



*Joy*  
The gift of God we'll cherish well,  
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.  
—HOW GREAT OUR JOY

I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY. LUKE 2:10

**THE LORD'S DAY**  
**December 14, 2025 - Advent-Joy**  
**9:30 AM Divine Worship**

Organ Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle - *Alex & Alexis Rust Family*

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

\*Declaration of Trust in God

\*God's Greeting/We Greet One Another

**Song of Praise:**

**"Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"**

CH:1-2

Reading of God's Law

**Song of Salvation:**

**"Jesus, Your Name"**

GH:1-3

Ministry of Music - "He Shall Reign Forevermore" - *Adult Choir*

Congregational Prayer

**\*Song of Preparation: "One Small Child"**

CH:1,2,4

\*Children ages 2-4 invited to Children in Worship

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: 1 John 2:28-3:24 (page 1133/1900)

Sermon: **"LOVING WHO GOD LOVES"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

**\*Song of Response:**

**"Once in Royal David's City"**

PH 26:1-3

Offertory Prayer/Offering: The Genesis House & General Fund

\*Benediction

**\*Closing Song:**

**"Once in Royal David's City"**

PH 26:4

Organ Postlude

Organist: Ranae Kooistra

\*Please stand if you are able

**FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
ROCK VALLEY, IOWA  
December 14, 2025  
Advent-Joy**

*We pray that everyone will enjoy the presence of the Lord among His people today  
as we bring our praises & prayers, and hear His Word proclaimed!*

**WELCOME!**

**TODAY**

- Today is the last session of the Fall season of Children in Worship. It will resume January 11.
- Program practice concludes today for Preschool-6th grade after the morning worship service until 11:30am. Please meet in the Sanctuary. *Preschool children will not be dismissed until a parent is present to pick them up. The Christmas program is next week Sunday after the morning service.*
- Guatemala February 2026 Team: There will be a short planning meeting in Classroom #1 immediately following the morning service today for the team going on the February trip.

**EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE & APPRECIATION**

- *A special thank you to Alex & Alexis Rust & family for providing the reading and prayer and lighting the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy, during our morning worship service.*
- *Thank you to our Adult Choir for blessing us with your ministry of music during our morning worship service, and thank you to Rachelle Vanden Bos for leading our choir!*
- *Thank you for all the prayers and words of encouragement before my angiogram, and for all the meals brought to us. Thanking God for answered prayers! -- Gert and Mike Van Regenmorter*
- *We are so blessed that Hazel is home! She is on oxygen and an apnea monitor and is doing well!*  
**"God is within her, she will not fall." Psalm 46:5** *We are so grateful for all of your prayers and concerns! -- Alan & Erin Van Der Brink & Bob & Cherie Groeneweg*
- *Thank you to all who attended the Caroling & Bingo festivities sharing the joy of Christmas with our Care Center residents at Whispering Heights & RiverView Ridge this past Thursday evening.*
- *The Mission Committee is so grateful for our Congregation's generous giving spirit for our Thanksgiving Project! We were able to donate \$800 in cash to Love, Inc, which they will use to provide groceries and household goods to people who are in need. That money goes specifically to that project and does not go into their actual working budget. We also split \$950 between the Hull Community Food Bank and the Manna Market in Inwood. Along with the cash, there was 116lbs of ground beef, a variety of canned goods, and other miscellaneous groceries that were donated, divided up between both locations. -- Thank you from the Mission Committee*

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

- We express our Christian sympathies to Al & Harriett Van Zanten, as Al's brother Vern Van Zanten, was called to his heavenly home on December 3 at his residence in The Cottages in Pella, IA, at the age of 89. Vern is also Uncle to Ver & Sandy Van Bommel and Mike Van Zanten. His funeral was held on Saturday, December 6 at Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Pella. May God comfort all of the family members and loved ones during this time of mourning and remembrance of Vern.
- Mer Van Otterloo will undergo a total thyroidectomy on Thursday, December 18 in Sioux Falls. Please pray for a successful surgery and for healing and strength in his recovery.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-- The *first* offering received today will be for **The Genesis House**, and the *second* offering and *evening* offering will be for our **General Fund**. The offerings for next week will be for Mid-Sioux and Orphan Grain Train.

