



SIoux FALLS, SD

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 27-Dec 3

SERMON SERIES

Grateful To Be Alive!

Thanksgiving – Thanks-living: In this season of thanks, our new sermon series entitled “Grateful to Be Alive!” will invite us into a place to examine three great reasons to be thankful and to understand “for such a time as this!” We’ve been given life – life abundantly – and the outflow of that reveals life-giving purposes for which God has given us this abundant life: to worship, to be community, and living for eternity. Come, ye thankful people, come!

November 27, 2024: “Stamped for Eternity!” – Eccl. 3:9-15

Time is precious. Often times we become keenly aware of this when we experience tragedy and loss, realizing we are fragile and time is fleeting. Yet, amidst this all, God has put in us the stamp of eternity – a powerful life-giving force, guarded by the Holy Spirit, that moves us through day by day towards the ultimate in life-giving reality – forever with Jesus. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this evening, let’s seize every moment of everyday and fill it with the promise of eternity by being thankful for such a time as this!

“MESSIAH WITH A MISSION Series for Advent:

Welcome to Advent season! What a joyous time of year as we celebrate the coming of the Messiah – our Messiah – Jesus Christ! All this month we will be commemorating His coming by taking a close look at the Mission of the Messiah and its impact not only in the years He lived on this earth, but the grand picture of the purposes of God through the Messiah throughout human history. This Mission was not only His Mission, but this Mission is embedded in the DNA of the church, His Body. As we unpack this Mission this month, we celebrate His first coming into this world, but also His daily coming into and moving through our lives, until He comes again! Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

Dec 1, 2024: SAVE: “Joy” - Luke 15 -Luke Vander Leest

The mission of the Messiah was to seek and save the lost. The Gospel of Luke begins by sharing the angels’ joy-filled announcement of Christ’s arrival and goes on to share about the rejoicing that takes place when what is lost becomes found. As we kick off the Advent season, a season where we all long for the joy of the holidays, we will discover that sovereign joy comes only when our dead hearts are made alive and illumined by the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held tonight, Wednesday, Nov 27 at 6:00pm. Nursery is unattended but available to parents for use as needed. The Fireside Room and Coffee shop area will be available for overflow seating.

Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for a congregational meeting Monday, December 9 at 7pm

Heading South For The Winter?

Let us know you'll be gone with the following form, or send an email to office@firstchristianreformed.org with approximate dates and any info you'd like us to know.

[Gone For The Winter](#)

Crafty Christmas Fundraiser

Looking for new Christmas decor? Or maybe you're craving a fun, crafty morning with a friend? Join us for a Christmas Decor Crafting Morning on Saturday, Dec. 7th from 9:00-11:00am! We'll be creating a set of 3 wooden trees each. This year's event will support GEMS and Cadets with the ongoing ministry of providing Bibles to our youth, gifted by Jon & Shelly Waltjer in memory of their infant son Weston. Cost is \$100. Don't miss out on a chance to make some festive decor while supporting a great cause. **Space is limited to 20 spots, so act fast! Click for pics, to read more details and register!**

[Crafty Christmas](#)

Defending God's Family

December 8, 6:30 p.m. After the hymn sing! Topic: What books are available for kids to read these days?

Clothing Drive for Center of Hope-This is it!

Please bring any final donations with you to church on TONIGHT! High-need items include Men's jeans, snowpants, gloves, mittens & blankets. However, they will accept cold weather gear for Men & Women / Boys & Girls of ALL ages. Other needs include snowboots, shoes & general clothing. Items can be new or gently used. Questions can be directed to Kearsen (605) 929-2021 or joshandkearsen@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

Upcoming:

Dec 4 chicken noodle soup, lasagna soup, ham and cheese sandwich

Dec 11: Italian chicken and noodles

MISSIONS

Missionary Spotlight December-Stephen & Sandra Brauning

Click here to read to the latest newsletter from the Braunings

[Brauning Newsletter](#)

Click Below to read latest newsletter from Marvin Heyboer for African Widow and Orphan Support (AWOS)

[AWOS Newsletter](#)

CHURCH FAMILY

Farewell Reception for Cole, Allison & Otto Pleggenkuhle

Please join us on December 8 as we join in a reception between services to thank Cole for his work at First CRC and encourage him as he moves on to Parkston, SD next year.

