



FIRST
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 13-19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pulpit Supply

March 17- Mark Pluimer, River View Church, Pine River, MN

Upcoming Services:

March 17 Installation of Pastor Steve Zwart @10:30am

March 24: Palm Sunday

March 29 (7pm) Good Friday Service

March 31 Easter Sunday (8:30 & 10:30am)

March 17- Installation Sunday

Join us this week for Installation Sunday as Pastor Steve Zwart is installed as our new minister. Rev Mark Pluimer, a former mentee of Pastor Zwart will be delivering the message. He joins us from River View Church in Pine River, MN, an EFCA church.

The 8:30 service will proceed as normal, followed by pie and coffee between services. **Installation will take place directly at the beginning of the 10:30am service.** If you attend the 8:30 service, please feel free to stay around for the start of the 10:30 service for installation, after which will be short transition for you to exit.

March 31- Easter Services

Easter Services will be held at 8:30am and 10:30am on March 31 with donuts between services!

Nominate a Layshepherd

Know someone who would make an amazing Layshepherd? Maybe it's even you! We are looking for individuals who would make great Care Team leaders starting August 2024. Click below to learn more about what a Layshepherd does, or to nominate someone for the position.

Contact Kate Bleyenburg or speak to your layshepherd for more information.

[Nominate a Layshepherd](#)

Senior & Friends

Senior and Friends will meet in the Fireside Room at 1st CRC on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 9:30 AM for coffee and doughnuts. Our guest speaker will be Fred Wilgenburg, Director and Pastor at New Roots Ministry and Chaplain at Smithfield Foods. Fred will share about his work with new and established immigrants in both of these roles. Join us for an eye opening presentation about the reach-out aspects of this ministry. There are at least 3700 immigrants at Smithfield alone.

Caring Bridge- Rylan Van Zee

The Van Zee's have started to post to CaringBridge to keep everyone up-to-date, with much thanks for the many, many people who have reached out with love and concern.

Rylan & Trish are in process of setting up consultations with Mayo Rochester to chart a path forward to address blockages in Rylan's carotid arteries and around his heart. Due to past radiation and chemo treatments, addressing these blockages is very complex. Fatigue and staving off viruses are some of the challenges in the meantime.

To follow their journey, visit: www.caringbridge.org/visit/rylanvanzee

PASTORS PONDERINGS

Pastor Steve Zwart

Pastor's Ponderings: "Here We Go!"

Blessings to you all this midweek day! Safe travels to all who will on the road this weekend for tournaments, vacations, or wherever the road takes you! Speaking of roads and travels, "here we go" as a faith community together into new territory as pastor and congregation! Installation Sunday (and pie Sunday!!) is this Sunday and we give thanks to God for new adventures before us! There will be familiar stops along the way as ministry here at First continues moving forward "as usual." But with the Spirit's leading and our commitment to loving and serving one another, we have will new stops along the way also! Looking forward to the journey before us! Thank you for the grace and patience you have afforded over the last two weeks as I learn names and set weekly schedules. Use of nametags or just stating your first name when we meet help a lot! Thank you for doing that! Let us know how we, your staff, can assist you in the ministry work of the Kingdom here at First!

Shalom, Pastor Steve

GIVE UP In Order TO GIVE

SIMDEL Children's Education Ministry

To Give, place your envelopes in the marked box at the back of the Fellowship Hall, in the offering bag or give online on the Church Center App. Extra Lent Envelopes are located on the info wall across from the mailboxes.

SIMDEL Children's Education Ministry – Family visits:

A growing part of SIMDEL Children's Education Ministry has been establishing relationships with the families of some of the students who have been recipients of the education related assistance. Many of these families live a number of miles from the school and village. This distance (up to 6 miles one way) not only makes it difficult for the children to walk to school and back each day, but also makes it difficult for the families to establish and maintain a sustainable income to provide for the basic needs of their families. This year we have been privileged to work with 6 families ranging in size from 2 children up to 11 children. Getting to know these families has allowed us to understand each family's gifts, skills and challenges as it relates to creating a sustainable income. As an example, we have assisted one family with the purchase of a cassava press and a palm nut oil extraction device, helping them produce and store their products for an extended period of time prior to bringing them to the open market.

