

Next Week is Communion Sunday!



***God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts that call for our response...***

***In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers to
guarantee our share in his
death and resurrection,
and unite us to him and to each other.***

***We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that He shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.***

From: *Our World Belongs to God* (PH – pg. 1031)

***Come share the fellowship
of the forgiven!***

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

Pastor Michael Kooy

Sept. 18, 2022 Morning Service – 10:30 AM

* Please stand in body or in spirit

"Jesus loves me! This I know,"

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 95)

Leader: Come! Let us sing for joy to the Lord.

Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation.

**Congregation (Adults): Let us come before Him with thanksgiving
and extol Him with music and song.**

**Congregation (Students): The Lord is the great God.
He is the greatest king.**

Leader: In His hand are the depths of the earth
and the mountain peaks belong to Him.

Congregation (Students): The sea is His, for He made it.

**All: Come! Let us sing for joy to the Lord.
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!**

* Opening Songs of Praise:

1. LUYH #526 *"Come, Now is the Time to Worship"*

Come, now is the time to worship;

come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come just as you are to worship;

Come just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God.

One day every knee will bow,

still the greatest treasure remains for those

who gladly choose you now. Come. Come.

*Words and Music (NOW IS THE TIME): Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs, admin.
in North America by Music Services, Inc.; arr. Diane Dykgraaf © 2012 Vineyard Songs
(UK/EIRE), admin. in North America by Music Services, Inc.; CCLI #678905*

2. LUYH #709 “Jesus Loves Me”

1. Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me—he who died
heaven’s gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.

Refrain

3. Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, “Let them come to me.”

Refrain

Words: st. 1-2 Anna B. Warner, 1859, st. 3 David R. McGuire, 1971, P.D.; Music:
William B. Bradbury, 1861, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God’s Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

“For the Bible tells me so.”

Sunday School Commissioning Litany

Church Education Leader: Our faith is nurtured in community
as we learn and worship together.

Today we celebrate a new church school season
as children, youth, and adults begin attending
Sunday school, small groups, and midweek activities.
We ask God to prepare our hearts to study the Bible
and the creeds and confessions of the church.
We commission our teachers and leaders
for their ministry.

We invite God's Spirit to lead us forward
on this journey of faith— transforming each of us
into the likeness of Christ.

Sung Response: SNC #80 v. 1-2 *"Open Our Eyes, Lord"*

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.

" *Open Our Eyes, Lord*" Text and Music: Bob Cull (b. 1949); arr. David Allen (B. 1941)
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Church Education Leader: As we begin this new season
of learning, we turn our hearts to you, Lord.

**People: Lead us to explore the depths of your love,
To stand in awe of your wonders, to delight in your promises,
To experience your forgiveness, to grow in love
for one another, to discover our gifts and to serve you
faithfully.**

Child leader 1: Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.

**People: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter
of our faith. (Heb. 12:2a)**

Child leader 2: We want to reach out and touch him,
and say that we love him.

**People: In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.
(1 John 5:3a)**

Child leader 1: Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.

**People: For Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice;
I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life,
and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them
out of my hand." (John 10:27-28)**

Child leader 2: Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.

**People: No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.
(Isa. 64:4, NIRV)**

Church Education Leader: Lead us this year to grow
in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)
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Reformed Church. Used by permission.

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #262 v. 1-3
"I Love to Tell the Story"

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

2. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

Words: A. Catherine Hankey, 1866, P.D.; Music: William G. Fisher, 1869, P.D.;

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*(Following the conclusion of the offertory children ages 3-3rd grade
are dismissed for Children and Worship)*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #762 v. 1-2 *"Ancient Words"*

1. Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope,
give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam
ancient words will guide us home.
2. Holy words of our faith
handed down to this age
came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart.
O let the ancient words impart.

Refrain

Ancient words, ever true,
changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.

Words: Lynn DeShazo © 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, (ASCAP), admin.
EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

"Little ones to him belong;"

Scripture Readings: I Samuel 3:1-10

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Learning to Listen"***

*Summary: God speaks to us, but we need to open our hearts
and ears to hear what God is saying to us.*

Hearing God may not always be what we expect.

However, God calls us to surround ourselves

with a good cloud of witnesses

who can help us turn to Christ and listen.

