

# **Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!**

**Pastor John Knoester**

**April 30, 2017**

**10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

**\* Please stand if you are able.**

***“Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!***

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome and Announcements

**\* Call to Worship:**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: He has given us new life and hope.  
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

**People: He has brought us out of darkness.  
He has made us light to the world.**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

—based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

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**\* Opening Hymn: LUYH #205:1,2,4,5 “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”**

1. Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

*Refrain*

*Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
give God the glory! Alleluia!*

2. Walking the way, Christ in the center,  
telling the story to open our eyes;  
breaking our bread, giving us glory:  
Jesus, our blessing, our constant surprise.

*Refrain*

4. Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:  
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!”  
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

### *Refrain*

5. City of God, Easter forever,  
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
river of life, saints, and archangels,  
sing with creation to God the I AM!

### *Refrain*

Words: Herbert F. Brokering (1926-2009) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress;

Music: David N. Johnson (1922-1987), 1968, © 1968 Augsburg Fortress; OneLicense.net License #A-711218

\* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

\* Opening Songs of Praise:

Read John 10:10b

<sup>10b</sup> I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

**"Mighty to Save"** LUYH #611:1-2

1. Everyone needs compassion,  
a love that's never failing; let mercy fall on me.  
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior,  
the hope of nations.

### *Chorus*

*Savior, He can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation.  
He rose and conquered the grave.  
Jesus conquered the grave.*

2. So take me as You find me,  
all my fears and failures; fill my life again.  
I give my life to follow, everything I believe in.  
Now I surrender.

### *Chorus*

*Savior, He can move the mountains.  
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation.  
He rose and conquered the grave.  
Jesus conquered the grave.*

### *Bridge*

Shine your light, and let the whole world see.  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. Jesus!  
Shine your light, and let the whole world see.  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

### *Chorus*

*"Mighty to Save" Words and Music by Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding*

**"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"** LUYH #610 (2x)

Lord, I lift Your name on high; Lord, I love to sing Your praises.  
I'm so glad You're in my life; I'm so glad You came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
from the cross to grave, from the grave to the sky.  
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

Words and Music: Rick Founds, © 1989 Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

## Prayer of Adoration

### **"He Is Lord"** LUYH #227: 1,3,4

1. He is Lord, he is Lord,  
he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.
3. He is Love, he is Love,  
he has shown us by his life that he is Love!  
All his people sing with one voice of joy  
that Jesus Christ is Love.

### **Acapella**

4. He is Life, he is Life,  
he has died to set us free, and he is Life!  
And he calls us all to live evermore,  
for Jesus Christ is Life.

Words: st. 1 Marvin Frey © 1977 Marvin Frey; sts. 2, 3, 4 anonymous;  
Music: Marvin Frey © 1977 Marvin Frey; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012);  
© 1987 Marvin Frey; CCLI #678905

*During the singing of the last verse, children ages 3-first grade  
are dismissed to the Koinonia room for Children & Worship.*

***"Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!"***

## Call to Confession

## Prayer of Confession

## Words of Assurance

You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,  
since the Spirit of God dwells in you.  
Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ  
does not belong to him.  
But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin,  
the Spirit is life because of righteousness.  
If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,  
he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies  
also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

—Romans 8:9-11, NRSV

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## Our Response of Faith: (Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 43,45)

### The Benefits of Christ's Death and Resurrection

**Leader:** What further benefit do we receive  
from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

**People:** **By Christ's power our old selves are crucified,  
put to death, and buried with him, so that the  
evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us,  
but that instead we may offer ourselves as a  
sacrifice of gratitude to him.**

Leader: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

**People: First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death.**

**Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life.**

**Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.**

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Song of Assurance: LUYH #361: 1 ***"Because He Lives"***

1. God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal, and forgive.  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

*Refrain*

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow,  
because He lives all fear is gone,  
because I know He holds the future,  
and life is worth the living just because He lives.*

Words & Music: Gloria Gaither (b.1942) and William J. Gaither; Music: William J. Gaither (b. 1936),  
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Offering: Denominational Ministry Shares

\* Song of Preparation: LUYH #844:1-3, 5 ***"Lift Up Your Hearts unto the Lord"***