OUR MISSIONARIES

Missions Team

March Missionary Spotlight

Sadee Van Ruler- Global Service Network



Aaron, Sadee and Knoxie Van Ruler Bloomington, IN

From Sadee Van Ruler:

Will you please pray for these three "audiences" our family desires to influence for Jesus:

1. Our international friends and neighbors from China, India, France, Germany, Vietnam and Afghanistan;
2. Knoxie's therapists and medical team;
3. Single moms who are struggling to provide stable lives for themselves and their children.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

1st & 2nd Wednesdays- 5:30-6:30pm

March 13 Chili or Chicken Noodle and Cinnamon Rolls

*Menu Subject to change. All Meals are Free Will Donation. Gluten Free Options available.

FIRST KIDS

Jill Smith

No Sunday School or Faith Talk March 24, 31

There will be NO Sunday School or Faith Talk on March 24, or 31.

Also, NO children's church on the 31st. The nursery will be unattended on Easter Sunday (31st).

We NEED Nursery Volunteers!

Our youngest church attenders need volunteers to help take care of them so their parents can worship free of distraction from time to time. If you are able to help out in this way, and are 10 years old or above please click on the button below to join on the church center app, or send email to

jill@firstchristianreformed.org. Volunteers should only need to serve once over 2-3 months.

Volunteer For Nursery

SCUBA VBS

Scuba VBS happening June 2-6 6:00pm-8:15pm. The Summer event that helps kids dive into friendship with God!

Christian Illusionist Matt Adams

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 1st as Christian Illusionist and Evangelist Matt Adams joins us to perform an amazing show. Great for kids, but open to all ages, registration opens on April 1st! Cost is \$5 person, ages 5 and under are free.

JUNIOR HIGH

Al Van Donkersgoed

JHM

This week we will meet at Suburban Lanes from 6:30-7:45 for bowling. Check in between 6:15 and 6:30. Suburban Lanes is located at, 2621 S Spring Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

Our following meeting will be March 31st, from 6:15-7:45. We will hear a message titled "The Resurrection is Everything", and share some easter treats.

CATALYST

Will Grisham

SERVE Chaperones Needed!

We still need female chaperones for two of our SERVE mission trips! We need one leader for Holland Michigan and one leader for Muskegon Michigan. Both trips go from July 6th to July 13th! If you love being in service and want to see firsthand the impact a summer mission trip can have reach out to Will!

Youth And Young At Heart

Once again, Catalyst Youth Movement is inviting everyone 60 years or older to join us on Wednesday, March 20th from 6:30-7:30 PM for our Youth and Young-At-Heart event! Join us for games, blanket-making, and more!

Save the Date!

Join us for a JOINT outdoor worship service at the Levitt At The Falls on Sunday, July 21, 2024 to kick off SERVE Sioux Falls. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

HOSPITALITY

Denae Matherly

Be Seen & Known!

As we welcome Pastor Steve & family, we are excited to continue our journey toward familiarity and community. Please continue to look for name tag stations in the coming weeks. We are still trying to get this process up and running, but will have hand written tags available in the meantime as we hope to get to a place where you can punch in your phone # and select your family tags and have them print out! Thanks for helping name tags make a comeback!

First Perks Perk Up

Get ready for some cozy vibes at First Perks! Over the next month, keep an eye out as our brand-new furniture and artwork starts to roll in for the Coffee Shop Area. We're thrilled to enhance one of our favorite fellowship spots with more seating, additional meeting spaces, and expanded opportunities for gathering and connecting throughout the week.

Stay tuned for updates as we create a more inviting space for our community to come together!

🥰 Who wants to SERVE pie? 🥰

Did you know that one of the best ways to connect with our church community is by rolling up our sleeves together, especially in the kitchen.

Sign up to lend a hand with Pie Day and discover new friendships, or simply enjoy working quietly in the corner – every contribution matters when you're serving in the way that God created you. Let's slice some joy and share some love – one delicious pie at a time! 🥧 Contact denae@firstchristianreformed.org to help!

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

Readers Needed:

We are looking for people to read for our Good Friday service on March 29 at 7 pm. Anyone 7th grade and older is invited to read. Please reach out to Gabby with questions or to sign up.

Hymn of the Month

March's hymn of the month at the 8:30 service is Christ, the Life of All the Living. This hymn text was originally written in German by Ernst Homburg in the mid 17th Century and translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in 1863. It wasn't until the late 18th century that the text and tune (composer unknown) were married as we see in our hymnal today. This is a Lenten hymn referencing the crucifixion and anguish in the garden while also promoting hope and thankfulness. The refrain at the end of each verse is pleasantly stored in my head from childhood and I am confident that we can join together to sing, "thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you".