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH # 753 v. 1-3 "Listen, God is Calling"

Refrain

Leader: Listen

**All: Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.
Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.**

Leader: Jesus gave his mandate:

All: share the good news

Leader: that he came to save us;

All: he set us free.

Refrain

Leader: Listen

**All: Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.
Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.**

Leader: Let none be forgotten

All: throughout the world.

Leader: Go to every nation,

All: go and baptize.

Refrain

Leader: Listen

**All: Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.
Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.**

Leader: Help us to be faithful,
All: standing steadfast,
Leader: walking in your footsteps,
All: led by your Word.

Refrain

Leader: Listen

All: Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.
Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.

Words: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson (1922 - 2010) © 1979 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania; Music Tanzanian traditional; arr. C. Michael Hawn (b. 1948) ©2001 C. Michael Hawn

*Words: German, 15th c.; st. 1-2 tr. Theodore Baker, 1894; st. 3 tr. Gracia Grindal, 1978, © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; st. 4 John C. Mattes (1876-1948); Music: from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609, P.D., All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-711218*

“They are weak, but he is strong.”

* We Confess our Faith: LUYH #263 – Joining the Mission of God

Leader: Joining the mission of God, the church is sent with the gospel of the kingdom

People: to call everyone to know and follow Christ and to proclaim to all the assurance that in the name of Jesus there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all who repent and believe.

Leader: The Spirit calls all members to embrace God’s mission in their neighborhoods and in the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner.

People: We repent of leaving this work to a few, for this mission is central to our being.

Leader: In a world estranged from God, where happiness and peace are offered in many names and millions face confusing choices,

**People: we witness—
with respect for followers of other ways—
to the only one in whose name salvation is found: Jesus Christ.
In Jesus, God reconciles the world to himself.
God loves all creation; his compassion knows no bounds.**

Text: from st. 41-42, Our World Belongs to God

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D. CCLI #678905

* Postlude

Welcome! This is the day that the Lord has made. Worship is our opportunity to be glad and rejoice in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We come as the children of God, knowing that we are welcomed here where all are meant to be one in the Lord. Let us lay down our burdens and rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is good, the Source of love. 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.

Tech Team	Today 9/18	Next week 9/25
Sound:	Mardick S.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Tim H.	Tim H./Maddie D.
Video	Tim H.	Tm H./France K.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC
Bulletin Announcements
September 18, 2022

Today we have the privilege of welcoming our former **Pastor Michael Kooy** here to lead us in worship. May God bless him as he proclaims God's Word to us!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Adult Education Class: Sunday School for our children begins this coming Sunday (Sept. 18) and there will also be an opportunity for parents and other adults. This year's adult class will be led by Mr. Bob De Groot and Mr. Kevin Kok on the topic of **apologetics**. How do we as Christians respond to some of the hard questions and objections to our faith? Questions such as - Why is Jesus the only way? How can a good God allow evil to exist? Do faith and reason conflict? Participants are encouraged to bring their own questions and personal wrestling questions through the years. One of the best ways to model faith to the next generation is to be committed life-long learners ourselves. ... Class begins at **9:30 AM in room 10** of the education wing. We hope to see you there!

GEMS GIRLS CLUB KICKOFF AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL: If you are a girl in 2nd through eighth grade you are invited to an evening of fun and information this WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 6:30 PM in the church annex. Join us as we complete registration, learn about our exciting new theme, "FRIENDED", meet new friends and enjoy ice cream sundaes. Bring Mom or another grownup... and a friend. Who is God nudging you to invite to GEMS? Contact Marjo Rouw, 360-428-5693 if you have questions. SEE YOU THERE!

ATTENTION SINGERS: **September 25** will be our first choir practice! We meet in the front pews of church on the piano side! Timing is a bit flexible so enjoy visiting over a cup of coffee after the service in the social hall, then come on over! Contact Joni Beezhold (425-248-0287) . if you have any questions! "Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1



Women's Bible study – The books are here! They will be available for pick up today in your mailbox. Thank you, ladies, for your enthusiasm for a Bible Study. We have extra books so please sign up this Sunday, pick up a book, and come join us.



The Bible Study will be held in the church starting Sunday September 25th at 6:30 PM. It is not necessary to study ahead of time. We will watch the first video and discuss the video. You may self-study the book before the following meeting in October. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. To sign up please contact Jill Rouw at (360-333-2600) or e-mail mjrouw@comcast.net or call the church office. We would love to have you join us!

