

Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout this past year, your elders have been reading through a book entitled *“The Tender Commandments”* by Ron Mehl. I think it’s fair to say that one of the most misunderstood passages in all of Scripture is that of the Ten Commandments. Many people in our world today view these commandments as a restrictive list of ‘don’ts’ rather than a love message from God!

In the weeks to come we’re going to take a closer look at each of the commandments. Many of the illustrations I will be using will come directly from Mehl’s book. In addition, I’ll also make use of the Heidelberg Catechism which does an excellent job of summarizing the heart of each command. May God bless us as we make our way together through this important part of His Word!

In His Grace,
Pastor John

1. Aug. 7 AM – *“Introduction to the Ten(der) Commandments”*
2. Aug. 14 AM – *“The Only God”*
3. Aug. 21 AM – *“The Pursuit of Empty Images”*
4. Sept. 4 AM – *“Honoring God’s Holy Name”*
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11. Oct. 23 AM – *“True Contentment”*

**Welcome to Mount Vernon
First Christian Reformed Church!**

Pastor John Knoester

Aug. 7, 2022— Morning Service – 10:30 AM

* Please stand in body or in spirit

“O blessed Lord, teach me your law,”

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #511 v. 1-3

“Amid the Thronging Worshipers”

1. Amid the thronging worshipers
the Lord, our God, I bless;
before his people gathered here
his name will I confess.
Come, praise him, all who fear the Lord,
the children of his grace;
with reverence sound his glories forth
and bow before his face.
2. The burden of the sorrowful
the Lord will not despise;
he has not turned from those who mourn,
he listens to their cries.
His goodness makes me join the throng
where saints his praise proclaim,
and there will I fulfill my vows
with those who fear his name.
3. He feeds with good the humble soul
and satisfies the meek,
and they shall live and praise the Lord
who for his mercy seek.
The ends of all the earth will hear,
the nations seek the Lord;
they worship him, the King of kings,
in earth and heaven adored.

* Call to Worship

Leader: When Moses gathered the people of Israel,
God said,

**People: "I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery."**

Leader: As we gather here today, let us worship the Lord,

**People: who continues to be our God and who still brings
us out of the places of our bondage.**

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #519 v. 1-4

"God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises"

1. God, we sing your glorious praises
as we tell your awesome deeds;
you have fashioned all creation,
and you meet each creature's needs.
We rejoice in how your people
tasted your great faithfulness;
graced through every generation,
we your mighty acts profess.
2. We remember, God, your covenant,
which extends from heaven to earth;
how Christ's death and resurrection
conquers sin, renews our birth.
Thank you for this gospel message,
which inspires your church to preach
grace to every generation
in our deeds and in our speech.
3. Fueled by power from your Spirit,
we commit ourselves anew
to be faithful to your gospel
in the daily work we do.
We will shout your glorious praises,
telling all who have not heard;
grace for every generation
is embodied in your Word.

4. Lord, we offer you our worship
as we celebrate your grace
which you shower on your people
gathered here and every place.
Blessed by water, Word, and table,
we, your church, now pledge to share
grace through every generation
in our witness, work, and prayer.

"God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises"; Words: Bert Polman; Music: William P. Rowlands; ©2006 Faith Alive Christian Resources; CCLI# 678905

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

"Your righteous judgments I declare;"

Announcements

Call to Confession (Based on Matthew 22:37-40)

Our Lord Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.'

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets."

As God has instructed us in these great commandments,
and because we have not lived in full obedience,
let us now confess our sins to God,
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: (Based on Isaiah 44:21-22)

Remember these things, O Jacob,
and Israel, for you are my servant;
I formed you, you are my servant;
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.
I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud,
and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

—Isaiah 44:21-22, NRSV

Litany of Praise: Our Covenanting God – LUYH #36

Reader 1: We bless and thank you, Lord our God,
for the promise you spoke to Noah:

**Reader 2: “I establish my covenant with you:
Never again will all life be destroyed
by the waters of a flood.”
(Gen. 9:11, NIV)**

Reader 1: With joy, your people heard
the sure promise:

Sung Refrain: I am your God; you are my people.

