



# Love

*Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace.*

—O HOLY NIGHT

THE KINDNESS AND LOVE OF GOD OUR SAVIOUR  
TOWARD MAN APPEARED. TITUS 3:4

**THE LORD'S DAY**  
**December 21, 2025 - Advent-Love**  
**9:30 AM Divine Worship**

Piano Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle - *Charlie & Samantha Poppema*

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

\*Declaration of Trust in God

\*God's Greeting/We Greet One Another

**Song of Praise:**

**"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

GsH:1-3

**Responsive Reading of God's Law**

**Song of Salvation:**

**"Away in a Manger"**

TH:1-3

Ministry of Music - "O What a King" - *Breya Van Kley*  
- *accompanied by Melissa Boer*

Congregational Prayer

**\*Song of Preparation: "Holy Spirit"**

GH:1-2

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: 1 John 4:1-6 (page 1133/1900)

Sermon: **"LOVING THE SPIRIT OF GOD"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

**\*Song of Response:**

**"The King is Coming"**

CH

Offertory Prayer/Offering: Mid-Sioux & Orphan Grain Train

\*Benediction

**\*Closing Song:**

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

PH 26:4

Piano Postlude

Pianist: Carisa Massen

\*Please stand if you are able

**FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
ROCK VALLEY, IOWA  
December 21, 2025  
Advent-Love**

*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**

-- Please join us after our morning worship service at 11:00am for "Away in a Manger" presented by our Preschool-6th grade students! Coffee, juice, and cookies will be served in the Fellowship Hall before the program.

-- Immediately after the morning service all preschoolers need to be taken to the Preschool room. Please have Kindergarten-6th grade meet in Classrooms 5/6. After the program you may pick up your preschooler from the Preschool room.

-- This evening we will have our Christmas Candlelight Service.

-- Newsletter articles are due today.

-- The 2026 First CRC Member Directory has been provided in your Church mailbox. Care Groups are listed in the front of the directory as well as Elder/Deacon/Pastor/Secretary contact information.

**EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE & APPRECIATION**

-- *A special thank you to Charlie & Samantha Poppema for providing the reading and prayer and lighting the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love, during our morning worship service.*

-- *Thank you to Brea Van Kley for blessing us with your ministry of music during our morning worship service, and to Melissa Boer for your piano accompaniment!*

-- *Thank you to the Adult Choir for leading the Candlelight singing during the close of our evening worship service.*

-- *Thank you for the continuous outpouring of love, prayers, encouragement, and support shown to us following the flood! Another blessing anonymously given to us recently to help furnish our home is greatly appreciated! Thank you for continuing to remember us. We have been very blessed!*

-- *Kevin & Diana De Groot*

**PRAYER CONCERN**

-- We express our Christian sympathies to Albert & Harriett Van Zanten, as Albert's brother Anthony "Rev. Tony" Van Zanten of Illinois, was called to his heavenly home on December 15 at the age of 86. Tony is also Uncle to Ver & Sandy Van Bommel and Mike Van Zanten. His funeral will be held on Monday, December 22 at Hope Church in Oak Forest, IL. May God comfort all family members and loved ones during this time of mourning and remembrance of Tony.

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-- The *first* offering received today will be for **Mid-Sioux**, and the *second* offering and *evening* offering will be for **Orphan Grain Train**. Our Christmas Day offering will be for World Renew. The offerings for next week will be for Guiding Star of Siouland and our Building Fund.

***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.



### **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

-- This week **Thursday, December 25**, we will have our morning Christmas Day service at 9:30am. Kyler & Maddie Pollema will be sharing the Advent reading and lighting the candle signifying the birth of Christ our Lord and Savior.

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

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

-- **Meals on Wheels** - The Meals on Wheels schedule has been provided to us for 2026. Our turn to deliver meals is the week of **January 5-9**. If you are willing and able to deliver meals during this week, please sign-up on the sheet provided on the table in the Narthex. *Thank you!*

-- **Family Faith Visitation** - *All members of Care Groups 5-8 will meet with the Elders this year.* Please schedule your Family Faith Visitation promptly. Meetings will begin **Monday, January 5** and will occur on most Mondays/Tuesdays each week in January/February. The sign-up schedule is available on the table in the Narthex. Visitation outlines are provided by the sign-up sheet. Please fill January's schedule first when you select your sign-up date. If you are a member of Care Group 1-4 you met last year, but if you would still like to meet again this year, please sign-up on the schedule as well. Reminder: The 2026 Church Directory that has been provided in your Church mailbox has a list of all Care Groups. *Thank you!*

-- 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 CHRISTMAS PROJECT**

-- The Mission Committee **Christmas Project** continues and will be designated to the two teams from our church going to Guatemala early next year. 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 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 remaining 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!***