**From the Deacons:** We are \$32,000 from meeting the General Fund budget for 2025. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this deficit. Please make checks payable to First CRC and indicate "General Fund" in the check memo. Thank you!

**Building Project:** Fundraising for our Narthex Expansion Project is ongoing and donations are being accepted anytime. Please write checks payable to First CRC and it is important you indicate "Building Project" in your check memo so it is applied accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact Evan Altena or Ryan Zomer.

-- Next week **Sunday, December 21** is the **4th Sunday of Advent—Love**. Charlie & Samantha Poppema will be sharing the Advent reading and lighting the candle of Love during our morning worship service.

-- The Preschool - 6th Grade Christmas program will be held next **Sunday, December 21** at 11:00am. Coffee and cookies will be served in the Fellowship Hall between the worship service and the program.

-- Our Candlelight evening service will be held next week **Sunday, December 21**.

-- Our Christmas Day service will be held **Thursday, December 25** at 9:30am.

-- Installation of New Office Bearers will occur **Sunday, December 28** during our morning service.

-- **January 1, 2026**, we will be hosting the New Year's Day Community Worship Service.

-- The Catechism Refresh Class led by Pastor Matt will begin on **Wednesday, January 7**. This class is geared for those who actively want to discuss and understand the Heidelberg Catechism as adults. It will be held Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm for 8 sessions. *Please follow the Church website calendar as some Wednesdays in between it will not be held due to other events happening.*

-- **1st CRC Book Club** - The 2026 Book Club will kick off on **Monday, January 12** at 6:30pm. Instead of pre-selecting a book to discuss, you are invited to bring a copy of your favorite book to share with the group. (A physical copy is not required if you are not able to get it.) All ages are welcome! Come learn about the authors/books others enjoy, and then provide input on future reads for the Church Book Club.

-- Everyone is invited to share their family photo Christmas card with our Church family. These photo cards can be hung on the bulletin board outside the Church office.

## **MISSION COMMITTEE PROJECT**

-- **CHRISTMAS PROJECT:** The Mission Committee has chosen to support the two teams from our church going to Guatemala early next year for our Christmas Mission Project. 12 members of our congregation will be on the February team, and 9 members will be on the March team (which includes some of our Youth Group members). The teams will be working with Bethel Ministries International once again. They will be distributing wheelchairs, building homes, making home visits, and bringing supplies to the families that they meet. The Christmas trees in the Church Narthex have a variety of envelopes on them with different items that they will need to fund their trips. Flyer copies showing the list of the items needed are available by the trees. We are asking for the congregation's help with this gifting, if you are able. There is also a box by the trees to return your financial gifts. *We appreciate all of your support with this Christmas Mission Project!*



### **December 14, 2025 - 3rd Sunday of Advent-Joy**

**PRAISE TEAM:**

Holly H, Tracy B,  
Andy VR, Benjamin H

**USHERS:**

*East:* Cody D, Mike B  
*West:* Cole VDB, Titus H

**NURSERY:**

*AM:* Rhonda L, Tad M, Trevin VK  
*PM:* Jacque L, Brennan VK

**SOUND:** Mike H    **VIDEO:** Alex K    **PPT:** Tammy B

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** *Leader:* Jamie DJ    *Helper:* Teeghan B

**GREETERS:**

*AM:* Bob G & Arnold K  
Brad & Nanci G  
Galen & Elsie G  
*PM:* Bob & Cherie G  
Marva H  
Kelly & Patty H

