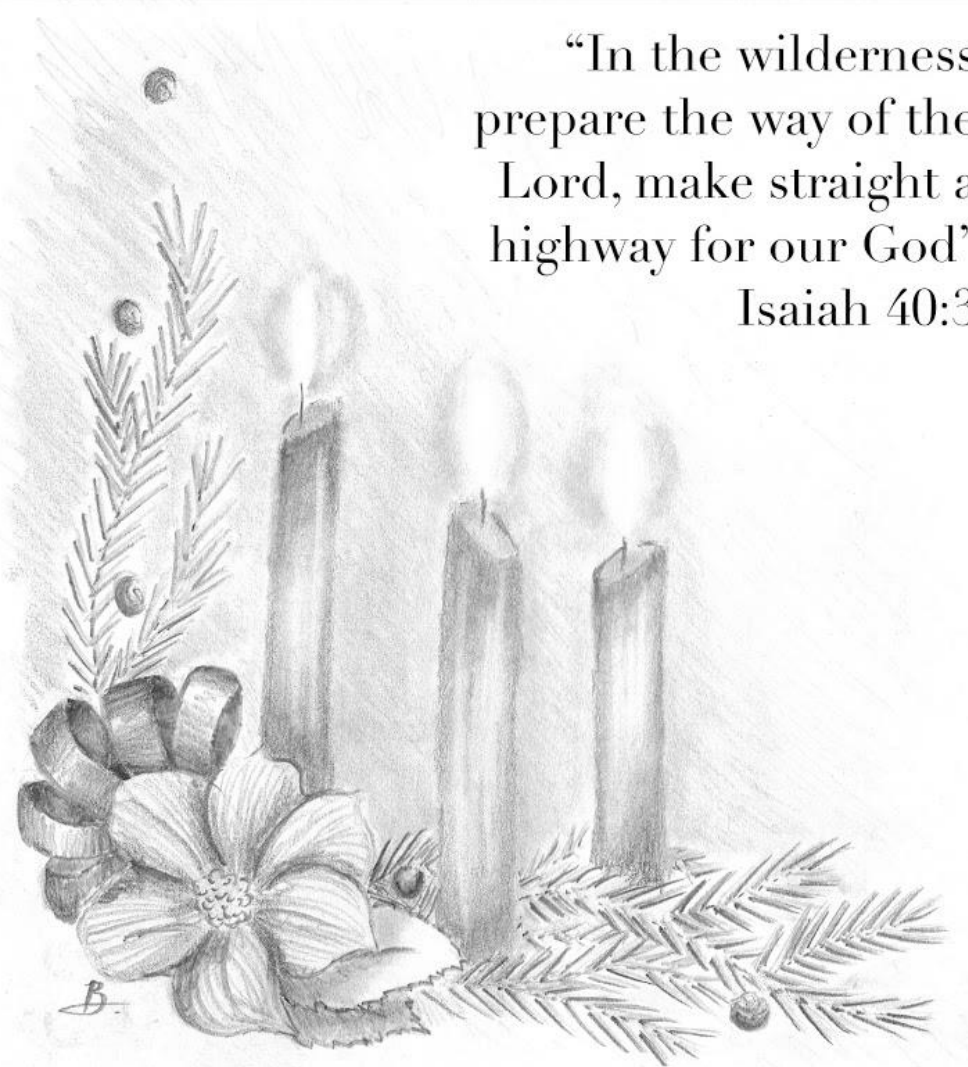
December 19- Christmas Party at 7:00pm at church
December 26- Off

Prayer Requests

The Outreach Committee would like the congregation to pray for Sam & Karen Keyzer.

This week please be in prayer for God's blessings for the Christ Community congregation and the ministry of Pastor Randy Widbin.

P
R
E
P
A
R
E



“In the wilderness
prepare the way of the
Lord, make straight a
highway for our God”
Isaiah 40:3

*First Christian Reformed Church ~ Sioux Center, Iowa
Third Sunday in Advent ~ December 16, 2018*

Welcome to First CRC as we praise and thank the Lord for all the blessings of his grace! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to join with us regularly. Please join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and juice in the Fellowship Hall after our morning service.

Worship Notes – December 16, 2018

Today Dr. Jason Lief will open God's Word to us.

A Children and Worship program is provided for children 3-5 years of age during the morning service. Children of visiting families are welcome! Our helpers will greet the children in the back of the sanctuary and lead them to our worship center. Parents are asked to pick up their children after the service in Room 8 upstairs.

Israel waited and hoped for the Christ child. Today we wait for Christ to come again in a world that is still full of sorrow and sin. In this season of waiting and anticipation called Advent, we take time to **watch, repent, and prepare** so that we may be ready to **proclaim** the good news that God has come through Jesus Christ to restore us and all of creation. The candles lit each week by members of our Friendship Bible Class represent hope, peace, joy, and love and are lit as signs of the coming light of Christ. The banners are in the Advent colors of purple and blue for this season of preparation. Among these joyful lights and colors stands the cross, reminding us that Christ came into the world to pay for the debt of our sin on the cross.

