

Joy

*Now the
God
of hope
fill you
with all
joy and
peace in
believing.*

ROMANS 15:13



THE LORD'S DAY
December 15, 2024 - Advent - Joy
9:30 AM Divine Worship

Organ Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Jack, Kelsey, Jay, Ben & Penny Ver Burg

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

*Declaration of Trust in God

*God's Greeting/We Greet One Another

***Song of Praise:**

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

GsH:1,2,5

Responsive Reading of God's Law

Song of Salvation:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

CH 250:1,4

Ministry of Music - "Light of the World" - Brea Van Kley

Congregational Prayer

***Song of Preparation:**

"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

PH 29:1,2,4

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (page 1070/1798)

Sermon: **"CLOTHED WITH JOY"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

***Song of Response:**

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" PsH 338:1,2,3,6

Offertory Prayer/Offering: ATLAS & Community Impact

*Benediction

***Closing Song: "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"**

PH 29:5

*Organ Postlude

Organist: Ranae Kooistra

*Please stand if you are able

**FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
ROCK VALLEY, IOWA**

December 15, 2024 - Advent - Joy

WELCOME!

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

*If you are a visitor with us today and would like additional materials from First CRC, they are located in the "Visitor" mailboxes.
If you currently do not have a church home and desire information about church membership, please contact the church office.*

TODAY

-- *Today is the 101st birthday of Gert Vis! May God continue to bless you Gert and may you feel the love of your Church family on your special day!*

-- Program practice continues 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.*

-- Adult Choir please meet in the *Fellowship Hall* **immediately** following the morning service to practice the Christmas song with Carisa. This will be a very brief practice to allow you time to take in the Missions Applied class if desired. Also, plan to practice before the morning service at 8:45am Sunday, December 22 in the Sanctuary.

-- The Mission Committee's 5-week series: **"Missions Applied" - Matt. 25:34-36**, concludes today following the morning worship service in Classrooms 5 & 6 with the final Week 5 - "I Was Hungry"— Pastor Jason Wiersma - Freedom's Gate Church

-- This evening we welcome Rev. Todd Zuidema as he leads us in our worship service. *Thank you for being with us Rev. Zuidema!*

EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE & APPRECIATION

-- *A special thank you to Jack, Kelsey, Jay, Ben, & Penny Ver Burg for providing the reading and prayer and lighting the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy, during our morning worship service.*

-- *Thank you Brea Van Kley for blessing us with your ministry of music this morning, and to Melissa Boer for accompanying her by playing the piano.*

-- *Thank you to all those who attended Christmas Mingo at the Senior Center this past Tuesday evening! It was a wonderful opportunity to share some Christmas cheer with our residents of the Senior Center! -- Fellowship Committee*

-- *Congratulations to Chloe Koedam on the birth of a healthy baby boy, Jensen James! Grandparents are Scott & Steph Koedam, Uncle Cooper Koedam, and Great-Grandparents LeRoy & Jane Koedam.*

-- *Thank you First CRC congregation for the ways you blessed those in our community through the Thanksgiving meal! Approximately 604 meals were served that evening and up to 40 more meals were packaged with the leftovers the next day and were brought to those still living at the hotel. Thank you for joining us in this community wide event that was incredibly successful! -- The Connect Team at Trinity CRC*