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,  
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,  
in Christ the world has been redeemed.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,  
his resurrection sets us free.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
his resurrection sets us free.
5. Sing alleluia to the Lord,  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974 Linda Stassen;  
Music: Linda Stassen, 1974; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986, © 1974, 1986 Linda Stassen; CCLI #678905

***"Jesus is risen and we shall arise:"***

Scripture Reading: John 11:17-44 (pg. 1063) Read by Dan & Briana Vander Kooy

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"I Am – The Resurrection and the Life"***

***“Give God the glory! Alleluia!”***

\* Hymn of Application: GH #402:1-4 ***“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”***

*Refrain:*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth; He is the King of creation.

*Refrain*

2. Spread the good news o’er all the earth; Jesus has died and has risen.

*Refrain*

3. We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever:

*Refrain*

4. God has proclaimed the just reward: life for his own. Alleluia!

*Refrain*

Text & Tune: Donald Fishel, 1971; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1984; Text and Music © 1973, The Word of Music.

\* We Confess Our Faith (Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 57-58)

The Resurrection of the Body

Leader: How does “the resurrection of the body” comfort you?

**People: Not only will my soul be taken immediately  
after this life to Christ its head,  
but also my very flesh will be raised by the power of Christ,  
reunited with my soul, and made like Christ’s glorious body.**

Leader: How does the promise of “life everlasting” comfort you?

**People: Even as I already now experience in my heart  
the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I  
will have perfect blessedness such as no eye  
has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart  
has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.**

\* Benediction:

Leader: “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord.  
May Christ’s rising lift your spirits and gladden your hearts.

**People: Alleluia! Amen.**

Leader: All those who believe in Christ will never perish.  
May you pass with Christ from death to life.

**People: Alleluia! Amen.**

Leader: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us.  
May his resurrection bring you all joy and peace  
in believing so that you may abound in hope.

**People: Alleluia! Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—  
bless you now and forever.

**People: Alleluia! Amen.**

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\* Doxology: LYUH #489:1-3 ***“By the Sea of Crystal”***

1. By the sea of crystal saints in glory stand,  
myriads in number, drawn from every land.  
Robed in white apparel, washed in Jesus' blood,  
they now reign in heaven with the Lamb of God.
2. Out of tribulation, death, and Satan's hand,  
they have been translated at the Lord's command.  
In their hands they're holding palms of victory.  
Hark! the jubilant chorus shouts triumphantly:
3. “Unto God Almighty, sitting on the throne,  
and the Lamb, victorious, be the praise alone.”  
God has wrought salvation; he did wondrous things.  
Who shall not extol thee, holy King of kings!

Revelation 4-5; Words: William Kuipers, 1933, based on Revelation 4-5, © 1976 Faith Alive Christian Resources;  
Music: John Vanderhoven, 1933, © 1976 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI #678905

\* Postlude

**Welcome** to the House of God. The Lord is always near to those who gather in his name. Let us eagerly call upon God and make a joyful noise with songs and prayers of praise. Glory be to God! After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

At 4:00 p.m. today, we invite you to come to the ***“Hymnspiration”*** which will be held here at First CRC. Plan to come for an afternoon of Praise and Worship with singing hymns with family and friends. Everyone is welcome!

### **OUR CHURCH EVENTS**

Today you will have opportunity to sign up to bring a casserole or dessert for the ***Friendship House*** on Wednesday, May 10. Servers are also needed. There will be a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can sign up and pick up a recipe. Monetary donations are accepted also. Any questions? Give Glenda Kok a call.

**Choir** will meet for practice today following the morning service.

The **Youth Group** will meet this evening at 7:45 p.m. in the Youth Group Room.

The **Evangelism** Committee will meet on Monday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

**GEMS** will meet on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. This will be the Mother/Daughter Event and final meeting for the season. We will meet at the gym at the Christian School.

**Golden Hour** will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 4. Share your favorite Psalm. This will be our last meeting for the season.

After the program for the 75th anniversary on Friday, May 12, **cookies** will be served. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you are willing to bring 3 dozen cookies or bars.