Worship Service Volunteer Schedule: In the coming weeks a new six-month (November 2022 - April 2023) Sunday worship service volunteer schedule will be made. This schedule includes each week's musicians, vocalists, scripture reader, and technology team (sound, projection, and video). Unless we hear differently, we assume that those who are currently serving will continue to do so. In addition, we would love to add new people to this list! If you have an interest in serving in any one of these areas (FYI - we love young people up front or in the tech booth!) - **please let the church office know no later than Monday, October 3.** The schedule itself will be completed and in your church mailbox no later than Sunday, October 23.

Welcome Baby Basket: Luke and Bailey Visser are expecting a baby boy in just a few weeks! There is a basket in the annex ready to be filled with gifts for him. Join in on the fun of welcoming and celebrating the newest addition to our church family!



Beth is out of the office till September 20. If you have Bulletin Announcements or Prayer Guide items, please call or email Sylvia at the church office. Thank you!

Additional Staff Position: Last Sunday (Sept. 11) you received a letter from the church council updating you on the second staff position. The council values your input and feedback and looks forward to receiving

it. An electronic version of this communication can be accessed via the following link: <https://firstcrcmv.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2nd-Staff-Communication-to-Congregation-09-07-22.pdf>

Worship Service YouTube Links:

September 11: <https://youtu.be/WD4stTspr14>

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

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"*
5. Sept. 11 AM – *"Celebrating the Sabbath"*
6. Sept. 25 AM – *"Honoring Those in Authority Over Us"*
7. Oct. 2 AM – *"Loving Our Neighbor"*
8. Oct. 9 AM – *"Fencing Our Marriage"*
9. Oct. 16 AM – *"What About Stealing?"*
10. Oct. 23 AM – *"Taming Our Tongues"*
11. Oct. 30 AM – *"True Contentment"*

CALENDAR:

Greeters: Today: Randy & Peggy Burr
Next Week Jeannette Folkertsma, Elly Cuperus
Coffee Hosts: Today: Mardick & Jill Stevens
Next Week: John & Judy Velasquez

Upcoming Dates to Notes:

Wednesday - September 21 at 6:30 p.m.

GEMS Ice Cream Social/Registration Night

Sunday - September 25

Choir Rehearsal following the morning service

Sunday – September 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study

Tuesday – September 27 at 7:00 a.m.

Men’s Bible Study at Shari’s Restaurant

RECOMMENDED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The 3.4 mile **SKAGIT CROP HUNGER WALK** is **TODAY** at 2:00 p.m. beginning and ending at the Mount Vernon Christian School off Blackburn Road in Mount Vernon. It’s not too late to sign up since you can register at the beginning of the race. If you think,

“Oh, I have not raised any money”—that is ok. You make a statement just with your feet! Dogs and strollers are welcome! Ending hunger means responding with compassion and long-term sustainable approaches. Seventy-Five of the funds raised go to the poorest 25 countries, and 25% goes to our local food banks and Friendship House. Our first goal is to raise funds and our second goal is for the church of Jesus to have a positive witness in this community. To join the walk, visit crophungerwalk.org and search for Skagit and register there. OR JUST SHOW UP! Find your church team. If you don’t see your church team, go ahead and make one. Find us also on Facebook: Skagit Crop Hunger



Liberty Gospel Quartet will be in concert at Faith Community Church, 586 Birch Bay - Lynden Rd, Lynden, WA. 98264, on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 6:00pm (doors open 5:00pm) Free Admission/Freewill Offering. Come early for some great gospel singing with Sunrise Gospel Quartet. Refreshments following the concert. Bring the most first-time guests and receive a free CD. For more info call Mary Ann at 360-224-4815. Hope to see you there!