**Reader 2: For the promise you spoke
to Abraham and Sarah:**

Reader 1: “I will establish my covenant
as an everlasting covenant between me and you
and your descendants after you
for the generations to come,
to be your God and the God
of your descendants after you.” (Gen. 17:7, NIV)

Reader 2: With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Sung Refrain: I am your God; you are my people.

Reader 1: For the promise you spoke to Moses, Miriam,
and the people of Israel:

**Reader 2: “If you obey me fully and keep my covenant,
then you will be my treasured possession.
You will be for me a kingdom of priests
and a holy nation.” (Ex. 19:5-6, NIV)**

Reader 1: With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Sung Refrain: I am your God; you are my people.

**Reader 2: For the promise you spoke to David:
“I will raise up your offspring to succeed you,
your own flesh and blood, and I will establish
the throne of his kingdom forever.”**

(2 Sam. 7:12-13, NIV)

Reader 1: With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Sung Refrain: I am your God; you are my people.

**Reader 2: For the promise you spoke through Jeremiah:
“This is the covenant I will make
with the people of Israel: I will put my law
in their minds and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God, and they will be
my people.” (Jer. 31:33, NIV)**

Reader 1: With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Sung Refrain: I am your God; you are my people.

Reader 2: For the promise you spoke through Jesus:

Reader 1: “This is my blood of the new covenant,
which is poured out for many
for the forgiveness of sins.”
(Matt. 26:28/Luke 22:20, NIV)

Reader 2: With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Sung Refrain: I am your God; you are my people.

Reader 1: Heirs of the promise, called by your Spirit,
we hear again these gracious promises.
With joy and trust we declare:

Sung Refrain: I am your God; you are my people.

Words: David A. Hoekema, 1978, © 1985 Faith Alive Christian Resources

God’s Will for our Lives (Based on Colossians 3:12-15)

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #334 v. 1-5

“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”

1. May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.
2. May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

3. May the peace of God, my Father,
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea.
Him exalting, self abasing:
this is victory.

Sing Acapella

5. May we run the race before us,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as we onward go.

Words: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1925, P.D.; Music: A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1925 ©
Estate of A.C. Barham-Gould; desc. Emily R. Brink, 1986, © Faith Alive Christian
Resources; CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory:

* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #720 v. 1-3

“How Shall the Young Direct Their Way”

1. How shall the young direct their way?
What light shall be their perfect guide?
Your word, O Lord, will safely lead
if in its wisdom they confide.
2. Sincerely I have sought you, Lord;
O let me not from you depart;
to know your will and keep from sin,
your word I cherish in my heart.
3. O blessed Lord, teach me your law,
your righteous judgments I declare;
your testimonies make me glad,
for they are wealth beyond compare.

Words: Psalm 119:9-16; Psalter, 1912, P.D.

*(Following this song children ages 3-3rd grade
are dismissed for Children and Worship)*

"Your testimonies make me glad,"

Scripture Reading: Exodus 19:1-6

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Introduction to the Ten Commandments
– A Love Message from God"***

Time of Prayer

Song of Reflection

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #327 v. 1-3

"When We Walk with the Lord"

1. When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his Word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

*Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus
but to trust and obey.*

2. But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows
and the joy he bestows
are for those who will trust and obey.

Refrain

3. Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go—
never fear, only trust and obey.

Refrain

*Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus
but to trust and obey.*

Words: John H. Sammis, 1887, P.D.; Music: Daniel B. Towner, 1887, P.D. CCLI #678905

"For they are wealth beyond compare."

* We Confess our Faith: Our World Belongs to God

Pastor: The Lord promised to be God
to Abraham, Sarah, and their children,
calling them to walk faithfully before him
and blessing the nations through them.
God chose Israel to show the glory of his name,
the power of his love, and the wisdom of his ways.

People: **The Lord gave them the law through Moses
and led them by rulers and teachers,
shaping a people in whom God is revealed—
a light to the nations.**

Pastor: When Israel spurned God's love—
lusting after other gods, trusting in power
and wealth, and hurting the weak—
God scattered them among the nations,
yet kept a faithful remnant
and promised them the Messiah:
a prophet to speak good news,
a king to crush evil and rule the earth with justice,
a priest to be sacrificed for sinners.