Have A Great Christmas Card Photo This Year?

Share it with us! Send to office@firstchristianreformed.org and we will upload it to the directory, OR you can go on to the church center app your self and add it to your profile under 'Directory Profile', scroll down to find a place for your household photo. Got great pics of each person in your family? Add those to your household in your profile as well. While you are in there, check your family profiles and update information for any kids away at college, phone numbers or emails of high school kids, add that new baby to your family directory profile and any other changes such as new address, phones numbers, or email. When you update that it directly updates our information! Don't have the app? download the Church Center app from your app store today and choose our church to get started!

FIRST KIDS

[Jill Smith](#)

**Dec 1: No Sunday School This week.
Children's Church will be meeting as usual**

Christmas Program Practice

Please note NEW Christmas Program practice times.

Sunday, Dec 1: 4:00-5:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 8: 9:30-9:45am **AND** 4:00-5:00pm

Saturday, Dec. 14th: 9-10:30am

Sunday, Dec. 15: 9:30-9:45am

Christmas Program Prelude Sign Up

If you have a student who would like to play a music piece for the Christmas Program on Dec. 15th, please use the link to sign your student up.

[Prelude Sign Up](#)

Christmas Program

First CRC's Christmas Program will be held Dec 15 at 4:00pm. Preschool through 3rd Grade.

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

Christmas Hymn Sing

Our annual Christmas Hymn Sing is **December 8 at 5 pm** in the sanctuary. Join us for an evening of fellowship and song as we come together to sing our favorite Christmas hymns. We hope to see you there!

Song of the Month:

Our song of the month for the 10:30 service for the month of December is an arrangement of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Meredith Andrews, written in 2017. I chose this song because the tune for the verses is similar to the hymn from the hymnal with an added bridge that builds to a soaring declaration of hope in the second coming of Christ.

Hymn of the Month:

Our hymn of the month for the 8:30 service for the month of December is “How Great Our Joy”. This hymn, nestled in our Lift Up Your Heart Hymnal, is a traditional German Christmas carol. I was first introduced to this hymn at one of our hymn sings and immediately loved the celebratory nature of the hymn. I hope that you enjoy celebrating the Christmas season with this hymn!

HOSPITALITY

Denaë Matherly

Hot Chocolate Bar

There will be a holiday hot chocolate bar for the kids in the gym between church services on Dec 1. 9:30-10:30.

First Round of Name Tags: Ordered!

Good news—the first round of name tags is officially in process! As soon as they arrive, I’ll distribute them faster than you can say, “Wait, what’s your name again?”

If you missed out this time, don’t worry! We’ll be placing a second batch order at the end of January, so you’ll have another chance to make your name tag dreams come true. Stay tuned!

Directory Photo Day: The Tally Marks Have Spoken!

Every time someone asks me to add more photos to the directory, I make a tally. When I hit 15 marks, it’s go time! Well, friends, we’ve officially reached 15 tally marks—which means it’s time for Directory Photo Day!

Mark your calendars: Brian Beck will be ready to work his magic behind the camera on **December 8 and December 15**. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

If you’re feeling impatient or want to submit your own masterpiece of a photo, follow these simple steps. Either way, let’s get those smiling faces in the directory!

To add a photo to the directory on the Church Center app, open your profile within the app, navigate to the "Edit Profile" section, and then select the option to "Update Photo" where you can choose a picture from your device to upload as your profile picture, which will appear in the church directory

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Al VanDonkersgoed

JHM

Our next meeting is Sunday Dec. 8 at First CRC. We will be serving ice cream floats to the congregation after the Hymn Sing which starts at 5 and ends at 6pm. Arrive between 5:20 and 6pm to help make and serve floats. We will play some group games, and learn about Hope.

CATALYST

Upcoming Meetings:

Nov 27: No Catalyst- Happy Thanksgiving

Dec 4: Catalyst Meeting

Dec 11: Christmas Party Potluck

Dec 18 Study Night/ Open Gym

Dec 25 No Catalyst- Merry Christmas!

