

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

September 24, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

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

“How vast the benefits divine which we in Christ possess!”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship: Ephesians 1:3-4

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #687:1-4 ***“Father, Long Before Creation”***

1. Father, long before creation
you had chosen us in love,
and that love so deep, so moving,
draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us firmly fixed in Christ alone.
2. Though the world may change its fashion,
you will still remain the same;
your compassion and your covenant
through all ages will remain.
Your own children shall forever praise your name.
3. Your compassion is our story,
is our boasting all the day;
mercy free and never failing
moves our will, directs our way.
God so loved us that he gave his only Son.
4. Loving Father, now before you
we shall ever sing your grace,
and our song will sound forever
when we see you face to face,
giving glory to the Lamb upon the throne.

Words: Chinese, ca. 1951; tr. Francis P. Jones, 1953, alt., P.D.;

Music: William H. Monk, 1871, P.D. CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

* Opening Hymns and Songs of Praise: ***“The Church's One Foundation”*** LUYH #251:1-2, 4-5

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, P.D.; Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864, P.D.
CCLI #67895

Read Ephesians 2:8

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

“Not What My Hands Have Done” LUYH #624:1-3

1. Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.
2. Your voice alone, O Lord, can speak to me of grace;
your power alone, O Son of God, can all my sin erase.
No other work but yours, no other blood will do;
no strength but that which is divine can bear me safely through.

Sing acapella

3. I praise the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
and with unfaltering lip and heart I call this Savior mine.
My Lord has saved my life and freely pardon gives;
I love because he first loved me, I live because he lives.

Words: Horatius Bonar; Music George William Martin; Public Domain; CCLI #678905

*At the conclusion of this song children ages 3-1st grade
are dismissed to the Koinonia Room for Children and Worship.*

“We are redeemed from sin and shame, and called to holiness.”

Introduction to our New Sermon Series

Prayer for God’s Guidance

Offering: General Fund

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #688 :1-3 ***“How Vast the Benefits Divine”***

1. How vast the benefits divine which we in Christ possess!
We are redeemed from sin and shame, and called to holiness.
'Tis not for works that we have done—these all to him we owe;
but he of his electing love salvation does bestow.
2. To you, O Christ, alone is due all glory and renown;
no merit of our own we claim, nor rob you of your crown.
You were our only surety in God’s redemption plan;
in you his grace was given us before the world began.

3. Within the arms of sovereign love we ever shall remain;
nor shall the rage of earth or hell make God's sure counsel vain.
Each one of all the chosen race shall surely heaven attain;
here they will share abounding grace, and there with Jesus reign.

Words: Augustus M. Toplady, 1774, alt., P.D.; Music: Gottfried W. Fink, 1842, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

“Tis not for works that we have done – these all to him we owe;”

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:1-8 (pg. 1156) Read by Kera Boon

Message: ***“Spiritual Blessings in Christ”***

Time of Prayer

“But He of his electing love salvation does bestow.”

* Song of Application: LUYH #430:1-4 ***“You Are Mine”***

1. “I will come to you in the silence.
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice.
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.
2. “I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me.

Refrain

*Do not be afraid; I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you, and you are mine.”*

3. “I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name.

Refrain

4. “I am the Word that leads all to freedom.
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk, and live!

Refrain

Words & Music: David Haas (b. 1957) © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.;
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* Closing Responsive Prayer: LUYH #686

Leader: All glorious God, we give you thanks:
in your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have given us every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly realms.
You chose us, before the world was made,
to be your holy people, without fault in your sight.
You adopted us as your children in Christ.
You have set us free by his blood;
you have forgiven our sins.
You have made known to us your secret purpose,
to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ.
You have given us your Holy Spirit,
the seal and pledge of our inheritance.

**People: All praise and glory be yours, O God,
for the richness of your grace,
for the splendor of your gifts,
for the wonder of your love.**

All: Amen.

Text: based on Ephesians 1:3-18, Desmond Tutu, P.D.

* Benediction

* Parting Praise: LUYH #691:1-5 ***“Amazing Grace”***

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Words: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779, st. 5 A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, P.D.

Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* Postlude

Welcome! A hearty welcome to each of you! It is a genuine joy to have everyone here for worship, for fellowship, for learning more about the Christian way and for preparing for a new week of service. God has been good to us! Let us join together to praise the Lord. After the morning service all are invited to the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Adult Sunday School starts on October 1st. Class starts at 9:30 a.m. The Proverbs book, our first study book, is in your church mailbox.

There will be **no Sunday School / Catechism classes** on October 8.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is the Church? What is its purpose? Why does it exist? How is it supposed to function? These and many more are just a few of the questions Paul addresses in his letter to the church in Ephesus. In fact, we can almost call the book of Ephesians ‘a miniature doctrine of the Church!’

Like every other book of the Bible – Paul’s letter is not just for the recipients of his letter 2000 years ago, but also for us here today. The same struggles and issues the church in Ephesus faced are still prevalent in our world today. The following is a tentative schedule of our series for the weeks ahead. As always, you are encouraged to read and study the text beforehand.

May God continue to bless and build His Church!

In Christ,

Pastor John

- September 24: Spiritual Blessings in Christ – Ephesians 1:1-8
- October 1: Safe in God’s Plan – Ephesians 1:8-11
- October 8: God’s Possession - Ephesians 1:11-16
- October 15: (Communion) Living In Awe and Wonder– Ephesians 1:15-23
- October 22: Alive With Christ – Ephesians 2:1-10
- November 5: Breaking the Dividing Wall – Ephesians 2:11-18
- November 12: Unity in Christ – Ephesians 2:19-22
- November 19: A Foretaste of What is to Come – Ephesians 3:1-13
- November 26: Rooted and Established in Love – Ephesians 3:14-21

FAMILY VISITING: The following is the family visiting schedule for **August—September 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.

AUG-SEPT 2017 FAMILY VISITS	
Elder	Family
Dave V	Joe & Nellie Strong
Dave V	Bryan & Deanna Van Beek
Greg A	Agnes Bollema
Greg A	Brad DeKok
Greg B	Larry & Margaret Vander Pol
Greg B	Mary Koopmans
Henry H	John & Dena Klunder
Henry H	Betty Postma
Darrel L	Wayne & Rhea Doss
Darrel L	Spencer & Janelle Donaldson
Pastor John	Joe & Annette LeClair

Pastor John	Les & Joy Faber
Dennis D	Darrel & Sunee Lagerwey
Dennis D	Brian Doss

Youth Group will meet this evening at 7:45 p.m. for all high schoolers. They meet in the Youth Group room in the Education Wing.

A **Blood Drive** will be held on Monday, September 25 at Emmanuel Baptist from 12:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. They are closed from 2:15 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

The **Elders & Deacons** will meet on Monday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Cadets will begin this week Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. with registration & an ice cream social at 7:00 p.m. Boys in grades 3-8 are invited to come.

The **Young at Heart** will meet on Thursday, September 28 at 12:30 p.m. for their monthly lunch at I-Hops in Mount Vernon.

Please sign up to walk or support the **Crop Hunger Walk** on October 1 at 2:00 p.m. in Mount Vernon, starting at the Mount Vernon Christian School. This 3.4 mile walk through downtown is a both a public witness and a fundraiser to help alleviate hunger in our local area and around the world. To sign up, donate or find out more, go to: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/mountvernonwa/> Our team name is 1stMVCRCGetup&Walk. If you are unable to walk but would like to donate please make your check out to Skagit Hunger Crop Walk and give to Darrel Lagerwey or the church office before October 1.

ADVANCED NOTICES

Our **Church Potluck** will be held on Sunday, October 1, after the morning service. Please bring a 9x13 inch hot dish (enough to feed 12-15), and salad or dessert. Table service is provided as well as juice and coffee.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, September October 4 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

Golden Hour will meet on Wednesday, October 4 at 1:30 p.m. We will meet in the Koinonia Room and study Micah 2. We welcome new members to join us.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. Girls in grades 2-8th grade are invited to attend GEMS.

The next **Ladies Night Out** will be Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Haggan's café in Mount Vernon.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Next week, October 1, 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.