People: **God promised to forgive their sins
and give them a new heart and a new spirit,
moving them to walk in his ways.**

Pastor: Remembering the promise
to reconcile the world to himself,
God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—
the eternal Word made flesh.

**People: He is the long-awaited Messiah,
one with us and one with God,
fully human and fully divine,
conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
Being both divine and human,
Jesus is the only mediator.
He alone paid the debt of our sin;
there is no other Savior.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #659 v. 1-4 *"Nearer Still Nearer"*

1. Nearer, still nearer, close to thy heart,
draw me, my Savior, so precious thou art.
Fold me, O fold me close to thy breast;
shelter me safe in that haven of rest,
shelter me safe in that haven of rest.
2. Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,
naught as an offering to Jesus, my King—
only my sinful, now contrite heart;
grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart,
grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart.
3. Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be thine,
sin with its follies I gladly resign,
all of its pleasures, pomp and its pride;
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified,
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified.

Sing Acapella

4. Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last,
till safe in glory my anchor is cast;
through endless ages, ever to be
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee,
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee.

Words and Music: Lelia N. Morris (1862-1929), P.D.; CCLI# 678905

* Postlude

Welcome! The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). We welcome all who are present today and invite everyone to drink of Christ’s “living water,” which can quench our spiritual thirstiness forever. 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.

<i>Tech Team</i>	<i>Today 8/7</i>	<i>Next Week 8/14</i>
Sound:	Mardick S.	Tim H.
Projection:	Maddie D./Tim H.	Hannah VH
Video	Dick G.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

August 7, 2022

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Worship Service YouTube Link for July 31: N/A

Skagit County Fair: We have quite a few FREE tickets leftover for the fair. I hear the prices have gone up this year, as everything has, so if you want to go, let Beth know **by August 8** to get your tickets.



First CRC offers the option to give your offerings online, including setting up automatic and reoccurring donations. For information on this and other ways to give please check the "Give" page on the church's website: https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509.

Beth will be OUT OF THE OFFICE from the 10th – 16th. Sylvia Van Zanten will be filling in, so you may call or send email, prayer guides as normal to church.

thank
you

THANK YOU! *"Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits while I was at my daughter's home in Lynden recovering from my fall".*

– Agnes Bollema

I'm not going to say I'm desperately looking to add names to the Coffee and Greeters lists, but I'm getting there! If you aren't on those two lists and would like to be added, please let Beth know at the office by August 15. We have some members who are unable at this time to do either, and the more people on the list, the fewer times a year you will have to greet or make coffee!



Save the Date!!

Because of the pandemic we

have not yet celebrated the official retirement of **Clarence and Eleanor Klunder** as our faithful church custodians! Well now is the time! Put **Saturday, August 20, 5 pm** on your calendar for the big party!

Location: Klunder's House. More details to come.

You may RSVP to Tim Van Hofwegen at Timvanhof@hotmail.com or to Beth at the office.

CALENDAR:

Greeters: This morning – Next week – Mardick & Jill Stevens

Coffee Hosts: This morning – Joe LC, Katie J., Elly C.; Next week –

Worship Team: This Morning – Greg & Beth B., Mandi D., Franchesca K

Next Week – Eliot B., Heidi B., Kayla & Ella VH

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Deacons will meet Monday, August 8 at 7 pm, not on the 1st.

Men's Bible Study: Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 am at Shari's Restaurant

Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout this past year, your elders have been reading through a book entitled *“The Tender Commandments”* by Ron Mehl. I think it’s fair to say that one of the most misunderstood passages in all of Scripture is that of the Ten Commandments. Many people in our world today view these commandments as a restrictive list of ‘don’ts’ rather than a love message from God!

In the weeks to come we’re going to take a closer look at each of the commandments. Many of the illustrations I will be using will come directly from Mehl’s book. In addition, I’ll also make use of the Heidelberg Catechism which does an excellent job of summarizing the heart of each command. May God bless us as we make our way together through this important part of His Word!
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RECOMMENDED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

