



SIOUX FALLS, SD

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dec 11-17

### SERMON SERIES

#### **“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 15, 2024: SEND: Isaiah 40:1-11 “Voice In The Wilderness”**

The prophets of old foreshadowed not only the coming of the Messiah, but the ushering in of an age that would change the landscape of human history. The way, in part, this mission would be accomplished, would be the sending of His people “into the wilderness”, announcing the news of the Messiah coming... and His coming again. This week will examine what it means to be “sent” – both Jesus being sent to this world and our being sent into this world to prepare for His coming again.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Christmas Cantata**

A Thrill of Hope, a Christmas musical by Joel Raney, will be presented by First CRC Vocal and Bell Choir and other instrumentation, Sunday, December 15 as the 2nd half of our 8:30am and 10:30am services.

#### **Care Group Cookie Fair This Sunday Between Services**

Please join us in the gym this Sunday for our annual Care Group Fair. Come enjoy a cookie at your group table and Say ‘Hi’ to your leaders. Don’t know your number? We will have a sheet posted in the gym to check. Plus there will be a photo booth to get yourself an updated picture if you need one!

## Christmas Eve Service: Dec 24 at 5pm

### Centennial Ornaments

Does your tree have a bare spot? We have a few extra centennial ornaments hanging around if you misplaced yours or never got one from our centennial last year. Talk to Carl Zylstra or Ron De Wit if you are interested in procuring one!

### Sunday Bible Study- Open to New Members!

We are a small group of couples of various ages that meets every 4 weeks from 10:15-11:15, and are looking for some new members, singles or couples to expand our group! We will be starting again on January 19. The Bible study we are doing goes through the entire book of Romans. In Romans, the Apostle Paul unfolds God's way to righteousness explaining how we can be reconciled to God and transformed into the people He means us to be. Sin, salvation, grace, death, and resurrection are all discussed. If interested contact [Emily Buckmiller](#).

### Senior & Friends

There will be no December Meeting this month. Please make your calendars for Saturday, January 18th for our next gathering!

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## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

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### Upcoming:

Dec 11: Italian chicken and noodles

Dec 18: No Meal

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## MISSIONS

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### Missionary Spotlight December-Stephen & Sandra Brauning

Click here to read to the latest newsletter from the Braunings

[Brauning Newsletter](#)

### SIMDEL Newsletter

[SIMDEL Newsletter](#)

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## FIRST KIDS

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Jill Smith

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### Christmas Program Practice

Please note Christmas Program practice times.

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

## 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 this Sunday, Dec 15 at 4:00pm. Preschool through 3rd Grade.

**No Sunday School or Fatih Talk Dec 22 & 29**

**No Children's Church Dec 22**

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## WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

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### 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!

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## HOSPITALITY

Denae Matherly

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### Directory Photo Day:

Brian Beck will be ready to work his magic behind the camera on **December 15**. Stop by the gym between services to get your photo taken!

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

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## JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Al VanDonkersgoed

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JHM

We will have our final meeting next Sunday, Dec. 22 at Thunder Road from 6:30-8:30. We looked at Friday as an option but it also proved to be a conflict for some as well. Hopefully we will see most of you there, feel free to bring a friend along. They do have a snack shack available for food, so bring some \$ if you want food. Otherwise your cost will be covered. See you then!

Also, we have an open gym on Dec. 30 from 12:30-2:30 if your students need to get moving over break.

We resume meeting on Jan 12, 2025.

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## CATALYST

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### Upcoming Meetings:

**Dec 11:** Christmas Party Potluck

**Dec 18** Study Night/ Open Gym

**Dec 25** No Catalyst- Merry Christmas!

**Jan 1:** No Catalyst- Happy New Year!

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## COMMUNITY

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### 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](mailto:slieuwen@shalomcrc.org)

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## DEACON'S MINISTRY

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### December 15: Union Gospel Mission

Union Gospel Mission provides nutritious meals, safe shelter from the elements, and other services for the hungry and homeless in Sioux Falls. Their purpose is to "proclaim the gospel of salvation by grace in Christ and Him crucified, for the salvation of souls and the establishing of believers." The organization was founded by Thomas F. Morse, who was convicted of a shooting death in 1893. He gave his heart and life to Jesus Christ while in prison and opened the Sioux Falls City Rescue Mission in 1900.

### Upcoming: Dec 22 -Building Fund

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## Offering Totals from Last Week

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General Fund: \$ 9,749

Ministry Shares: \$ 1,995

Faith Promise (Dominican): \$ 3,435

Building Fund: \$ 1,995

Tuition Assistance: \$785

Bishop Dudley: \$ 1,268

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**Weekly Total: \$ 19,227**

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# CALENDAR

## Wednesday, Dec 11

- **Wednesday Night Meal**  
5:30–6:30pm
- **Cantata Rehearsal (Instrumentalists)**  
6:30–7pm
- **Prayer Meeting**  
6:30–7:30pm
- **GEMS**  
6:30–8:30pm
- **Catalyst**  
7–9pm
- **Cantata Rehearsal (Vocalists)**  
7:30–8pm

## Friday, Dec 13

- **Senior Circuit**  
10:30–11:30am

## Saturday, Dec 14

- **Men of Integrity**  
7:30–8:30am
- **Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal**  
9–10:30am

## Sunday, Dec 15

- **Worship feat. A Thrill Of Hope Cantata**  
8:30 & 10:30am
- **Children's Church**  
8:30–11:30am
- **Care Group Cookie Fair**  
9:30–10:30am
- **Sunday School & Faith Talk**  
9:45–10:15am
- **Christmas Program**  
4–5pm

## Monday, Dec 16

- **Senior Circuit**  
10:30–11:30am
- **Ad Board Meeting**  
6–8pm
- **Men's Life Bible Study**  
6:45–8pm

## Tuesday, Dec 17

- **Senior Circuit**  
10:30–11:30am

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

[Watch Sermons](#)

[Submit Prayer Request](#)

[Email Church Office](#)

[Registrations](#)

[Room Reservation Request](#)

[Contact A Stephen Minister](#)