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Bonnie Davelaar underwent foot surgery this past Wednesday, December 11 in Sioux Falls. Please be in prayer for complete healing and patience in her recovery.
- Gerrit Kats was hospitalized this past week for blood clots. Please be in prayer for Gerrit that proper treatment may be determined and for his health and strength to be restored.
- Please be in prayer for Pam Maassen as she will undergo hip surgery Tuesday, December 17. Pray for a successful surgery and for healing and comfort in her recovery.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The *first* offering received today will be for **Atlas** and the *second* offering and *evening* offering will be for Community Impact. The offerings next week will be for Inspiration Hills and Hope Haven.
- Next week *Sunday, December 22*, is the 4rd Sunday of Advent - *Love*. Blake, Genae, Wyatt, & Gensen Zomer will be sharing the Advent reading and lighting the candle of Love during our morning worship service.
- Our **Preschool through 6th Grade Christmas Program** will be held next week Sunday morning, December 22, at **11:00am**. Please gather in the Fellowship Hall following the morning worship service for cookies and coffee, and return to the Sanctuary by 11:00am for the program.
- Next week Sunday evening, December 22, we will have our Christmas Candlelight Service.
- Wednesday, December 25, we will have our morning Christmas Day Service.
- **Mission Committee Christmas Project:** Please continue to support the Mission Committee efforts to collect donations to purchase and distribute Bibles throughout the world. The Bibles purchased through your donations in the past were provided to hundreds of people and in turn continue to bless thousands as the Word of God is shared. Please choose a tag from the tree in the Narthex with the amount you would like to contribute and return it to the basket provided *by December 29*.
- **Children in Worship** will begin January 5 for children who have outgrown the nursery and are not yet in week-day Preschool. It will be held during the morning worship services on Sundays and will follow the same schedule as the Sunday School & Catechism Winter & Spring season. Children within this age range will be dismissed during the service and will gather for a lesson and activity. *If you are 7th grade and older and are willing to volunteer to lead or help with Children in Worship, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.* If you have any questions, please contact Jamie De Jager.
- **1st CRC Book Club** - One Light Still Shines by Marie Monville. Two copies of the book are available to borrow. A brief description of the book is posted by the book sign in/return sheet on the table in the Narthex, as well as Book Notes sheets if you find those helpful. Discussion Night will be held on *January 13*.
- **IGNITE Youth Group has prepared freezer meals. If you or someone you know may be in need of a meal, please find them in the Church freezer.**
- **2nd Grade RVCS Cookbooks** - Cookbooks created by the 2nd grade class at RVCS are located in the Narthex. Please put a free will donation in Stephanie Elgersma's mailbox. All proceeds for this project will go toward blessing the community.
- 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.

December 15, 2024 - 3rd Week of Advent - Joy

PRAISE TEAM:

Lanae H, Julie VO,
Andy VR, Nolan VO

USHERS:

East: Arnold K, Bob G
West: Benjamin H, Keith L

NURSERY:

AM: Deb H, Jessica K,
Darren VR, Ava VO
PM: Kristin J, Kayla B

GREETERS:

AM: Tyler & Alli Den Boer
Carl & Melissa E
Zach & Lucy E
PM: Jeff & Steph E
Jesse & Amber E
Brian & Renae F

NARTHEX: Larry & Yvonne

OFFERING:

AM: Atlas
PM: Community Impact

LETTERS:

Ribbens: Carl E
Maletoungou: Zach E
Klompens: Jeff E

ORGANIST: Ranae K

December 22, 2024 - 4th Week of Advent - Love

PRAISE TEAM:

Rachelle VB, Ashley VO,
Jack VB, Mer VO

USHERS:

East: Jeff E, Rick D
West: Joe M, Gene L

NURSERY:

AM: TaMae K, Malorie K,
Noah DK, Teeghan B
PM: Michelle K, Amera F

GREETERS:

AM: Justin & Josie F
Marv & Deanna F
Bob G
PM: Brad & Nanci G
Galen & Elsie G
Bob & Cherie G

NARTHEX: Outgoing Elders
serve Coffee & Cookies in FH
prior to Christmas program

OFFERING:

AM: Inspiration Hills
PM: Hope Haven

LETTERS:

Ribbens: Jesse E
Maletoungou: Brian F
Klompens: Justin F

PIANIST: Carisa M



"Community in Christ"

We covet your prayers for leaders, students, and all others involved as we look forward to a year of fellowship, learning, and

-- Youth Group Email: youth@firstccrv.org

- Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 18 - Games & food at the Dordt Game Room - meet at Church at 6:30 to ride together.
- Next Lesson meetings resume Wednesday, January 8 & 15
- Serve at the Banquet - January 29 - more details to follow



- **Cadets** - Wednesday, December 18 - 7:00pm - Snow Derby Practice at the Workshop
- Saturday, December 28 - 9:00am - Snow Derby



- **GEMS** - Resumes Wednesday, January 8 - 6:30pm

SERMON NOTES:

First CRC families RELOCATED temporarily:

(This list is *ongoing* and will be posted in the bulletin and monthly newsletters through December, please notify us of *updates* to your location as it changes.)