God’s in Control - Not Us - Check out the kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Before Joshua led the battle at Jericho, the Lord commanded him to be strong and courageous. God promised to be with him. This week, take time to remember all the great things God has done for you. Rest easy that there is no problem too great for our God. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: When Discipleship Growth Stalls - Sometimes the things we do and say are out of sync with the faith we profess to believe. Study Acts 10:34-48, Galatians 2:11-16, James 1:22-27, 1 John 1:8-10, and Philippians 3:12-14 with Groundwork to understand what God does for us in these situations and what we need to continue growing again as Christ’s disciples today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Practices Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Service: Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13 and ponder or discuss the following questions. What does serving the Lord “with all your heart and with all your soul” mean to you? How would you know if you were indeed serving God with all your heart and soul? What might be different about your daily life? What might be the same? How would you describe this type of wholehearted service to a child? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

Kentucky Flood Response: - World Renew Disaster Response Services is preparing to assist the survivors of flash flooding in Kentucky. There has been heavy damage to buildings and homes, and more than 37 people have died. Please pray for Kentuckians affected by this devastation and give generously to help families recover at worldrenew.net or call 800-552-7972 to give by credit card. You can also mail your check made out to World Renew, with “DRS-Kentucky Flooding 2022” in the memo line, to World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr SW, Byron Center, MI 49315-7400.



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUEST:

Aileen Meischke's bedsores have healed and she is no longer in pain. She is still fairly weak, but she will be getting physical therapy so that she can learn how to get into a wheelchair.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Kevin Wigboldy: Kevin's bone marrow transplant took place July 20 and experienced quite a bit of pain afterwards, but he has now begun to feel better and his white cell count has increased, which is very encouraging. Please continue to keep him in your prayers for less pain and rapid healing.

Rinie Rouw: Rinie is now home and in good spirits. He will have home help for the next 4-6 weeks. Rinie and Jill are thankful for all the many prayers and support!

Michael Hendricks: Michael is improving daily. He was able to see his children and converse with them and was looking forward to be moving out of the ICU! Please keep him in your prayers as he continues to heal.

Continue to pray for **Shirley Boonstra, Maxine Greidanus** and **Adelaida Vega** as they continue to fight their cancer.

SHUT INS: *Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp* at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; *Marcella DeVries* at Bethany Lutheran in Everett, *Marjean DeGroot* at Mountain View; *Mary Koopmans* at Where the Heart is in Burlington; *Hans & Aileen Meishke* at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, *Adrianna Swanson*, and *Clarence Vander Griend* at Home Place in Burlington; *Sally Reehoorn* at Creekside in Burlington; *Bev Van Slageren* at family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday August 1 - World Renew: Climate Witness Project

We recently received funding from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for a pilot project that will enable low-income congregations in Michigan to achieve energy efficiency and potentially be equipped for solar energy. We praise God for this opportunity for houses of worship in low-income areas!

Tuesday August 2 - Safe Church Ministry: Training

Last month eight leaders from across North America became trainers in restorative practices through FaithCARE (Shalem Mental Health Network). The goal for this group is to help equip others to embody restoration as Christ's church. Pray that we may continue to move forward in a restorative posture as a denomination.

Wednesday August 3 - Cadets: New season

The theme of our upcoming Cadet season, based on Joshua 3:5, is "Amazing!" We pray that this theme will remind cadets and counselors that God has done, is doing, and will do amazing things among us. May this reassurance uplift and encourage boys and men as they live for Jesus.

Thursday August 4 - CRC Communications: Inspire 2022

Today people will gather in Chicago from across North America and beyond to worship together, learn from speakers and workshop leaders, and find fellowship together at Inspire 2022. Pray that this three-day conference will bless all involved and that hearts will be refreshed for service and ministry.

Friday August 5 - ReFrame Ministries: Russian ministry

Lika, one of our Russian ministry partners, recently returned to her home country of Ukraine, where she is ministering to internally displaced Ukrainians and reaching out through media to others throughout the country. Pray for her safety and mental health as she proclaims the hope of the gospel in the midst of a war.

Saturday August 6 - Resonate Global Mission: Montreal

Pray for leaders who are part of the Urban Lab at Mission Montreal, a Resonate partner in Québec, as they study the Bible and discover how to join God on mission in their city. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in and through them.

Sunday August 7 - Worship Ministries: Renewal

Pray for worship leaders and pastors to enjoy a time of rest before the busyness of fall programming begins. We ask for renewal and for creative direction from the Holy Spirit. Please pray also for Worship Ministries as we seek to offer resources, connections, and support for all who plan worship.