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

The Tongue is Like a Spark - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When James says, "The tongue is like a spark," he's comparing our words to fire. Just like how a tiny spark can start a cozy campfire or a devastating forest fire, your words can help or hurt those around you. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: Jesus Teaches about Money, Worry, and Judging

People - Jesus continues to teach us what it means to live as his redeemed followers. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 6:19-7:5 to learn what it mean to have a kingdom perspective on our money and how this kingdom perspective influences how we think about our security and about other people. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip

- At-home Faith Formation Tip: In the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* (IVP 2016), Tish Warren writes, "We learn the craft of holiness day by day in the living of a particular life . . . we are part of God's big vision and mission—the redemption of all things—through the earthy craft of living out our vocation, hour by hour, task by task. I want to do the big work of the kingdom, but I have to learn to live it out in the small tasks before me." How might this insight change your perspective on the small tasks of your daily life? (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Israel & Jordan Study Tour (March 30 - April 11, 2023)

- Travel to New Testament sites connected with Jesus' life and the early church: Bethlehem, Nazareth, Caesarea, Capernaum, Bethsaida, Sea of Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, the major biblical places in Jerusalem, Masada, and much more. This tour also uniquely involves key biblical sites in Jordan, including the amazing city of Petra. Contact Dr. Jeff Weima at wemje@calvinseminary.edu or 616-328-3110.

Mission Emphasis Week (for churches NOT taking an offering for

Resonate) - Resonate Global Mission is committed to walking alongside you and your church as you follow God on mission in your own community and discover God at work around the globe. Find out

how your support makes a difference, or look for opportunities to get involved at www.resonateglobalmission.org

September 2022 Safe Church Webinar: Step 4 - Practice Being Restorative - Join us live on September 21, 2022, at 12 pm (EDT) for our 4th webinar in our Safe Church Basics Series: Practice Being Restorative. In restorative congregations, all in the church interact with empathy and respect, listening with one another as they go forward as the body of Christ even amidst conflict. To register for this event: <https://bit.ly/SCwebinarSeptember22>



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

NEW REQUESTS:

Randy Burr has returned home and is slowly recovering and gaining strength. Continue to pray for him and the family and that God will give him complete recovery in the days ahead.

A prayer of thanksgiving that **Grace Feddema** is recovering well from the TIA episodes that she recently experienced. She is getting stronger and the symptoms from the episodes are lessening every day. We give thanks to God for his healing hand!

We express our sympathy to **Henry & Pam Van Zanten & Family** in the passing away of Pam's Uncle Jerry this past Friday. May they feel God's presence beside them in the days ahead.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please continue to pray for **Kevin Wigboldy** as he recovers from his stem cell transplant.

Please continue to pray for **Michael Hendricks**. He is home with his wife and three children. Please pray that God will continue with the healing by way of the therapies. The biggest concern right now is his vision.

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 Glen in Mount Vernon; *Mary Koopmans* at Where the Heart is in Burlington; *Hans & Aileen Meischke* 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)

ThereforeGo Ministries: SERVE 2023 - As the new ministry year begins, we look forward to SERVE 2023 and collaborating with our host sites. We covet your prayers as we ask churches to prayerfully consider if SERVE will be a right fit for them next summer. May the Lord give wisdom and discernment!

World Renew: Tanzania - We praise God for his guidance in the process to hire a new country director in Tanzania. In May we welcomed Frederick Urembo to the team. Please pray for him as he adjusts to his new position, asking that he and World Renew may be a blessing to each other. Praise God for his faithfulness!

ReFrame: Brazil - Elaine listens to our Portuguese ministry programs in Brazil. She recently shared, "My baby, Nicolas, was hospitalized since he was born last May with severe heart disease, and yesterday he passed away. Dear pastor, your preaching and the Word of God have sustained us. Please pray for us."

Resonate: Toronto - Campus ministers of the LOGOS Christian Community at York University, Toronto, share that because of pandemic restrictions they haven't been able to be present very often on campus. This year they hope to be able to meet more with students in person. Please pray for them as they connect with students and build relationships.

Educational Care: Funding - Educational Care has new partnership opportunities that will require us to hire a part-time program manager. We ask God to supply \$10,000 so that we can begin the recruiting process.

Disability Concerns: Serving well - This past year has been incredibly challenging for many of us with physical and mental-health challenges. There are many gaps in services, and isolation can be devastating. As schools and churches start to reopen, we pray for wisdom to see that our most vulnerable are considered and cared for as communities navigate this unusual time.

Resonate: Mission Emphasis Week - God's heart for the world and all its people is greater than we can imagine. As Mission Emphasis Week comes to a close, please pray for a reenergized vision and passion for mission. Pray for our congregations, missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers as we work together to share Christ's love throughout the world and in our neighborhoods.