



SIoux FALLS, SD

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 5-11

SERMON SERIES

“The Cross of Christ” – Lenten Series for 2025

The cross – the emblem of suffering and shame – served as the instrument God ordained for His Son to die on for the sins of mankind. This torture tool – perfected by the Romans – was purposed to produce excruciating pain and a slow, suffocating death. And it was public. Rome used it to deter rebellion against the government, displaying the high price for breaking the law.

But why would God choose such an awful instrument to display His greatest love? The crushing paradox of curse and salvation, judgment and redemption, hate for sin and love for the sinner seemed extreme... yet... fitting.

This Lenten Series will explore the ministry and message of Jesus as He encountered the cross. We will focus on the cross through the lens of Jesus, the suffering servant, and through the lens of the Father, the compassionate judge. We will wrestle with the tension of the imagery of the cross to discover our sin that nailed Jesus to the cross and the love of the Father for us through the cross.

Let us humble ourselves before God in this journey. May our hearts own the sin and rebellion in our lives that nailed Jesus to the cross. And may the Spirit of God reveal that through the cross we are loved.

March 9 – “The Cross of Christ: The Shame and The Servant”

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

The journey to the Cross of Christ is filled with the dynamic tension of all that was wrong in the world colliding with all that is right in the heart of God. The God/man Jesus Christ took this tension on in His incarnation. But how did He do that: with the tremendous burden of man’s sin and the just-filled gracious heart of God leading Him to the cross? Simple. He became a servant. His servant’s posture throughout the whole ordeal spoke volumes of His heart to complete the just verdict of God and displaying the great love of that same God ... at the same time. We will explore how Christ’s servant heart went “toe-to-toe” with the evil of this world to reveal the power and purpose of servanthood at the heart of gospel message.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BINGO Night presented by Catalyst

Join us next week Wednesday for BINGO. Come for soup and be entertained by the SFC Jazz Band, then stay for BINGO! There will be lots of prizes! Everyone is Invited!

Prayer Warriors for Our Youth! We Still Need MORE!

The prayer team and youth leaders invite you to become a prayer warrior for one of our High school age students! We have over 70 High School Age Students in our church plus kids that come to attend our youth group! So we need alot of you!

This requires only a comittment to prayer. Each person to sign up will be assigned a student of the same gender. There may be an opportunity to meet with your assigned student at some point in the future as well, but while we are working out the details, we need prayer warriors to sign up! Click on the form below to become a prayer warrior for a High school student or speak to Carol Spunk for details.

Become A Prayer Warrior

Northwestern College Choir Concert - Host Homes NEEDED!

On April 3, First Christian Reformed Church will be hosting the Northwestern College Choir from Orange City, IA. We are the first stop on their spring tour! As they embark on their tour, we have the opportunity to host them, feed them, enjoy their music, and encourage them as they head out on their tour!

We need several host homes for almost 40 people, accomodating 2-4 students each. **First CRC will be providing supper that evening, then breakfast and a packed lunch the following morning, so all you need to do is give them a place to sleep!**

Host NWC Choir Students

Senior and Friends

There will be no March meeting for Sr. and Friends. We do plan to meet on April 19, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Join us for coffee and doughnuts and bring a FRIEND. We would like input from any of you who have participated in our group in regard to your continued interest. Attendance has been limited as of late, making if difficult to plan for speakers or entertainment. WE WELCOME NEW GUESTS and would enjoy having the support of empty nesters!

College

Hey parents, If your college student is home on spring break and is looking for a place to hang out on a Friday night, come join us at First Perks from 7-10 on Friday night, March 7th. For more details, contact Mike Davelaar.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

Upcoming Menu:

March 5: Hot ham & cheese sliders, Garlic oven roasted potatoes, fresh fruit

March 12: Alfredo soup, Tomato Basil soup, and garlic bread

Special feature: SFC Jazz Band+ Bingo Night!