Jan 1: No Catalyst- Happy New Year!

COMMUNITY

Prince of Peace: The Christmas Story

Returning November 30 - December 8 at the Orpheum Theatre in Sioux Falls

A beautiful musical telling the Christmas story: Audiences are taken back to the first century and into the time of the birth of Christ and the world as it was then. This telling of the Christmas story is relevant and rich, giving us the backstory and context of the coming of the Messiah. Many of your favorite Christmas songs are crafted seamlessly into the fabric of the story alongside thought provoking and soul-stirring originals.

Purchase your tickets [here](#).

Center of Hope

Christmas is around the corner! Plan to be a blessing this Christmas season by being a gift donor or volunteer in the Sharing Christmas program! Sharing Christmas is a collaborative effort of Center of Hope and The Community Outreach that ensures Christmas gifts are possible for struggling families in our community. Please reach out to Adam Hofer via email at adam@centerofhopesf.org, if you want to get involved!

Center of Hope

The Center of Hope is seeking to hire a full-time Bike Ministry Coordinator to work alongside volunteers in their Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry! The ideal candidate for this position must have a passion for both ministry and bicycles. For more information, please contact Adam Hofer via email at adam@centerofhopesf.org!

Prepare Him Room Women’s Event At Shalom CRC

Ladies mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14 so that you can join us for a morning of worship, encouragement, teaching and fellowship. Prepare Him Room is a free virtual event focused on intentionally making space to see Jesus amid the holiday rush. This event is for women of all ages (high school aged and older). Invite your neighbors, coworkers, family, and friends. Doors will open at 8:30am and the event will conclude around 11:00am. Breakfast will be served. This is a free event, however we do ask for you to sign-up [HERE](#) so that we can plan appropriately. If you have any questions please talk to Sarah Lieuwen.

slieuwen@shalomcrc.org

DEACON’S MINISTRY

Nov 27 Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes- Community Outreach

Please check your mailbox for your Thanksgiving envelope. We give Thanksgiving offerings to share the blessings that God has given us with others. This year there are nine different areas that you can support. You can return your envelope during the offering in any service in the month of November or drop it in the marked box near the back of the Fellowship Hall. There are extra envelopes and a description of each cause that you can give to on the info wall. This will be the offering for Thanksgiving Eve service.

December 1: Ministry Shares proves the power of shared resources by helping the individual congregations of the Christian Reformed Church participate in regional and global ministries. The program provides everyone at First CRC the opportunity to fund ministry efforts around our region and all over the world while operating at very high efficiency. With little overhead costs, this important part of the Christian Reformed Church can continue to thrive if active members donate their part.

Coming Up: Dec 8 Faith Promise: Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 51,840
Ministry Shares: \$ 2,600
Faith Promise: \$ 1,540
Building Fund: \$ 2,349
Tuition Assistance: \$1,082
The Banquet: \$ 4,396
SIMDEL: \$ 1,440
Furniture Mission: \$500
Feeding South Dakota: \$450
Cornerstone Prison Church: \$385
World Renew \$250

Weekly Total: \$ 66,832

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOV 27

Thanksgiving Eve Service 6-7pm

THURSDAY, NOV 28- Offices Closed

Thanksgiving Meal -11:30-1pm

FRIDAY, NOV 29- Church & Offices Closed

SATURDAY, NOV 30

Men of Integrity 7:30-8:30am

SUNDAY, DEC 1

Worship 8:30 & 10:30am

Vocal Choir Rehearsal 9:30-10:30am

NO Sunday School & Faith Talk

MONDAY, DEC 2

Senior Circuit 10:30-11:30am

Men's Life Bible Study 6:45-8pm

Monday Night Women's Bible Study 6:45-8pm

Banner Committee 7-8:30pm

TUESDAY, DEC 3

Senior Circuit 10:30-11:30am

Elders, Deacons, Lay Shepherds Meeting 7-9pm

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

[Watch Sermons](#)

[Submit Prayer Request](#)

[Email Church Office](#)

[Registrations](#)

[Room Reservation Request](#)

[Contact A Stephen Minister](#)

[Thanksgiving Folder](#)