

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.

We Gather to Worship

Prelude

Gathering Song: “Christmas Offering”

Welcome

Prayer

Children’s Message: “Jesus Is Coming to Town” Gary DeVries

Lighting of the Candle of Love

*God’s Greeting and Mutual Greetings

We Celebrate God’s Grace

Songs

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

“Joyful, Joyful, WE Adore Thee” (Rejoice, Rejoice)

Prayer of Confession:

Lord God,

we praise you for sending light into this world.

We confess that we sometimes live as though
the light had never defeated darkness.

We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent
to be among us and to live in us.

We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.

Silent Prayer, concluded with:

Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.

Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.

Help us rejoice in your light

**so that your grace can illuminate the
darkened places of our hearts.**

Amen.

The Assurance of God's Pardon (Based on Isaiah 40: 1-2)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned.

The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God.

Song: “Angels, We Have Heard on High” W/C 132

Offering, for Ministries of Bethel and Benevolence

Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-18 (pg.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be To God!

Sermon: “**The Confusions of Christmas**”

Prayer

Song of Response: “Meekness and Majesty”

We Depart to Serve

*Stand for God’s Parting Blessing

*Closing Song: “What Child Is This”

Piano: Amy Dekker

WELCOME TO BETHEL CHURCH! We are glad you have chosen to worship God with us this morning. On this fourth Sunday in Advent Pastor Rick will be preaching on Matthew 2:1-18, “The Confusions of Christmas”. We will not be having a 5pm service today.

Come celebrate our Savior’s birth! **Christmas Morning Worship** on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Congregation: We are grateful for God’s indescribable gift that he gave us in Jesus Christ. No gift is greater, no gift is more meaningful! Through Jesus we have an ETERNAL and LIVING hope. And we are so grateful that we share in that with you! It is our earnest prayer that you will experience that joy and hope personally as you celebrate Christmas this year. And it’s also our hope that we can continue to celebrate that together as a church family in meaningful ways as we do ministry together. Have a blessed Christmas and a joy-filled new year!!



THANK YOU to all the students who were involved in the Candlelight Service. You all did a great job and we appreciate you helping us celebrate the real reason for the season. See you all back for Sunday School and Catechism on January 13.

VALET PARKING is available for anyone who would like to use this service. No matter the weather someone will be there for both the am and pm services. Just drive up under the canopy and come into church and we will park your car for you and also go and get it after the service when you are done with your cookies and coffee.

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 23 (No PM Service)
Nursery AM: Judy Jansma, Taylor Jansma
Greeters AM: John & Ruth Broertjes(E), Jon & Amy Dekker(S)
Usher AM: Wes VanBruggen
Media Shout Katie Eenigenburg
Offering AM: Ministries of Bethel and Benevolence

CHRISTMAS DAY
Nursery AM; Heidi Dunham, Jori Jansma
Greeters AM: John & Ruth Broertjes(E), Jon & Amy Dekker(S)
Usher AM: Larry Ouwenga
Media Shout Scott VanVlymen
Offering AM: World Renew

NEXT WEEK December 30 (PM Combined Service at 1st CRC)
Nursery AM: Stephanie Konvalinka, Kim Kuiper
Greeters AM: John & Ruth Broertjes(E), Jon & Amy Dekker(S)
Usher AM: Wes VanBruggen
Media Shout Scott VanVlymen
Offering AM: Tuition Assistance

CHURCH FAMILY

- Andy Walstra remains at Oak Grove for rehab.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 30 - 9:30 Worship, and a joint New Year's Eve Worship at 5:00 p.m. at 1st CRC AM Service will be led by Pastor Joseph Brinks. Pastor Rick and Brenda will be celebrating New Year's with their family in Vermont. We hope you will join us at 1st CRC for the 5pm service

Installation of New Elders and Deacons: Just a reminder that the installation of the new office bearers will take place during the morning worship service of Sunday, January 6.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL PRAISE TEAM SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS! We would like to have a practice on Sunday, **January 20** after the 5pm worship service. We ask you to save the date & join us to get more familiar with some newer pieces we have worked on recently. We hope for 100% participation.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY FUNDRAISER: Students are selling Sky Zone tickets for \$15/each for 1-hour jump. December 5 the student went there for an outing and had a blast! Each ticket is valid for 1 year. Don't miss out on this great deal and opportunity to help support the students' SERVE fund.

Bethel will be in charge of leading the afternoon worship service at Aperia nursing home on both Jan. 6 and Jan. 13 next month. We will also be doing Oak Grove on Jan. 20th. 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 or to volunteer to help. Thank you!

It's that time of year again-the **PINEWOOD DERBY RACE** is just around the corner! If you are interested in making a car this year, please contact Dan Walstra for a kit. Just like last year-there will be awards for not only the fastest car but also for the winner of the show competition. Car kits are only seven dollars! The race will be held on February 20th... so pick up a kit and start sanding!

Don't forget to be saving your aluminum cans for the Cadets. There is a barrel in the east parking lot to put them in. Thank you for your support of this ongoing project.

CHECK OUT THE COFFEE AND COOKIE SIGN-UP SHEET on the round table. **Have you signed up yet?** Two people will be responsible for two week shifts. 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!

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS:

DeMOTTE CHRISTIAN GRADE SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN/PRE-SCHOOL SIGN UPS

DeMotte Christian School will begin accepting sign ups for the 2019-2020 Kindergarten and Pre-School classes beginning January 7, 2019. Space is limited so please call the school office soon at 219-987-3721. All new families to the school will need to complete an application (available online at www.demottechristianschools.org.) For 3-Year-Old Pre-School (T/Tham), your child must be 3 years old by August 1, 2019.

LOCAL EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

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!

Come end the Christmas Season and begin the New Year with song! The **Men of A-Chord** and **Cottage Grove CRC** invite you to join them for **One Last Christmas Carol** on Sunday, December 30th 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at Cottage Grove Christian Reformed Church of South Holland, IL. Come join the singing with many of your favorite carols and hymns this year and Dr. Joel Nederhood providing meditations. If you've never attended and wanted to, maybe this is the year to join the evening. A free-will offering will be taken.