

Sunday, December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent
Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.

We Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Words:

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you,
my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

We want to see you, to know your presence in the sanctuary.

***Our hearts long to witness the reality of your love and grace,
in our lives and also in this world.***

We lament, O God, when the busyness of life and the concerns of this world
prevent us from seeing you more clearly.

We lament, too, Lord, that the chaos and brokenness in this world conceals
your glory and prevents people from seeing your love.

Heavenly Father, we long to see your glory.

Heal this world! Renew our lives! Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greetings

We Celebrate God's Grace

*Song of Praise: "The Lord Is My Salvation"

Children's Message – "The Waiting Place" Velma Ouwenga

Lighting of the Candle of Promise

Song: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Sacrament of Baptism: Madelynn Renee Rees

Ministry of Music – "A Mother's Prayer" Lisa Zylstra

Offering for Ministries of Bethel and DMC Inc.

Prayer

We Are Fed by God's Word

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9 (pg. 1076)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be To God!

Sermon: **"The Longings of Christmas"**

Prayer

We Depart to Serve

*Stand for God's Parting Blessing

*Closing Song: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Piano: Amy Dekker

Afternoon Worship
5:00 p.m.

Welcome

Scripture: Psalm 103:13-18

Songs of Praise:

"I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace"

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

Prayer of Praise

Song: "Blessed Assurance"

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9, Jeremiah 31:31-34 (pg. 17, 1227)

Sermon: **So you wanted to hear a sermon on.....Covenants!**

Prayer

Song of Praise: "You Are Our God; We Are Your People"

Offering for DMC Inc.

Time of Prayer

Closing Song: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Piano: Amy Dekker

WELCOME TO BETHEL CHURCH! ADVENT: Today marks the first Sunday in the Advent season. During the four Sundays leading up to our celebration of Christmas, Pastor Rick will be preaching on the different ways that the birth of Jesus affects us—through our longings, our feelings, and even the pressures and confusions that come during this time of year. Today we look at “The Longings of Christmas” During our 5 p.m. Worship Service pastor Rick looks at yet another “So you wanted to hear a Sermon on...” request, this time on the theme of the Covenant which runs through the pages of scripture. Why is the covenant so important? So powerful? So needed?

This morning the Sacrament of Baptism will be administered to **Madelynn Renee Rees**, infant daughter of Brigman and Alyssa Rees. We praise God for his precious covenant promises!



Come see Jesus in all of Scripture with us in our Sunday School Program “**SHOW ME JESUS**”. All children ages PK-7th grade are invited to join us downstairs immediately after the morning service. Pick-up is 11:45am. **Pastor Rick’s CATECHISM** for all 8th thru 12th grades will meet after church in the room next to the kitchen. Visitors are welcome! The next 2 weeks we will be practicing for the Candlelight Service on December 16th

PRE WORSHIP PRAYER TIME: You are invited to come and join in praying for the worship service, to pray for God’s Spirit to move, to pray for the pastor, to pray for the Lord’s blessing as we join our hearts together in worship. Prayer time begins at 9:15. Won’t you join in praying? We meet in front of church near the communion table.

TODAY December 2 (First Sunday of Advent)
 Nursery AM: Ashley VanderWoude, Stephanie Konvalinka
 PM: Cindy Musch, Ashlyn DeBoer
 Greeters AM: John & Ruth Broertjes(E), Jon & Amy Dekker(S)
 Usher AM: Scott VanVlymen
 Media Shout Ryan Schaafsma
 Offering AM: Ministries of Bethel and DMC Inc.

NEXT WEEK December 9 (Second Sunday of Advent)
 Nursery AM: Laura Walstra, Sydnee Walstra
 PM: Mary Buitter, Riley Schaafsma
 Greeters AM: John & Ruth Broertjes(E), Jon & Amy Dekker(S)
 Usher AM: Scott VanVlymen
 Media Shout Katie Eenigenburg
 Offering AM: Ministries of Bethel and Margham

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL will meet this Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Newly elected council members are invited to join us as we will be electing new officers. This year we will be instituting a change where Pastor Rick will not be the president of Council, and thus we will be voting for President, clerk, vicar, assistant treasurer, and secretary of deacons.