- Jacob & Amanda Maassen – 722 Riverview Drive, Rock Valley
- Starla Van Otterloo & Sam – 2730 340th Street, Rock Valley, IA (Chris & Whitney's)
- Warren Van Otterloo – 2137 340th Street, Rock Valley (Rick & Bonnie's)
- Loy & Janice Van't Hul – 1411 11th Street, Rock Valley (Alyssa's)

Updated ADDRESSES:

- Don & Lois Postma - Sheldon Christian Retirement Home, 1414 Elm Court, Sheldon
New Phone – 712-541-3228
- Jim Driesen – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive #114 , Rock Valley
- Elaine Bolkema – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive #113 , Rock Valley
- Faye Medalen – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive # , Rock Valley
- Chad & Sandra Van't Hul family – 1108 Main St., Rock Valley
- Galen & Paula Kats – 2695 300th Street, Rock Valley
- Karl & Alyssa Bos – 1215 Division Street, Hull
- Laura Van Kalsbeek – 1111 7th St. – Northside Crt, Hull
- Josh & Katie Byl – 1810 Aspen Street, Hull
- Jaden & Katlien Den Boer – 2618 Warren Circle, Rock Valley
- Lyle & Joyce Van Engen – 910 Greenway Drive - #206, Rock Valley
- Harm & Bonnie Wiersma – 1407 20th Ave. – Apt. A, Rock Valley
- Verlyn & Sandy Van Bommel – 2115 Maple St. – Apt. 4, Hull
- Alvin & Sue LeLux – 800 Golf Course Road, Rock Valley
- Eric & Tracy Breuer – 1310 12th St., Rock Valley
- Kevin & Kristin Jansma – 701 Fairway Drive, Rock Valley
- Erin De Kam – 1818 17th Street, Rock Valley
- Tim & Kendra Van Tilburg – 1216 Golf Course Road, Rock Valley
- Kevin & Diana De Groot – 1436 30th Ave. – Apt. C, Rock Valley

There are many more congregation members that have been severely affected by the flood, whether it be their home, business, school, farmland, and more.

Please continue to pray for our entire community as together we continue to help each other long-term to clean-up, process, recover, and rebuild!

December 15, 2024

TODAY: **9:30 AM:** Morning Worship Service - Advent - *Joy*
10:45 AM: Adult Choir/Christmas Program Practice - Grades P-6th
10:45 AM: Week 5 - "Missions Applied" - Rev. Jason Wiersma
6:00 PM: Evening Worship Service - Guest Pastor: Rev. Todd Zuidema

TUES: **9:45 AM:** Coffee Break - Joshua Book 2 - Lesson 4

WED: **6:30 PM:** Youth Group Christmas Party - meet at Church by 6:30 to get a ride to Dordt
7:00 PM: Cadets - Snow Derby Practice

PRAYER REMINDERS

Baby Blessings

- ♦ Chloe Koedam - Jensen James

Health, Healing, & Peace

- ♦ Bonnie Davelaar, Gerrit Kats, Pam Maassen, Kristin Jansma, Marv Faber, Diana De Groot, Addison Van't Hul, John De Roon

Flood Relief, Recovery

Our Care Center Residents:

Whispering Heights

Esther De Roon
Jennie Maassen
Grace Teunissen
Joan Van Maanen
Harvey & Joanne Van Otterloo
Alvina Van't Hul

River View Ridge

Elaine Bolkema
Nathan Dorhout
Jim Driesen
Gerrit & Esther Kats
LeRoy & Jane Koedam
Faye Medalen
Henrietta Vanden Bosch

Hull - Pleasant Acres

Jerry Velgersdyk
Crown Pointe - SC
Harriet Vande Kamp
Four Seasons
Teresa Oostra
Sheldon Christian Retirement Home
Don & Lois Postma