The Way of Wisdom: People deemed "wise" by worldly standards are not always wise by biblical standards. Discover the characteristics of godly wisdom by joining our conversation studying Proverbs 9, and together we'll learn how we can cultivate wisdom that meets God's standards. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Chamy's Catastrophe: Chamy's parents' divorce is final on Friday. Chamy doesn't believe it-surely there's something that she can do to bring her parents back together! Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. This month, Kids Corner is offering a free ebook on divorce called "God's Got You Covered." Using biblical teaching, this ebook provides help for kids and parents talk to about divorce. Go to www.kidscorner.net and click on the free stuff page to download this free resource.

Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

World Renew responds to Multiple Floods - In North America and globally, World Renew's disaster response teams are reacting to destructive hurricanes and floods. You can help. In the U.S., World Renew DRS is assisting survivors of Hurricane Irma in Florida and Hurricane Harvey in Texas. World Renew is also responding to flooding internationally in South Asia where 40 million people are affected in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Please support those who are struggling and World Renew's responses with your prayers. You can donate financially at worldrenew.net/floodingresponses or call 800-552-7972 to support those in urgent need. .

FREE Reformation Study Resource: The Banner presents a free online resource with questions for discussion for personal study, small group discussion, or adult education church groups: Reformation Themes: Commemorating the 500th Anniversary. Also available, Reformed Basics. Check them out at thebanner.org/study-series.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENT

Christian Cruise to Alaska, 2018: Are you in the age category of 50 and over? Would you find it more comfortable to travel with a group? Then you are invited to join our "senior-ish" Christian Cruise from Vancouver to Alaska return on Holland America Line's beautiful Volendam ship from May 9 - 16, 2018. Travel with a group of believers and build some new memories and lasting friendships as we experience God's majestic creation up close while sailing through the Inside Passage to Glacier Bay. We will visit Klondike towns such as Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway, Alaska, and have private group gatherings for singing, talent shows, and Sunday worship. Enjoy peace of mind while traveling with an experienced tour leader who will also help find single travelers a suitable roommate if needed. Invite your spouse, family, and friends or come alone and be part of our Christian Cruise family. For more information please visit www.christiancruises.ca or call Lorraine Kammeraad at 604-866-7961.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN	7:00 pm	Evening Service
	7:45 pm	Youth Group
MON	12:00 pm	Blood Drive at Emmanuel Baptist Church
	7:00 pm	Elders & Deacons Meet
TUES	7:-00 pm	Vida Nueva
WED	7:00 pm	Cadets: Registration / Ice Cream Social
THURS	12:30 pm	Young at Heart at I-Hops

NURSERY

Today: Infants & Toddlers

Briana Vander Kooy, Kaeli Houck, Kylie Boon

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Julie Speck, Jordan Feddema, Kennedy Donaldson

GREETERS

Today - Rovers: Keith & Jean Rasmussen

AM: Les & Joy Faber, Jim & Michele Feddema

Next Week - Rovers: Larry & Margaret Vander Pol

AM: Larry & Maxine Greidanus, Kermit & Julie Houck

USHERS

Today: Wiebe Van der Hoek, Larry Greidanus, Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week: Kendall Van Zanten, Tim Van Hofwegen, Darin Kuipers

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Kendall Van Zanten

Next Week: Mardick Stevens

PROJECTION

Today AM: Devin Van Zanten

Next Week: Tim Hibma

VIDEO TAPING

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Mike Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today:

Teacher: Michele Feddema

Assistants: Shanna Visser, Emma Droog

Next Week:

Teacher: Marjo Rouw

Assistants: Elly Cuperus, Hannah Van Hofwegen

LIBRARY:

Today: Elly Cuperus

Next Week: Melba De Kok

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Kevin & Glenda Kok, Darin & Michelle Kuipers, Henry & Sharon Kuipers

Next Week: Church Potluck

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Alice De Vries, Marjean De Groot

Next Week: Jayne Hammingh, Brooke Knoester

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Marjean De Groot

Accompanist: Marjo Rouw

OFFERING: October 1, 2017

AM: General Fund

PM: Faith House for Men "The Trust"

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Shirley Boonstra

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Kayla Van Hofwegen

"He Is Lord" LUYH #227:1-4
"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" LUYH #469:1,2 ,4
"Soon and Very Soon" LUYH #482:1-3

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 34 Q&A 92-93

Q. 92 What does the Lord say in His law?

A. God spoke all these words:

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

**"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt,
out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."**

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

**"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything
in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water below.
You shall not bow down to them or worship them;
for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,
punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third
and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand
generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."**

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

**"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God,
for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."**

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

**"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God.
On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter,
nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals,
nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven
and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.
Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."**

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

**"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long
in the land that the Lord your God is giving to you."**

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not murder."