CHURCH FAMILY

- We extend our Sincere sympathy to the family of Betty Vanderbilt, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day. The funeral was held this past Friday at the Crete funeral home in Crete, Illinois. We praise God for Betty’s faithful life and her joy-filled spirit!
- Andy Walstra remains at the Broadway Methodist hospital and is being treated for a blood infection. We are thankful with the Walstras that he seems to be gaining, yet still has a way to go on the road to recovery. The Walstras continue to covet the prayers of the congregation for healing and for restoration of strength and health.
- Please continue to pray for Donna Hoekstra as she struggles with back pain and discomfort.

THIS WEEKS ACTIVITIES

Sunday 10:50am “Show Me Jesus” Sunday School & Catechism
 6:15pm YPS Meets at 1st CRC
 Tuesday 12:00pm Ladies Afternoon Bible Study
 7:00pm Council
 Wednesday 9:30am Coffee Break
 7:00pm Gems and Cadets
 Wisdom Seekers
 Crocheters

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

December 2 - First Sunday in Advent: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Worship
 December 9 - Second Sunday in Advent: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Worship
 December 16 - Third Sunday in Advent: 9:30 a.m. Worship

CANDLELIGHT SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

“Sing a Song of Christmas” at 5:00pm

December 23 - Fourth Sunday in Advent: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Worship.
 December 25 - Christmas Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. Celebrate our Savior’s birth!
 Offering will be for World Renew
 December 30 - 9:30 Worship, and a joint New Year’s Eve Worship at 5:00 p.m. at 1st CRC

LADIES AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY will meet at noon on Tuesday at Mary DeVries’ home. We will have our Christmas luncheon then. Please let Mary know if you cannot attend.

COFFEE BREAK BIBLE STUDY meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am. Our goal is to help women both inside and outside of our church grow in their faith. Have a friend or neighbor you would like to invite? Join us on Wednesday’s at 9:30am. Child care for preschoolers.

GEMS will be meeting this Wednesday at 7 for a normal meeting. Our next meeting will be our Christmas Skating Party on December 12, 5:30-8:30. Please note the change.

HIDDEN GEMS, please check your GEMS mailbox. This Wednesday will be our only at church meeting for the month of December.

CADETS will meet this week Wednesday at 7:00pm.

WISDOM SEEKERS will meet Wednesday evening. Study lesson 7. We will discuss the lesson and then pack the boxes for college students, so remember to bring your contributions for the boxes.

BETHEL CROCHETERS. We will continue on hats the size of 9X18 single crocheted into the back stitch and 8X8 inch squares for blankets for Phil's Friends and Women's Center. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm to embellish hats, answer questions and learn more stitches. Any questions, talk to Dianne. See you Wednesday night!

Our congregation is in charge of the **SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS BELL RINGING** at Tysens, for Saturday, December 15. A sign-up sheet is on the round table. Please consider signing up for an hour time slot. The money that's collected in the Salvation Army red buckets is used in Jasper County and in our community as well! **ONLY 3 spots left to fill!**

We Need Your Help!!! WINTER IS COMING. We would like to offer **VALET PARKING** during the winter months when there is bad weather. **We need guys that are willing to park cars** for those who would like to use this service. There is a sign-up sheet on the round table if you are willing to help or talk to Marge Fase. **Thank you to those who signed up last week.**

Have you signed up yet? C IS FOR COOKIE...yum, yum, yum! Thanks to all who have helped out with cookies after church. We have put out a **NEW SIGN-UP ON THE ROUND TABLES.** Two people will be responsible for two week shifts. It is a shared responsibility. If you wish to bake some that we can keep in the freezer, that would be great as well (place a date on the cookies and write a note on the sign-up sheet and we can put them out when needed). Questions talk to Andrew or Heidi Dunham! Thank you to all those who have signed up. Still have a few Sunday's left check them out!

Bethel will be in charge of leading the afternoon worship service at Aperia nursing home on both Jan. 6 and Jan. 13 next month. Mark your calendar now so that you can help by speaking, playing the piano, singing or helping in others ways. See Larry Ouwenga for more information.

YPS UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 2 – Regular meeting at 1st CRC 6:15pm-8:15pm.