Missionaries

- ♦ Rev. Michael & Megan Ribbens - Johannesburg, South Africa
- ♦ Rev. Sosthene & Kara Maletougou - West Africa
- ♦ Rev. Mark & Jinhee Klompier - classically supported missionaries in Nepal

Classical Missions

- ♦ Amistad Cristiana

Denominational Requests

- ♦ (Resonate) *Japan* - "Pray that Japanese people who are facing severe effects of stress put their faith in Christ and receive God's grace and peace," ask Resonate missionaries Ken and Jeannie Lee. The Lees serve in Japan, where less than one percent of the population identify as Christ-followers.

Outreach

- ♦ **Orphan Grain Train** - a non-profit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with those in need in America and around the world by gathering donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, & aid.



THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday - Gert Vis (101)

Monday - Jill Miller

Tuesday - Crew Van't Hul, Theodore Walhof

Thursday - Deb Hoekstra, Chloe Koedam, Faye Medalen (82), Cindy Van Otterloo

Saturday - Brody Van't Hul, Parker Van't Hul, Ryan Zomer

FUTURE DATES

December 22 - *AM:* P-6th Grade Christmas Program/***PM:*** Candlelight Service

December 25 - Christmas Day service

December 29 - Installation of Incoming Office Bearers

December 30 - Council Meeting

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rock Valley Christian School:

- ◇ Scrip Orders due - 9am - Monday, December 16 - Last order date for 2024
- ◇ Drive-Thru Christmas Event - RVCS invites all families affected by the flood to come to this event! Come by the West side of school on December 16 from 11:30am-1:30pm or 3:00-4:30pm to receive your family Christmas gift bag. May you experience the JOY, PEACE, and HOPE of the birth of Jesus throughout this holiday season!
- ◇ 2:30 dismissal - Wednesday, December 18
- ◇ 4th Grade & 6th Grade Chapel - Friday, December 20 - 8:30am at First CRC - All are welcome!
- ◇ Upcoming Dates:
 - Christmas Break - December 23-January 3; Classes resume - January 6
 - RVCS ARROWS Soup Supper - Thursday, January 9
 - 1st Grade Talking Zoo - Friday, January 10
 - End of 1st semester - January 10
 - Kindergarten begins daily the week of January 13

Western Christian High School:

- ◇ The Western Christian High School Christmas Concert - Monday, December 16 - 7:00pm at the B.J. Haan Auditorium in Sioux Center. The concert will also be live streamed on Youtube.
- ◇ **8:25am start** - Wednesday, December 18
- ◇ Christmas Break - December 23-January 3
- ◇ Prayerfully consider Celebrating Western with a year-end gift. Funds raised will support the General Fund and be allocated for capital improvements. Thank you to everyone who has already given! Together, we are partnering to train the next generation to build His kingdom!

Rock Valley Community School:

- ◇ 2:00pm dismissal - Wednesday, December 18
- ◇ Christmas Break - 1:00pm dismissal Friday, December 20-Thursdays, January 2; Classes resume - January 3

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - www.firstcrrv.org/resources

How are you Feeding Your Fire of Faith?



6:00 PM Divine Worship

Organ Prelude

Hymn Sing

"Crown Him" (Christmas)

Vs:1-3

"A Thousand Candles"

CH:1,3

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

*Declaration of Trust in God

*God's Greeting

***Song of Praise:**

"Jesus, Strong and Kind"

Vs:1-3

***The Nicene Creed** (in unison)

***Song of Response: "The Lord is My Salvation"**

GH

The Heidelberg Catechism—Lord's Day 12 Q/A 32 (read responsively)

Congregational Prayer

***Song of Preparation:**

"Be Thou My Vision"

CH:1-2

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20 (page 1086/1824)

Sermon: **"STRENGTHENED TO STAND"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

***Song of Application:**

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

PsH 467:1-3

Offertory Prayer/Offering: Community Impact

*Benediction

***Closing Song: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

GsH:5

*Organ Postlude

Organist: Ranae Kooistra

*Please stand if you are able