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not commit adultery."

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not steal."

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”¹

¹ Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21

Q. 93 How are these commandments divided?

A. **Into two tables.**

The first has four commandments, teaching us what our relation to God should be.

The second has six commandments, teaching us what we owe our neighbor.¹

¹ Matt. 22:37-39

Scripture Readings: Exodus 19:1-6

Message: ***“Introduction to the Ten(der) Commandments - A Love Message From God”***

Time of Prayer

Offering: New Earth Recovery—Faith House for Women

Song of Application: LUYH #327:1-3 ***“When We Walk with the Lord”***

* God’s Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965 ***“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”***



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

NEW CONCERNS:

We express our sympathy to ***Shirley Boonstra*** is the passing away of her great grandson recently. May God hold the family in the palm of His hand.

Our condolences to ***Jim Feddema and family*** in the unexpected passing away of his mother, Rena Feddema, in Lynden this past Tuesday. Please keep Jim and his entire family in your prayers as they grieve their loss and also as they make the necessary arrangements in the days to come.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley, ***Grace Faber*** at home in Mount Vernon; ***Mary Koopmans*** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington; ***Wilma Paul*** at Mountain Glen Retirement Center 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:

Continue to pray for **Annette LeClair** as she continues with her chemo treatments. May God give Annette strength for each day.

Emily Curry, 16 year old granddaughter of Hank & Sylvia Van Zanten, has been diagnosed with lymphoma this past week. She will begin 5 days of chemo beginning on Monday to shrink the mass in her chest area. Hopefully then they will be able to do a biopsy and put in a port and know for sure what they are treating. If you would like to send words of encouragement to Sandi & Emily, the address is listed below.

416 German Avenue
Haysville, KS 67060

Safe Church Ministry: Abuse awareness - On the fourth Sunday in September, CRC congregations are invited to participate in Abuse Awareness Sunday. The topic this year is the sex industry, which generates 99 billion dollars annually and has a greater impact in our congregations and communities than we know. Pray with us for the strength and courage to speak out and take a stand against this industry of sin and darkness.

Resonate Global Mission: Asia - Churches in an undisclosed Asian country have been growing by leaps and bounds in the past few decades. The Spirit of God is working powerfully. The greatest need now is for leaders in these churches. Pray that people will come forward for training and be willing to gain new leadership skills.

World Renew: Syria - Throughout the past five years, World Renew has worked to equip churches within Syria and Lebanon to be a support system for refugees. Many refugee families have lost nearly everything. Please pray that through these fruitful church partnerships God will continue to provide resources, safety, and healing to people suffering from the civil war in Syria.

Resonate Global Mission: Mexico - Dan Kuiper, a Resonate missionary who serves at San Pablo seminary, asks for prayers for one of his students who recently graduated and plans to be a missionary in several mountain towns of northern Mexico. "She needs prayer for protection and bravery as drug traffickers damage and threaten the fabric of these communities," says Dan.

Disability Concerns: Disability Advocate training - Disability advocates from across North America are gathering September 21-23 for a CRC and Reformed Church in America Disability Concerns conference. Pray for safety in travel and a joyful time together in training, inspiration, and networking.

Back to God Ministries International: Nicaragua - Thank God for the ways he is using the Cada Dia daily devotions to bless lives throughout Latin America. Mario wrote to our Spanish ministry team, saying, "Ever since I became a reader of this publication, my life has changed very positively, thanks to the beautiful reflections that enrich my spiritual life." May God continue to draw people closer to himself through these devotions.

Urban Aboriginal Ministries: Circles for Reconciliation - These groups gather equal numbers of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to meet together and discuss topics related to healing the rift that often exists between the two. Learn more about this initiative at circlesforreconciliation.ca. Pray that many participants will join these circles and create communities of reconciliation.