**From the Building Committee:** We are making great progress refurbishing certain aspects of our facilities. We would like to thank the Congregation for the continued giving of funds to finish the items on our list. You may have noticed that the large white sign was removed from the front of the church. Though it was approved by Council, there was a stipulation placed on the committee that an attractive and very visible sign be placed somewhere on the south side of our lot that announces both 1st CRC and Vida Nueva perpendicular to the road for maximum visibility, by October 1 of this year. If any congregation member has ideas or would like to fund such a sign, please visit with a Building Committee member.

**FAMILY VISITING:** The following is the family visiting schedule for **May & June 2017**. If your family is included in the list, please expect a call from the listed Elder to arrange the day and time for the visit. If you have questions about the schedule please call the listed Elder or call Henry Hammingh at 360-424-3019.

| <b>MAY-JUNE 2017 FAMILY VISITS</b> |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Elder</b>                       | <b>Family</b>                 |
| Dave V                             | Henry & Pam Van Zanten        |
| Dave V                             | Greg & Tish Ackermann         |
| Greg A                             | Pastor John & Brooke Knoester |
| Greg A                             | Sue & Eliot Blom              |
| Greg B                             | Terry & Joni Beezhold         |
| Greg B                             | Steve & Teci Greydanus        |
| Henry H                            | Wilma Paul                    |
| Henry H                            | Karen Staat                   |
| Darrel L                           | Clarence & Lona Vander Griend |
| Darrel L                           | Rich & Elly Cuperus           |
| Pastor John                        | Mardy & Kristine Stevens      |
| Pastor John                        | Randy & Peggy Burr            |
| Dennis D                           | Adrianna Swanson              |
| Dennis D                           | Marjo Rouw                    |

**ADVANCED NOTICES**

**May 7 Worship Services:** On Sunday morning, May 7 we have the privilege of welcoming Steve Gumear, the cofounder of Partners Relief and Development, who will be sharing with us their current work with vulnerable people groups (internally displaced, refugees, etc.) in countries such as Iraq, Syria, and Myanmar. Steve is currently in Mosul, Iraq, but will be in the Mount Vernon area visiting friends the weekend of the 7th. ... The May 7 evening service will be a special prayer service. During this service we will pray specifically for some of our loved ones who are currently battling cancer as well as for many other important cares and concerns in our community, country, and world. Please mark your calendars accordingly!

**Mark your calendars!** The dates and times are set for our 75th anniversary weekend, May 12-14, 2017. We plan to begin the festivities Friday the 12th at 7:00 p.m. with a program. Our former pastors will be sharing memories, along with singing and special music. There will be a time of fellowship afterwards. Saturday afternoon starting around 3:00 p.m. we will have a soup and buns picnic in the Commons at MVC. We will start with games, a time of fellowship, and then start eating about 5:00 p.m. There will be an open mic where anyone who wants to share a story can do so. If

anyone has family or knows former members that would like to come, please have them rsvp with Sylvia. On Sunday, the 14th, at 10:30 a.m. we will have a celebration worship service with our former pastors involved. There will be cake served following the service. If anyone has questions, you may contact Greg Boon or Melba DeKok.

### **ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT**

Next week, May 7, you will have opportunity again to bring your donations of canned and non-perishable items for the food drive for "**Neighbors in Need**". Please bring your donations in the morning or evening to the church and place them in the basket located in the foyer and the Fellowship Hall.

**Waiting for the Second Coming:** "What happens to my body when I die? What about my soul? What is heaven like?" Join Groundwork as we study Romans 8:35-39 and 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 to discuss what happens to believers who die before Christ comes again, which theologians call the intermediate state. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**There's An Ape For That:** Bullying is a terrible thing to have to endure. But returning fire with fire is not the way to go. In this new episode Morrie is fed up with Skink the bully. He and his friends decide to unleash a secret revenge weapon that should teach Skink a lesson. Will his plan work or is it all just a bunch of monkey business? Start the conversation with "Power Tools: Taking a Stand Against Bullying", a free resource at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net).