*NARTHEX:* Ron & Darletta

**PPT:** Tammy B

**OFFERING:**

*AM:* The Genesis House  
*PM:* General Fund

**LETTERS:**

*Ribbens:* Kevin J  
*Maletoungou:* Sara J  
*Klomprens:* Jerad K

**ORGANIST:** Ranae K

### **December 21, 2025 - 4th Sunday of Advent-Love**

**PRAISE TEAM:**

Rachelle VB, Tammy B,  
Evan VB, Ryan Z

**USHERS:**

*East:* Josh B, Mike VZ  
*West:* Dan B, Darin P

**NURSERY:**

*AM:* Jill M, Harper VB, Ava VO  
*PM:* Ashley VO, Erica VR

**SOUND:** Blake Z    **VIDEO:** Ron L    **PPT:** Cowan VK

**GREETERS:**

*AM:* Mike & Tammy H  
Eddie & Lanae H  
Steve & Sue H  
*PM:* Kyle H & Jarod L  
Rob & Karen J  
Travis & Kendra J  
*NARTHEX:* Outgoing Elders  
serving Cookies/Coffee

**OFFERING:**

*AM:* Mid-Sioux  
*PM:* Orphan Grain Train

**LETTERS:**

*Ribbens:* Jonathon K  
*Maletoungou:* Pat K  
*Klomprens:* Brett K

**PIANIST:** Carisa M

**Nursery Volunteers:** If you would like your name added to the nursery helper list, please contact Kelsey Ver Burg or sign up on the sheet in the nursery **by December 15!** If you would like your name removed, please do the same. Anyone 4th grade and older is welcome! The next schedule will be Jan-May 2026.



- Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 17
- Mentor Night - Wednesday, January 7 - 7:00pm
- Youth Sunday - Sunday, January 11



- Meeting - Wednesday, December 17 - 7:00pm at First CRC
- Snow Derby - Saturday, January 3
- Meeting - Wednesday, January 14 - 7:00pm at First CRC
- Pinewood Derby - Friday, January 30



- Meeting - Wednesday, January 14 - 6:45pm at Calvin CRC
- Meeting - Wednesday, January 28 - 6:45pm at Calvin CRC

**SERMON NOTES:**

**December 14, 2025**

**TODAY:**   **9:30 AM:** Morning Worship Service - *3rd Sunday of Advent-Joy*  
**10:45 AM:** K-6 Christmas Program Practice  
**6:00 PM:** Evening Worship Service

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**WED:**       **7:00 PM:** Cadets  
                  IGNITE Youth Group - Christmas Party  
                  Men's Society - Chapter 3 Q/A 6  
                  Together in Faith - Exodus #6

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### **PRAYER REMINDERS**

#### **Sympathy**

- ♦ Al & Harriett Van Zanten, Ver & Sandy Van Bommel, Mike Van Zanten

#### **Health, Healing, & Peace**

- ♦ Mer Van Otterloo (CG#8), Paula Kats (CG#1), Gerrit Kats (CG#4), Starla Van Otterloo (CG#1), Tracy Hoogendoorn (CG#2), Nate Van Kley (CG#1)
- ♦ Family/Friends of Our Church: Gerald Van Den Top, Jason Davelaar, Rev. Dan De Groot

#### **Our Care Center Residents:**

##### **Four Seasons**

Teresa Oostra (CG#6)  
Don & Lois Postma (CG#3)

##### **Whispering Heights**

Claretta Lobbes (CG#5)  
Grace Teunissen (CG#8)  
Alvina Van't Hul (CG#6)  
Harvey & Joanne Van Otterloo (CG#6)

##### **River View Ridge**

Nathan Dorhout (CG#2)  
Jim Driesen (CG#6)  
Gerrit & Esther Kats (CG#4)  
LeRoy & Jane Koedam (CG#3)  
Henrietta Vanden Bosch (CG#4)

##### **Hull - Pleasant Acres**

Jerry Velgersdyk (CG#7)

##### **Crown Pointe - SC**

Harriet Vande Kamp (CG#5)

#### **Missionaries**

- ♦ Rev. Michael & Megan Ribbens - Johannesburg, South Africa
- ♦ Rev. Sosthene & Kara Maletoungou - West Africa
- ♦ Rev. Mark K Family - classically supported missionaries in Nepal

#### **Classical Missions**

- ♦ New Roots Ministry

**Classis Iakota** - [www.classisiakota.org/classis-documents](http://www.classisiakota.org/classis-documents)



#### **Denominational Requests**

- ♦ (Resonate) *Worldwide* - Billions of people in the world don't know the hope and grace of the good news of Jesus Christ. Please pray that in this Christmas season people will have opportunities to draw near to Jesus and learn more about the Savior of the world.

