

# Love

*Herein is  
love, not  
that we  
loved  
God,  
but that he  
loved us,  
and sent  
his Son.*

1 JOHN 4:10



**THE LORD'S DAY**  
**December 22, 2024 - Advent - *Love***  
**9:30 AM Divine Worship**

Piano Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Blake, Genae, Wyatt, & Gensen Zomer

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

\*Declaration of Trust in God

\*God's Greeting/We Greet One Another

**\*Song of Praise:**

**"O Come All You Unfaithful"**

SS:1-5

**Responsive Reading of God's Law**

**Song of Salvation:**

**"What Child Is This?"**

PH 30:1-3

Ministry of Music - "People Are Singing 'Jesus Is Born'" - Adult Choir

Congregational Prayer

**\*Song of Preparation:**

**"Emmanuel"**

CH 243

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 (page 1070/1799)

Sermon: **"THE LOVE OF CHRIST RECONCILES US"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

**\*Song of Response:**

**"The First Noel"**

PH 28:1,2,3,6

Offertory Prayer/Offering: Inspiration Hills & Hope Haven

\*Benediction

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

PH 29:5

\*Piano Postlude

Pianist: Carisa Maassen

\*Please stand if you are able

# FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## ROCK VALLEY, IOWA

December 22, 2024 - Advent - *Love*

*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!*

### **TODAY**

-- Please join us after the morning service as a our Preschool-6th graders will present their Christmas program, "The Christmas Story: A Skit of Hope". Coffee, juice, & cookies will be served in the Fellowship Hall before the program.

-- Immediately after the morning service, please have all Preschool & Kindergarten students meet in the Preschool Room; 1st-4th Graders meet in Classrooms 5/6; and 5th & 6th Graders meet in Classroom 8. Cookies will be available for them before they line-up in their meeting rooms prior to the program. After the program, Preschoolers will remain in the front bench until a parent picks them up. All other children will be dismissed to the Narthex prior to the Congregation.

-- Adult Choir Reminder: No practice after the morning service; however, plan to practice before the evening service at 5:20pm in the Sanctuary.

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

-- Newsletter articles are due today.

### **EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE & APPRECIATION**

-- *A special thank you to Blake, Genae, Wyatt, & Gensen Zomer for providing the reading and prayer and lighting the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love, during our morning service.*

-- *Thank you to the Adult Choir for blessing us with your ministry of music this morning, and to Rachele Vanden Bos for leading the choir.*

-- *Surgery went great, and physical therapy says that I'm "cruising"! God is good! Thankful for the prayers and messages of concern from my Church family. -- Pam Maassen*

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

-- Please be in prayer for Harriet Vande Kamp, as her great-granddaughter, Jaelee Kay Vande Kamp, passed away on December 9, at the age of only 10 months. She was born with a congenital heart defect in which she underwent numerous surgeries, but during a regular follow-up appointment she unexpectedly passed away. Jaelee's parents are Austin & Stephanie Vande Kamp; grandparents are Kelvin & Joan Vande Kamp. A gathering of family and friends was held on Saturday, December 21 at the Worthington Christian School in Worthington, MN. May God in His great mercy and love, comfort the Vande Kamp family as they mourn and cherish the memories of their sweet Jaelee.

-- Please be in prayer for Tate Van Essen, son of Chris & Whitney Van Essen, and grandson of Rick & Bonnie Davelaar. Tate had an accident which led to him receiving very severe burns on his feet and legs. He was flown to regions hospital in St. Paul, MN where he will be treated based on the determined severity, and will remain cared for there depending on the length of treatment needed. Pray for pain management for Tate and for strength and healing, the doctors as they determine proper treatment, and for his parents and family as they care for him.