**Available Free in the Digital Library:** "Four-Dimensional Jesus" is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library ([crcna.org/Library](http://crcna.org/Library)). In this book, John Timmer explores how the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each offer their own unique descriptions of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

**Run for Your Mum** a 5K fun run and 2K walk will take place on May 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at Bakerview Park, Mount Vernon, WA. This is benefitting Pregnancy Choices. Call 360-428-4777 to register or go to: [www.RunForYourMum.com](http://www.RunForYourMum.com)

Invest in your family's faith this summer. From inspiring worship to startling sunsets over Puget Sound, Warm Beach Camp has events and activities for kids of all ages. The kids grow up too fast—now is the time to register. **Cascade Family Bible Camp** is July 6-10 at Warm Beach Camp. Speakers include George De Jong, Grant Vander Hoek and Kyle Klootra. Register online at [www.cascadefamilybiblecamp.org](http://www.cascadefamilybiblecamp.org) or use the forms at church. First time registrants will receive 50% off registration.

### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Do you need or want some new Tupperware? Do you want to help fight social injustices like human trafficking but don't know how to help? If you said yes to either of these questions, this is the chance for you. Help fight human trafficking by purchasing Tupperware and have 40% of the earnings go to **International Justice Mission**. International Justice Mission is a faith based organization that helps fight human trafficking by rescuing people who are caught up in it. So take a peek and see if there is anything that you want, or purchase a gift for someone else. Tupperware is a great gift for newly weds or for people going to college who need items for themselves. Just follow this link and check out the selection of items available. A \$50 order gives \$20 to IJM. If you don't want tupperware you can also just do make a plain donation of money. These donations can be given to Kendall Van Zanten. If you have any questions send an email to Kendall Van Zanten at [kvanzanten2018@mvcstudent.org](mailto:kvanzanten2018@mvcstudent.org) and I will try to get back to you as soon as possible.

The link-> <http://www.tupperware.com/?fundraiser=58f592402ea186cd2deeb527>

Thanks for all the help,  
Kendall Van Zanten

A.L.T.A. Dessert Theatre is presenting **You Can't Take It with You**" on May 5,6,11,12,13 at 7:00 p.m. Matinees are at 2:30 p.m. on May 7 & 14 at Alger Community Church, 1475 Silver Run Lane, Bellingham (Alger) WA.



## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

|       |          |                              |
|-------|----------|------------------------------|
| SUN   | 11:45 pm | Choir Practice               |
|       | 4:00 pm  | Hymnspiration                |
|       | 4:00 pm  | Vida Nueva                   |
|       | 7:45 pm  | Youth Group                  |
| MON   | 6:15 pm  | Deacon's Meeting             |
|       | 7:00 pm  | Evangelism Committee         |
| TUES  | 7:00 pm  | Vida Nueva                   |
| WED   | 6:30 am  | Men's Bible Study at Shari's |
|       | 6:30 pm  | GEMS Mother / Daughter Event |
| THURS | 12:30 pm | Golden Hour Salad Luncheon   |