In addition to all the signs and symbols of Advent, we use many songs of expectation and relatively few Christmas songs. Advent culminates in the fulfillment of Christmas, when our worship sings in joyful exultation in celebration of the arrival of the Christ-child. While the world around us moves quickly on to the next holiday and beyond, the historic church encourages us to anticipate, celebrate, and then remember special days in the church calendar. Recognizing that Christmas does not end on December 26, we will continue to sing in celebration of the Christmas season which begins on Christmas Day and includes the following two Sundays.

Thank you to Kirsten Buitter for designing our Advent bulletin cover and also, thanks to Janna Wesselius for making new words for our Advent banners!

Announcements

Sunday School families, please have your children in their singing rooms (the Fireside Room or Room 8) tonight, December 16, at 4:10pm. Thank you!

Reminder: Our evening service today will begin at 4:30pm. Our annual Christmas Social will immediately follow this service in the Fellowship Hall. All members whose last name begins with A-K are asked to bring Christmas goodies, and L-Z are asked to

bring appetizers. Tavern on buns, drink, and table service will be provided. Work groups 3 & 7 will assist the FMC committee. All visitors are welcome to join us!

College Students – come to the table in the east narthex today to receive a bag of treats as you study for exams this week. We wish you well as you take your final exams. We are happy to have you as a part of our congregation at First Church. Have a wonderful Christmas break!

Bierma Offering: An offering will be taken this evening, December 16, to assist the Troy Bierma family with their living expenses. You're welcome to mark your offering for the Biermas and place it in the morning or the evening offering. Thank you for considering this special opportunity to assist the Biermas. -The Outreach Committee.

THANK YOU to all who ordered egg rolls and gave donations for the Siouxland Unity CRC as we partnered with Faith CRC in this ministry in Sioux City, Iowa!

From the Deacons - Our December receipts for the General Fund were \$17,155. To meet our general fund budget and capital campaign goal, we need to collect \$57,845 in the last three weeks of December. Please give this matter your prayerful consideration.

Search Committee Update: The search committee thanks the congregation for their continued support and encouragement as we seek God's leading towards a new pastor for our church. We ask the congregation to continue to be in prayer for the work of the committee as we speak with candidates, for our church in this time of expectant waiting, and for our future pastor.

Search Committee members: Jon Buitter, Karen De Mol, Lisa Dykstra, Cathy Feenstra, Jon Fictorie, Sam Fopma, Trent Geleynse, Stacy Koele, Tammy Lief, Ana Timmer, Mark Sybesma (Chair), and John Wesselius (Ex officio council member)

Worship – Over the years, the Worship Committee has provided a variety of articles on worship at our church, including articles in the *Fellowship*, a statement on our website, and a statement in the *What We Believe* booklet in the pew racks. They are now gathered into a notebook at the Information Center so that members of the congregation can continue to read and study them.

Church Family

Carol Koekkoek was hospitalized for pneumonia and returned home on Wednesday.

Remember Marty Dekkenga in your prayers as he will have surgery on Thursday, December 20, at Dakota Dunes. Pray for a good recovery.

Lawrence Meendering continues his recovery/therapy at the Orange City Hospital.

What's Happening This Week {December 16 – December 23, 2018}

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|---|
| Today | 8:30am | Adult Choir |
| | 9:30am | Morning Advent worship service led by Dr. Jason Lief. |
| | 10:40am | Church Education service practice |
| | 4:30pm | Evening worship service led by Dr. Jason Lief, including the participation of our Church Education students. An offering will be taken for Troy Bierma. |
| Monday | 5:30pm | Christmas Social – Fellowship Hall |
| | 7:00pm | Pastor Search Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday | 6:00am | Tuesday Men's Life – Council Room |
| | 9:00am | SCCS's Moms in Prayer |
| | 10:00am | Grandmother's Moms in Prayer |
| | 12:00pm | College/Career Moms in Prayer |
| Wednesday | 6:00am | Wednesday Men's Life – Council Room |
| | 1:30pm | Rebroadcast of Worship Service on Channel 12 |
| | 7:00pm | Youth Group – Christmas Party |
| Next Sunday | 9:30am | Morning Advent worship service led by Dr. Jason Lief, including the installation of new elders/deacons, and commissioning of pastoral assistants. |
| | 6:00pm | Evening worship service led by Rev. Carl Klompien. An offering will be taken for Mississippi Christian Family Services. |

Additional Announcements

Tuesday, December 25: Our Christmas Day worship service will be held at 9:30am. An offering will be taken for the Union Gospel Mission in Sioux Falls.

SAVE THE DATE – A CRC Faith Formation workshop in Sioux Center will be held on Saturday, January 26.

The Prayer Committee encourages everyone to submit prayer requests that can be used either in congregational prayer or in confidential prayer. You are invited to submit your prayer requests by placing them in the Information Center box (forms provided there) or by contacting an elder.