Song of the Month

March's song of the month at the 10:30 service is Crowns by Hillsong Worship, published in 2016. This song, perfect for this Lenten season, is a celebration of our salvation brought to us by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. As Christians, our identity is found through Christ and his sacrifice on the cross. It is in His sacrifice that we boast. We surrender all of our wealth, achievements, and notoriety at the foot of the cross because our wealth is found through Christ alone. I pray that as a congregation we will continue to daily surrender ourselves and our worship to Christ during this season of Lent and always.

PASTORAL CARE

Cole Pleggenkuhle

Stephen Ministry

Need a confidential one on one Stephen Minister? Our ministers are trained to help others navigate tough life circumstances. They are wonderful listeners and provide great care to those who ask for it. If you need someone to talk to, we have Stephen Ministers equipped to listen. If you need a Stephen Minister, contact our Director of Pastoral Care: Cole Pleggenkuhle cole@firstchristianreformed.org

TECHNOLOGY

Paul Mobley

DVR Feature

Can't make it to church? Our Livestream just got better! Imagine this – well, it isn't tough to imagine – you hurry to start watching the livestream on Sunday morning, but you end up running a few minutes late. Rats, I missed it!! ----- But not anymore! Using our new DVR feature, you can go back in time to watch from the beginning. You can also PAUSE the livestream if you need to take a break. This works in all platforms and on all devices.

To watch a livestream event using DVR:

1. Go to the Livestream Event page on the website and play video as usual.
 2. While watching, at any time, you can go back in time on the video to watch from the beginning or rewatch any previous part of the service.
 3. If you wish to skip forward to watch the live event at the present time, you will see the Skip to live button on the top left corner of the video. The skip to live button takes you to the current moment on the live event.
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COMMUNITY

Hills Christian School Auction

You are invited to the Hills Christian School Fall Auction on Friday, March 15, 2024. The doors open at 6:30 PM and the Auction starts at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be served. Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun while supporting HCS. New and homemade donations will be accepted. Thank you for your support!

Cornerstone Annual Benefit Banquet

Cornerstone Prison Church Council, Board and Congregation would like to invite you to our Annual Benefit Banquet on Monday, April 1, 2024 at Trinity Christian Reformed Church, Rock Valley, IA. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the banquet begins at 6:30pm. Save your spot by Sunday, March 24 by calling Trinity CRC at 712-476-5292 or go to our website www.cornerstonepcsd.org. A free will offering will be taken as an opportunity to financially support Cornerstone's ministry. We look forward to seeing you!

If you are unable to attend, you can send your donations to:

Cornerstone Prison Church

c/o Dave Vande Kamp

PO Box 88708

Sioux Falls, SD 57109

Or donate online at www.cornerstonepcsd.org

DEACON'S MINISTRY

March 17- General Fund

The General Fund supports the local ministry programs, including evangelism, youth, children, adults, worship, small group, and health ministries, as well as the operational expenses of the property, office, and personnel expenses. God has blessed First CRC with the opportunity to minister through these programs.

Coming Up: March 24-Ministry Shares

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 13,224

Ministry Shares: \$ 520

Faith Promise: \$ 415

Building Fund: \$ 380

Tuition Assistance: \$ 160

SIMDEL- Give Up to Give: \$ 863

Bishop Dudley Hospitality House: \$ 3,520

Weekly Total: \$ 19,082

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAR 13

- **Wednesday Night Meal**
5:30–6:30pm
- **Handbell Choir Practice**
6:30–8pm
- **GEMS**
6:30–8:30pm
- **Women's Bible Study**
6:30–8:30pm
- **Prayer Meeting**
7–8pm
- **Catalyst Youth Movement**
7–9pm

THURSDAY, MAR 14

- **Book Club Study**
6:45–8:45pm

FRIDAY, MAR 15

- **Young Adult Men's Study**
6:30–7:30am

SATURDAY, MAR 16

- **Men of Integrity**
7:30–8:30am

SUNDAY, MAR 17

- **Worship**
8:30 & 10:30am
- **Faith Talk for HS**
9:45–10:15am
- **Vocal Choir Rehearsal**
9:45–10:15am
- **Sunday School**
9:45–10:15am
- **Junior High Ministry**
6:15–7:45pm

MONDAY, MAR 18

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

TUESDAY, MAR 19

- **Henry De Kruif Visitation**
10:00–11:00am
- **Henry De Kruif Funeral**
11:00–12:30pm

Sunday Worship Folder

Watch Sermons

Submit Prayer Request

Email Church Office

Registrations

Room Reservation Request