### **NURSERY:**

#### **Today: Infants & Toddlers**

Jill Klunder, Carson Blom, Danielle Van Zanten

#### **Next Week: Infants & Toddlers**

Heather Van Hofwegen, Kylie Boon, Kendall Van Zanten

### **GREETERS:**

#### **Today:**

**Rovers:** Dennis & Melba De Kok

**AM:** Mardick & Jill Stevens, Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek

#### **Next Week:**

**Rovers:** Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

**AM:** Sally Reehoorn, Shirley Boonstra, Henry & Anjean Vander Veen

### **USHERS**

**Today:** Henry Van Zanten, Jr., Kendall Van Zanten, Larry Greidanus

**Next Week:** Henry Hammingh, Tim Hibma, Wiebe Van der Hoek

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

**Today AM:** Kendall Van Zanten

**Hymnspiration:** Tim Hibma

**Next Week:** Mardick Stevens

### **PROJECTION**

**Today AM:** Tim Hibma

**Hymnspiration:** Kendall Van Zanten

**Next Week:** Devin Van Zanten

### **VIDEO TAPING**

**Today:** Mike Hibma

**Next Week:** Tim Hibma

### **CHILDREN & WORSHIP**

#### **Today:**

Teacher: Michele Feddema

Assistants: Julie Speck, Jack Hammingh

#### **Next Week:**

Teacher: Michele Feddema

Assistants: Briana Vander Kooy, Lexi Blom

**LIBRARY:**

**Today:** Michelle De Kok

**Next Week:** Elly Cuperus

**COFFEE HOSTS**

**Today:** Joe & Annette LeClair, Aileen Meischke, Robert & Andy Pippel

**Next Week:** Keith & Jean Rasmussen, Marinus & Jill Rouw, Mardick & Jill Stevens

**VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE**

**Today:** Vida Nueva

**Next Week:** Jayne Hammingh & Jack Hammingh

**MINISTRY OF PRAISE**

**Next Week:** Katie Jungquist

Accompanist: Marjo Rouw

**OFFERING: May 7, 2017**

**AM:** General Fund

**PM:** Love INC



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Call the church office at (336-2405) or e-mail: [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstcrcmv.com) by Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

**CONTINUING CONCERNS:**

Continue to pray for **Annette LeClair** and **Betty Postma** as they both continue with their chemo treatments. May God give them healing and strength for each new day.

**SHUT INS:**

**Nell Annema** at Creekside in Burlington, **Grace Faber** at home in Mount Vernon; **Helena Kuiper** at Creekside in Burlington; **Mary Koopmans** at home in Mount Vernon; **Adrianna Swanson** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** at home in Clear Lake, **Duane Van Dyke** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington, **Chris Van Sweden** at Country Meadows in Sedro-Woolley, and **Rena Wester** at the Lynden Manor.

**OTHER CONCERNS:**

Please pray for **Wilma Paul** and her family. Wilma's son Marty was recently diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma and it appears that he does not have much longer to live. Please pray for God's comfort in the midst of the grieving already taking place and also pray for the road ahead.

**GEMS Girls' Clubs: GEMS Sunday** - GEMS Clubs across the United States and Canada will be hosting a GEMS Sunday service for their congregations during April. Pray that girls will gain a deeper understanding of their value as they share what they have been learning throughout this season. Please also pray for regional volunteers traveling to Grand Rapids, Mich., for leadership training this month.

Pray for our **missionaries** as they are away from home: Marcia Bleeker in Chad Africa, Chris & Becky Johnson & family in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jon & Trista Vander Wal & family in Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea, Naji Umran & Anne Zaki & family in Egypt.

**Back to God Ministries International: North America** - Please pray for Jason. He is incarcerated and turns to God's Word when he's feeling discouraged. He shares that "times can be depressing and hard in here, so when it starts to get the best of me, I turn to the Bible or the Today devotions to lift my spirits up." Pray for God's healing hand in Jason's life, asking that he continue to search for and pursue truth in Christ.

**Chaplaincy and Care Ministry: Chaplains in developmental care** - A few of our chaplains work in care centers for people with various disabilities. This work requires them to be creative in communicating with residents who may have limited verbal skills. Please pray for these chaplains who walk with individuals and families in these settings while offering the peace and love of God.

**Christian Reformed World Missions: Nigeria** - Nine young men from the CRC-Nigeria (CRC-N) recently graduated from seminary and were posted as new missionaries to Niger State. Ask God's Spirit to give these leaders peace and wisdom as they adjust to new ministry in an unfamiliar part of their country.

**Christian Reformed Home Missions: Pathway Community Church, Olathe, Kan.** - Pray for this church plant as they partner with YouThrive to help foster youths who are making the transition to adulthood. Recent highlights: support of over 30 young adults to transition out of foster care; training of over 40 volunteers to serve as Support Families; facilitation of over 20 financial education classes for youth; and assistance to six young adults in the purchase of a car through a matched savings program.

**Back to God Ministries International: Russia** - Pray for a new radio broadcast from our media team in Russia. The program host interviews scientists who talk about their area of expertise through the lens of their Christian faith. Ask the Lord to use this program to reach young intellectuals, opening their eyes and hearts to worship him.

**ServiceLink: Volunteer Week** - April 23–29 is National Volunteer Week in Canada and the United States. Let's pray for and give thanks to all who have committed to volunteer in our churches and ministry organizations. We pray that God will strengthen and sustain them with patience and understanding as they love and care for his people and as they share in Christ's redeeming mission.