### **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT**

-- The Council would like to provide the congregation with an update in regards to the current state of the Building Fund. The following flood repairs have been completed and have been paid for: New HVAC system, flooring, duct cleaning, electrical work, and all other materials and labor that has been completed at this point. The total flood repairs paid-to-date is \$345,000, including a \$38,000 downpayment that has been made for the new pews that are on order and set to arrive in the Spring. The balance owed yet on the pews and carpet installation will amount to approximately \$125,000. As a result of these repairs, the Building Fund is getting low and the Council asks for your prayerful consideration for a donation to help relieve the remaining costs that will be involved. Please make checks payable to First CRC Building Fund. *Thank you for your wonderful support for all of the expenses to repair our Church home! -- The Council*

### **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-- The *first* offering received today will be for **Inspiration Hills** and the *second* offering and *evening* offering will be for **Hope Haven**. The Christmas Day offering will be for the Family Crisis Center. The offerings next week Sunday will be for Justice for All and our Building Fund.

-- This week Wednesday, December 25, we will have our morning Christmas Day service at 9:30am. Taylor, Jessica, Jaelyn, Jordyn, Tyke, & Treyton Kats will be sharing the Advent reading and lighting the candle of Christ.

-- Installation of the new 2025 Office Bearers will be held during our Sunday morning worship service on December 29.

-- Sunday morning, December 29, Lord-willing, we will have the privilege to celebrate and witness the Public Reaffirmation of Faith of Michael Ellenberger. We will also welcome to our Church family Jamie Walhof-Ellenberger and son Theodore, as they transfer their membership from the Living Waters Community Church of Sheldon.

-- The New Year's Day Community Worship Service will be held at Trinity CRC at 9:30am.

-- **Nursery** - If you would like to be included on the schedule as a volunteer in the nursery during our worship services and are 4th grade thru adult, please add your name to the list provided in the Nursery. Also, if you would like your name removed as a volunteer, please also indicate on the sheet provided. If you have any questions, please contact Kelsey Ver Burg.

-- **If anyone is interested in a piano, Church has one available. Please let Rachelle Vanden Bos know very soon if you are interested.**

-- **Mission Committee Christmas Project:** Please continue to support the Mission Committee efforts to collect donations to purchase and distribute Bibles throughout the world. Please choose a remaining 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*. The small tree encourages our youth to become involved by donating as well. *Thank you for your support!*

-- **1st CRC Book Club** - One Light Still Shines by Marie Monville - Discussion Night will be held on *January 13*.

-- **2nd Grade RVCS Cookbooks** - Cookbooks created by the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22, 2024 - 4th Week of Advent - Love

### PRAISE TEAM:

Rachelle VB, Ashley VO,  
James 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  
*Klompies:* Justin F

### PIANIST: Carisa M

## Christmas Day



### PRAISE TEAM:

Breya VK, Pat B, Andy VR, Mike B

### USHERS:

*East:* Cody D, Mike B  
*West:* Cole VDB, Colton VO

### PIANIST:

Kristin Contant

### NURSERY:

Jill M, Lisa P,  
Titus H, Erica VR

### GREETERS:

Marva H  
Kelly & Patty H

### OFFERING:

Family Crisis Center

## December 29, 2024

### PRAISE TEAM:

Holly H, Tracy B,  
James VB, Randy VK

### USHERS:

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

### NURSERY:

*AM:* Jackie R, Ellen VB,  
Mason J, Bristyl B  
*PM:* Laurie VK, Alison L

### GREETERS:

*AM:* Mike & Tammy B  
Eddie & Lanae H  
Leonard & Deb H

*PM:* Steve & Sue H  
Kyle H  
Rob & Karen J

*NARTHEX:* Vern & Ellen

### OFFERING:

*AM:* Justice for All  
*PM:* Building Fund

### LETTERS:

*Ribbens:* Marv F  
*Maletoungou:* Bob G  
*Klompies:* Galen G

### PIANIST:

*AM:* Lois Klarenbeek  
*PM:* Rachelle VB/Jenessa VR

## "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 growth together.

-- Youth Group Email: [youth@firstcrrv.org](mailto:youth@firstcrrv.org)

- Next Lesson meeting will be Wednesday, January 15
- Youth Sunday will be Sunday, January 19
- Serve at the Banquet - January 29 - more details to follow



-- **Cadets** - Saturday, December 28 - 9:00am - Snow Derby



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

## SERMON NOTES:

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### *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.)