March 19: Pizza

FIRST KIDS

Program Practice Schedule for Sunday School-Led Easter Program (April 6th)

March 9th

9:00-9:30 5th & 6th grade girls

9:30-9:45 5th and 6th grade boys

10:15-10:30 K & 1st

March 16

9:00-9:30 4th grade

9:30-9:45 2nd & 3rd grade

10:15-10:30 EVERYONE!

***All practices take place in the GEMS room**

WORSHIP

Men's Chorus

Men, come join us as we sing in 4-part harmony with the gospel songs of *Victory in Jesus* and *Just A Little Talk with Jesus* at both worship services on Sunday, April 27. Rehearsals are March 30, April 6 and 13, 10:00-10:25 in the Choir Room located downstairs.

ADULT MINISTRY

Small Groups

Small groups are a great way to build community and find a place to belong. They provide opportunities to authentically know and be known by other people. If you are looking for a place to belong, we want to get you plugged into a small group. Sign up here to get connected! (<https://firstchristianreformed.churchcenter.com/people/forms/916512>).

Small Group Leadership

We are building a small group leadership team. If you are passionate about intentional community and building authentic relationships, we need your help to guide and direct our small group ministry! If you're interested in joining this team or would like information, please email Gabby at gabby@firstchristianreformed.org.

Stephen Ministry

We are looking to grow our Stephen Ministry program here at First. This is a robust compassionate care program that connects people with a heart for building friendship who are trained in active listening with people who are going through a difficult time in life. If you are passionate about building one-on-one relationships and have a heart for people who are struggling, we'd love to get you connected and trained in this ministry.

If you are going through a difficult time in life, are feeling overwhelmed or lonely, or could just really use a friend, we'd love to get you connected with one of our Stephen Ministers. If you'd like more information about either of these opportunities, please email Gabby at gabby@firstchristianreformed.org.

HOSPITALITY

Order a Permanent Nametag Here!

Ready to order your shiny new nametag? Just click the link below.

👉 [Click here to order your nametag!](#)

Feed the Team: Staff Lunch Opportunity!

Please use the button below to sign up to feed the team lunch (about 12 people) on a Wednesday at noon!

Sign Up to Provide Lunch

Barista Training Night – March 10 @ 7:00 PM!

Calling all coffee lovers! Whether you're a seasoned barista or just curious about making the perfect cup, join us for a **fun and interactive training session** where you'll learn how to craft delicious coffee drinks from start to finish. And yes—there will be **taste testing!**

This is a great opportunity for our current baristas to **refresh their skills and connect**, and for new faces to jump in and experience the joy of making coffee in a welcoming, hands-on environment.

Bonus: You'll help decide on our new **Spring Featured Drink Menu!**

No experience necessary—just bring your enthusiasm! We can't wait to see you there!

Strategic Board Game Night – March 18 @ 7:00 PM!

Do you love the thrill of strategy and outthinking your opponents? Are you the master of your favorite board game, or looking for a new challenge? Join us for a **night of strategy, planning, and friendly competition!**


Bring your favorite **strategy game** and a friend, or just come ready to jump in and play. This is a great way to **connect, build community, and enjoy some snacks** while putting your skills to the test

Tuesday, March 18 @ 7:00 PM, Fireside Room

Sign up here: [Sign Up Here](#)


Save the Date! Sisterhood Event – April 26 @ 9:30 AM

Ladies, mark your calendars! You're invited to a **churchwide (and friends & neighbors!) Sisterhood Event**—a morning of **pastries, fancy coffee, community, and fun!**

 **Open to all women ages 10 and up**

 **Celebrate spring with us**

 **Bring a friend (or two)!**

 **When:** Friday, April 26 @ 9:30 AM

 **Where:** First CRC Activity Center

We want to make sure there's a seat (and a pastry!) for everyone, so [sign up here](#)

We can't wait to see you there!