Wed., Dec. 5 – OUTING TO SKY ZONE

- We will be leaving from 1st CRC at 5:45pm and expect to be back to 1st CRC at approx. 9pm. Total cost will be \$15 which includes jumping socks. Take \$15 with on night of 12/5/18. Sky Zone **waiver was required by last meeting.** Questions ask a leader.

Wed., Dec. 12 – CHRISTMAS PARTY AND OUTING AT BETHEL CRC FROM 5-8:30

- We will meet at Bethel at 5:00pm for a Christmas pizza party. We will go Christmas caroling and visit with church shut ins and come back to Bethel for Christmas party, games and snacks. We will be done at approx. 8:30pm.
- Please have your student bring a plate of homemade cookies that we can divide and give to the people we are visiting. The leftovers will be our snack once we return.
- **We will NOT meet Sunday night Dec. 16.**

LOCAL EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

The American **RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE** will be at the **American Reformed Church** on December 13, 1:00 - 7:00 PM. There is always a great need for blood supplies to be replenished. It normally takes an hour, but it is an hour that could save someone's life. Please consider coming in to donate blood. It's recommended to make an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome, but must wait until all appointments are taken first. To help encourage donors to schedule and keep their appointments during this critical time, all donors who donate at the drive will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.

SEEKING HOSPITALITY- DORDT COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR IS COMING TO DEMOTTE! They will be performing a concert at 1st CRC on Jan. 11, 2019 and they are in need of housing for 54 students for that evening. This is where YOU come in! If you would be willing to host 2 (or more) students after the concert, feed them breakfast, and get them back to church in the morning, please contact Velma Ouwenga at 987-4393. Thanks so much!

2018 **Christmas Concert Event** – “Merry and Bright” at Cedar Lake Ministries. Check out the bulletin board by the council room for more info.

Illiana Oratorio Society-- Handel's Messiah. The concert will be Sunday December 2, 2018 at 2:00 pm at First Christian Reformed Church of South Holland, IL located at 16248 South Park Ave., South Holland, IL. Please join us as we present this marvelous work to God's praise!

Please join us for our Second Annual Indoor Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long on Friday, December 14 at 7 PM at Immanuel United Reformed Church in DeMotte. The caroling program will be approximately one hour long. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the time of singing. This is a free event open to the public. Nursery care available. Food items for the Good Neighbor Food Pantry will be gratefully accepted. The church is located at 9991 W. 1200 N. in DeMotte.

Come celebrate the Christmas season with song! The **Men of A-Chord -- A Festival of Nine Lessons in Carols for Christmastide** on Saturday, December 15th at 7 p.m. at Thorn Creek Reformed Church of South Holland, IL A free-will offering will be taken.

The Illiana Christian High School Foundation is planning an **eight-day, seven-night** trip to Boston, Martha's Vineyard and surrounding areas for alumni and friends of Illiana. The trip will take place June 11-18, 2019; and will be led by Jeff White, a history teacher at ICHS. We are looking for commitments (\$250 non-refundable deposit) by **December 20th** and full payment will be due by **February 1st**. For any questions regarding the trip or to receive an informational brochure, please contact Bonnie Trepton (708) 474-0515 ext. 24 or Jeff White at jeff.white@illianachristian.org.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS:

Drive-Thru Box Supper

The Boys Basketball team is once again having a drive-thru box supper fundraiser. Drive up to the Covenant Christian High School front doors tomorrow evening, December 3/5-7pm, and a boy's basketball team member will delivery your meals to your car. Each box supper contains a ham, turkey, and cheese sub sandwich, fruit salad, chips, cookie and a bottle of water. Cost is a free- will donation. Come out and support our Knights!!

Covenant Christian High School's band and choirs invite you to enjoy the sounds of the season at their Annual **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** on **Tuesday, December 11** at 7pm. A cookie reception will follow - please come!

DMCS IMPORTANT DATES:

December 3:	CCHS Boys' Basketball Team Box Supper Fund Raiser
December 4:	DMCS Board Meeting – 7:00pm
December 6:	DMC Winter Concert – 7:00pm
December 11:	CCHS Christmas Concert – 7:00pm
December 18:	DMC PS4-5 Christmas Program @ DMC– 6:30pm
January 7:	PS(3), PS(4) and Kindergarten Sign Ups Begin