- Starla Van Otterloo & Sam – 2730 340<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Valley, IA (Chris & Whitney's)
- Warren Van Otterloo – 2137 340<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Valley (Rick & Bonnie's)
- Loy & Janice Van't Hul – 1411 11<sup>th</sup> 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 300<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Valley
- Karl & Alyssa Bos – 1215 Division Street, Hull
- Laura Van Kalsbeek – 1111 7<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. – Apt. A, Rock Valley
- Verlyn & Sandy Van Bemmelen – 2115 Maple St. – Apt. 4, Hull
- Alvin & Sue LeLoux – 800 Golf Course Road, Rock Valley
- Eric & Tracy Breuer – 1310 12<sup>th</sup> St., Rock Valley
- Kevin & Kristin Jansma – 701 Fairway Drive, Rock Valley
- Erin De Kam – 1818 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Valley
- Tim & Kendra Van Tilburg – 1216 Golf Course Road, Rock Valley
- Kevin & Diana De Groot – 1436 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. – Apt. C, Rock Valley
- Jacob & Amanda Maassen – 344 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, 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 22, 2024

**TODAY:**   **9:30 AM:** Morning Worship Service - Advent - *Love*  
**10:45 AM:** Coffee & Cookies in the Fellowship Hall  
**11:00 AM:** P-6th Christmas Program - "The Christmas Story: A Skit of Hope"  
**5:20 PM:** Adult Choir Practice  
**6:00 PM:** Evening Worship Service - Christmas Candlelight Service

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**WED:**      **9:30 PM:** Christmas Worship Service

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**SAT:**      **9:00 AM:** Cadet Snow Derby

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## **PRAYER REMINDERS**

### **Sympathies**

- ♦ Harriet Vande Kamp

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

- ♦ Pam Maassen, Tate Van Essen, Bonnie Davelaar, Gerrit Kats, 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**

- ♦ New Roots Ministry

### **Denominational Requests**

- ♦ (CRC Communications) *Christmas* - We celebrate the birth of Jesus and marvel at his love. He came, lived among us to bring the good news of the kingdom of God, died, and rose again to redeem us and give new life to all who believe. Praise be to God!

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

**Monday** - Connor Grevengoed

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

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

**Saturday** - *the Mike Baartman's*

### **FUTURE DATES**

**December 29** - Installation of Incoming Office Bearers

**December 30** - Council Meeting

**January 1** - New Year's Day Community Service at Trinity CRC

### **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- ◇ The RVCS 4th graders have been busy making different ornaments using newspaper for the Prairie Woods Nature Center Christmas Tree Decorating Contest. They would appreciate your help by going to the Prairie Woods Nature Center anytime from December 21-January 6 and voting for their tree. Thank you!
- ◇ 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:**

- ◇ 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:**

- ◇ Christmas Break - December 23 - January 3

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

*How are YOU Feeding Your Fire of Faith?*





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

Piano Prelude

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

\*Declaration of Trust in God

\*God's Greeting

**\*Song of Praise:**

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

PH 26:1-4

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

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

GH

**The Belgic Confession - Article 36** (read responsively)

Congregational Prayer

**\*Songs of Preparation:**

**"Love Has Come!"**

CH:1,3

**"O Holy Night!"**

CH:1

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Mark 5:1-20 (page 930/1558)

Sermon: **"THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

**\*Song of Application:**

**"O Holy Night!"**

CH:2-3

Offertory Prayer/Offering: Hope Haven

\*Benediction

**\*Closing Song:**

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

\*Piano Postlude

Pianist: Carisa Maassen

\*Please stand if you are able