PRAISE *God* FROM WHOM  
all blessings flow

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

### **PRAISE TEAM:**

Lanae H, 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

### **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

*Klompies:* Brett K

**PIANIST:** Carisa M

**SOUND:** Jack VB   **VIDEO:** Ron L   **PPT:** Carla J

## **Christmas Day**



### **PRAISE TEAM:**

Michelle K, Pat B, Jack VB, Mike B

### **USHERS:**

*East:* Joel B, Matt VE

*West:* Tyler DB, Alvin L

### **ORGANIST:**

Ranae K

### **NURSERY:**

Laurie VK, Judy VO

Jenessa VR, Darren VR

### **GREETERS:**

Dick & Carla J

Kevin & Kristin J

Sara J

### **OFFERING:**

World Renew

**SOUND:** James VB   **VIDEO:** Aiden VR   **PPT:** Jaydn L

## **December 28, 2025 - Installation of Office Bearers**

### **PRAISE TEAM:**

Kelsi B, Tracy B,  
James VB, Randy VK

### **USHERS:**

*East:* Arnold K, Bob G

*West:* Benjamin H, Keith L

### **NURSERY:**

*AM:* Kelsey VB, Addison VH, Bristly B

*PM:* Genae Z, Kennedy VH

### **GREETERS:**

*AM:* Jerad & Hannah K

Jonathon & TaMae K

Taylor & Jessica K

*PM:* Brett & Malorie K

Chloe K

Trevor & Lexi K

*NARTHEX:* Eric & Tracy

### **OFFERING:**

*AM:* Guiding Star of Siouxland

*PM:* Building Fund

### **LETTERS:**

*Ribbens:* Arnold K

*Maletoungou:* Roger K

*Klompies:* Clarence K

**PIANIST:** Krista VE

**SOUND:** Rich R   **VIDEO:** Carter VB   **PPT:** Aiden VR



**Youth Group Email: [youth@firstcrcrv.org](mailto:youth@firstcrcrv.org)**

-- Mentor Night - Wednesday, January 7 - 7:00pm

-- Youth Sunday - Sunday, January 11



-- 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 21, 2025**

**TODAY:**    **9:30 AM:** Morning Worship Service - *4th Sunday of Advent-Love*  
**10:45 AM:** Coffee/Cookie Fellowship  
**11:00 AM:** K-6 Christmas Program  
**6:00 PM:** Evening Candlelight Worship Service

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**THURS:**    **9:30 AM:** Christmas Day Service - *Advent – The birth of Christ our Lord and Savior*

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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)  
John Lobbes (CG#5)  
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**

- ♦ Cornerstone Prison Ministry

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

#### **Denominational Requests**

- ♦ (Dordt University) *Students* - Please pray for students as they grow in faith, learning, and community. Ask that they may live out their faith in every area of life, form purposeful relationships, and discern God's calling - becoming all that God has created them to be and doing all that He has prepared for them to do.

#### **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** - Brody Van't Hul, Parker Van't Hul, Ryan Zomer

**Monday** - Emileann Davelaar, Alli Den Boer

**Tuesday** - Connor Grevengoed

**Wednesday** - Mary Kate LeLoux, *the Darwin Hoogendoorn's*

**Saturday** - Archie Walls, *the Mark Van't Hul's*

### **FUTURE DATES**

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

**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 5 thru February** - Family Faith Visitation Meetings begin

**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:**

- ◇ Christmas Break - *December 22-January 2*
- ◇ *ARROWS Soup Supper* - January 8 - 5:30-7:00pm in the RVCS Cafeteria
- ◇ Noon dismissal - January 9 - End of 1st Quarter
- ◇ First Grade Talking Zoo - January 9 - 10:30-11:30am
- ◇ Kindergarten begins 5 days/week - January 12
- ◇ ***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:**

- ◇ Christmas Break - *December 22-January 2*
- ◇ 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 urgent 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:**

- ◇ 1:00pm dismissal - *Tuesday, December 23*
- ◇ Christmas Break - December 24-January 5

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



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

Piano Prelude

### **Hymn Sing**

**"The Birthday of a King"**

CH 284:1-2

**"Worship the King"**

ABS Kids 222

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

\*Declaration of Trust in God

\*God's Greeting

**\*Song of Praise: "A Thousand Candles"**

CH:1-3

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

**\*Song of Response:**

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

CH:1

**The Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 42 Q/A 110-111** (read responsively)

Congregational Prayer

**\*Song of Preparation:**

**"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"**

CH:1,4

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Matthew 21:33-46 (page 914/1532)

Sermon: **"STEALING SERVANTS"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

**\*Song of Application: "O Holy Night!"**

CH:1,3

Offertory Prayer/Offering: Orphan Grain Train

\*Benediction

**\*Closing Song:**

**"Silent Night/Peace, Peace"** (candles) Adult Choir & Congregation

\*Piano Postlude

Pianist: Carisa Maassen

\*Please stand if you are able