PS, We are currently working on booking a speaker. If you have a testimony, a word of encouragement or a skill that you would like to share, please contact Denae Matherly at denae@firstchristianreformed.org

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

March 9- Air Madness

We will meet at Air Madness on March 9 from 5-7pm. Please note the time change. If you have jump socks please bring them. They do have a concession stand so if you want something from there feel free to bring some \$ for that. Please follow this link to get a waiver on file with Air

Madness. <https://lilypadpos.app/airmadness/online waiver/waiver.php>

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Faith Talk for High School

There will be NO Faith Talk classes March 9 & 16 for High School

Upcoming Catalyst Schedule:

March 5th – Guest speaker to talk about relationships

March 12th – All church BINGO night!

MISSIONS

Lent Campaign 2025- Growing Beyond The Gifts

This Sunday marks the start of the 2025 Lent Campaign. Our focus this year will be for the Heytsi family in Tyachiv, Ukraine. Your support this year will help them upgrade their church farm. We hope to help them with the funds to purchase 2 solar panels (\$18,000), construct a root cellar (\$5,000), prep and plant 2 fields (\$900), purchase seeds and plants, and buy 6 piglets (\$300).

A special giving envelope has been placed in your mailbox. Please use this as a reminder throughout the Lent season, as well as to submit your gifts. Place anytime during the Lent season in the offering bag, or in the marked box in the back of the Fellowship Hall. Be listening for more information about this the Heytsi Family and their church farm during the Lent season!

DEACON'S MINISTRY

March 9 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.

March 9: Communion Offering – Luke Society

The Luke Society provides resources and support for international Christian health visionaries passionate about ministering to needs in their own cultures. Our ministry empowers nationals to share the saving grace of the Gospel through preaching, teaching, and healing.

Upcoming: March 16 World Renew

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 23,104
Ministry Shares: \$ 8,089
Faith Promise: \$ 470
Building Fund: \$ 678
Tuition Assistance: \$ 460

Weekly Total: \$ 32,801

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAR 5

Wednesday Night Meal

5:30–6:30pm

Prayer Meeting

6:30–7:30pm

Cadets

6:30–8:30pm

Catalyst

7–9pm

THURSDAY, MAR 6

- **MomCo**
8:30–11am

FRIDAY, MAR 7

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30–11:30am
- **College Connect**

Sunday Worship Folder

Watch Sermons

Submit Prayer Request

Registrations

7–10pm

- **SATURDAY, MAR 8**

- **Men of Integrity**

- 7:30–8:30am

- **SUNDAY, MAR 9**

- **Children's Church**

- 8:30 & 10:30am

- **Worship & Communion**

- 8:30 & 10:30am

- **Vocal Choir Rehearsal**

- 9:35–10am

- **Sunday School**

- 9:45–10:15am

- **NO Faith Talk for HS this week**

- 9:45am–10:15pm

- **Women's Chorus Rehearsal**

- 10–10:25am

- **Cornerstone Prison Ministry**

- 2–4pm

- **Junior High Ministry @ Air Madness**

- 5–7pm

MONDAY, MAR 10

- **Senior Circuit**

- 10:30–11:30am

- **Men's Life Bible Study**

- 6:45–8pm

- **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**

- 6:45–8pm

TUESDAY, MAR 11

- **Senior Circuit**

- 10:30–11:30am

- **Tuesday Afternoon Women's Bible**

- Study**

- 2–3:30pm

WEDNESDAY, MAR 12

- **Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study**

- 6:30–7:30am

- **Coffee Break**

- 9:45–11am

- **Wednesday Night Meal**

- 5:30–6:30pm

- **Handbell Choir Practice**

- 6:30–7:30pm

- **Prayer Meeting**

- 6:30–7:30pm

Room Reservation Request

Email Church Office

Announcements for Newsletter are due by 3pm on Tuesdays. Please send your written announcement to office@firstchristianreformed.org