#### **Outreach**

- ♦ **Orphan Grain Train**

## **THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**Sunday** - Maclaine Den Boer

**Tuesday** - Jill Miller

**Wednesday** - Crew Van't Hul, Theodore Walhof

**Friday** - Deb Hoekstra, Chloe Koedam, Faye Medalen (83), Cindy Van Otterloo, Gayle Walhof

## **FUTURE DATES**

*A helpful glance in advance of special events encompassing First CRC!*

**December 21** - K-6 Christmas Program - AM & Candlelight PM Service

**December 25** - Christmas Service

**December 28** - Installation of Office Bearers

**December 29** - Council Meeting

**January 1** - New Year's Combined Service at First CRC

**January 3** - CADET Snow Derby

**January 11** - Youth Sunday

**January 12** - Book Club Kick-off for 2026

**January 12-16** - Meals on Wheels

**January 13** - Deacons available for Expansion donations

**January 18** - Baptism Sunday/Sanctity of Life Sunday

**January 25** - CADET Sunday

**January 26** - Council Meeting

**January 28** - The Banquet Service Date

**January 30** - CADET Pinewood Derby

## **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Rock Valley Christian School:**

- ◇ SCRIIP Orders due Monday, December 15 - 9:00am
- ◇ 2:30 dismissal - Wednesday, December 17
- ◇ Christmas Sing-a-long & 5th-8th Band performs - Friday, December 19 - 8:30am
- ◇ ***Attention Grain Farmers!*** Please remember the annual Winter Festival Grain Project when delivering your corn to Doon Elevator, Farmers Elevator, and/or Valley Feed and Seed. The Winter Festival is slated for Friday, February 13th. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*  
-- RVCS Board Winter Festival Committee: Jack Ver Burg, Brad Vanden Bosch, and Jake Faber

### **Western Christian High School:**

- ◇ 9:25am start - Wednesday, December 17
- ◇ The WCHS Christmas Concert is Monday, December 15 at the Western Event Center. The bands and orchestra will begin at 7:00 PM with the vocal portion of the evening beginning at 8:00 PM. Please make plans to join us!
- ◇ Will you prayerfully consider "Celebrating Western" with a year-end gift? Gifts and funds raised will be given to the General Fund for capital improvements. *Thank You to those who have already contributed to the mission of WCHS!*
- ◇ The Bargain Alley Furniture Outlet is in need of volunteers to collect and deliver furniture and mattresses. You do not need to come to the store, just be available to help in your town as needed. Please call 712-439-6802 or 712-441-1270 if you are interested or have any questions. *Thank you!*

### **Rock Valley Community School:**

- ◇ 2:00pm dismissal - Wednesday, December 17

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS** - [www.firstcrrv.org/resources](http://www.firstcrrv.org/resources)



## **6:00 PM Divine Worship**

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

\*Declaration of Trust in God

\*God's Greeting

**\*Song of Praise:**

**"The First Noel"**

PH 28:1,2,3,5,6

**\*The Apostles' Creed** (in unison)

**\*Song of Response:**

**"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"**

CH:1

**The Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 41 Q/A 108-109** (read responsively)

Congregational Prayer

**\*Songs of Preparation:**

**"Emmanuel"**

CH 243

**"What Child Is This?"**

PH 30:1,3

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Matthew 21:18-32 (page 914/1532)

Sermon: **"COMMITTING ADULTERY AGAINST THE LORD'S WORD"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

**\*Song of Application:**

**"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"**

PH 29:1,2,4

Offertory Prayer/Offering: General Fund

\*Benediction

**\*Closing Song:**

**"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"**

PH 29:5

\*Organ Postlude

Organist: Ranae Kooistra

\*Please stand if you are able

