

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

***Pastor Brad Diekema***

***April 14, 2024 ◆ 10:30 A.M. Worship Service***

\* Please stand in body or in spirit.

*"You're the way, the truth and the life"*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introduction of a new member to our church family - Karen Jones

\* Call to Worship:

"Almighty God, Creator of all things from the vastness of space  
to the tiniest amoeba, from the mighty mountains  
to the fragile wing of the dragonfly,

All knowing, all seeing, all loving,

It is so amazing to know that you care about each one of us  
And that it makes you so happy to see us gathered here today,  
From the older generation with their wealth of wisdom  
and experience to the youngest infant with their giggles  
and wide-eyed eagerness, each one with something to share,  
something to contribute, something to learn.

May you take pleasure in our praise and our prayers,

May you speak to us through our songs and our learning,

May you inspire us through your word and bring us closer  
to you through our worship.

\* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #551 vs 1-4

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

1. All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou, burning sun with golden beam

Thou, Silver moon with softer gleam

O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Let all things their Creator bless  
 And worship him in humbleness  
 O praise Him! Alleluia!  
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
 O praise Him! O praise Him!  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
  
3. All the Redeemed washed by His blood  
 Come and rejoice in His great love  
 O praise Him! Alleluia!  
 Christ has defeated every sin  
 Cast all your burdens now on Him  
 O praise Him! O praise Him!  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
  
4. He shall return in pow'r to reign  
 Heaven and earth will join to say  
 O praise Him! Alleluia!  
 Then who shall fall on bended knee?  
 All creatures of our God and King  
 O praise Him! O praise Him!  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

\* Song of Praise: LUYH #574 v. 1-2

*"How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art"*

1. The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;  
 let all the earth rejoice, let all the earth rejoice.  
 He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
 and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

*Refrain*

*How great is our God!  
 Sing with me: how great is our God!  
 And all will see how great,  
 how great is our God!*

2. From age to age he stands, and time is in his hands;  
 beginning and the end, beginning and the end.  
 The godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,  
 the lion and the lamb, the lion and the lamb.

*Refrain:*

*How great is our God!  
Sing with me: how great is our God!  
And all will see how great,  
how great is our God!*

*Bridge (2X)*

Name above all names, worthy of all praise;  
my heart will sing, how great is our God!

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!

***Refrain (Acapella)***

Words and Music: Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash © 2004  
worshiptogether.com songs/SixSteps Music (ASCAP), admin. EMI CMG Publishing/  
Alletrop Music (BMI); CCLI# 678905

*“You’re the well that never runs dry”*

**\*Sung Call to Confession: “Abide”**

1. For my waking breath, for my daily bread  
I depend on You, I depend on You.  
For the sun to rise, for my sleep at night,  
I depend on You, I depend on You.

*Chorus:*

*You’re the way, the truth and the life,  
You’re the well that never runs dry.  
I’m the branch and You are the vine.  
Draw me close and teach me to abide.*

2. Where the Spirit leads, as I’m following  
I depend on You, I depend on You.  
For the victories still in front of me  
I depend on You, I depend on You.

*Chorus*

Bridge:

Be my strength, my song in the night.  
Be my all, my treasure, my prize.  
I am Yours, forever You're mine.  
Draw me close and teach me to abide.

3. When I pass through death, as I enter rest,  
I depend on You, I depend on You.  
For eternal life, to be raised with Christ,  
I depend on You, I depend on You.

*Chorus*

Bridge

Would you teach me, would You teach me to abide  
I depend on You, I depend on You (2x)

Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of God's Pardon

Therefore we rightly say with Paul that  
we know nothing "except Jesus Christ and him crucified";<sup>51</sup>  
we "regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value  
of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord."<sup>52</sup>  
We find all comforts in his wounds  
and have no need to seek or invent any other means  
to reconcile ourselves with God  
than this one and only sacrifice, once made,  
which renders believers perfect forever.

Section of Belgic Confession Article 21

\* Song of Assurance: *"This My Only Comfort"*

1. This, my only comfort in my life and in my death:  
You have fully paid for all my sins and all my debts  
even when I struggle to believe:  
with your precious blood you've set me free.

*Chorus*

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,  
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

2. You preserve my life in such a way that without you  
not a hair can fall from me unless you will it to  
even when I'm lost in desperation  
all things work together for my salvation.

*Chorus*

*I am not my own but belong body and soul,  
in my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord.*

Heidelberg Catechism

Q 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,<sup>1</sup> but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—<sup>2</sup> to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup> He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,<sup>4</sup> and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.<sup>5</sup> He also watches over me in such a way<sup>6</sup> that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;<sup>7</sup> in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.<sup>8</sup>

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life<sup>9</sup> and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:19-20; <sup>2</sup> Rom. 14:7-9; <sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14; <sup>4</sup> 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2; <sup>5</sup> John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11; <sup>6</sup> John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5; <sup>7</sup> Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18; <sup>8</sup> Rom. 8:28; <sup>9</sup> Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; <sup>10</sup> Rom. 8:1-17

3. Therefore by your Holy Spirit you assure me of eternal life and make me willing and ready even when I can't see my way through from now on to always live for you.

*Chorus (2x)*

Music and Lyrics by Jeremy Zeyl & Brian VanArnhem © Jasper Music.  
Text adapted from Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1; CCLI #678905

*(Following the last verse the children ages 3- 3rd grade  
are dismissed for Children's Worship)*

Offering/Offertory: General Fund

\* Song of Preparation: "Goodness of God"

1. I love You Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days I've been held in your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God.

*Chorus:*

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God.

2. I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father  
I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God.

*Chorus:*

*Bridge:*

Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down I'm surrendered  
Now I give you everything  
Your goodness is running after me  
It's running after me

*Chorus: (2x)*

CCLI Song #7117727 ©2018 Capitol CMG Paragon/SHOUT! Music Publishing  
Australia/Fellow Ships Music/So Essential Tunes/Bethel Music Publishing. For  
use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
CCLI #678905

*"I'm the branch and You are the vine"*

Scripture Reading: 1 John 5:13-21

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "Certainties from Walking in the Light "

Time of Prayer

*"Draw me close and teach me to abide"*

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #770 vs 1-3 "In Christ Alone"

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this cornerstone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My comforter, my all in all,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;  
here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain;  
then, bursting forth in glorious day,  
up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
for I am His and He is mine,  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #770 "In Christ Alone" vs 4

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,  
can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'til He returns or calls me home,  
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

"In Christ Alone" Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend,  
Copyright © 2002 Thankyou Music; All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
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.

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>Today: April 14</b>	<b>Next Week: April 21</b>
Sound:	Mardy S.	Tim H.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Beth B.
Video:	Brandon S.	Caleb L.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund/ GEMS



# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**April 14, 2024**

***The deadline for announcements is Thursday, 9:00 A.M.***

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

**Choir is taking a break.** Our next practice will be after the service on April 21.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Our next study is tonight, April 21st, 6:30pm!

**NEXT SUNDAY IS GEMS SUNDAY.** We are looking forward to sharing with you what we have been doing this past season and how God has blessed us. There will be a special offering to support the GEMS program. We thank you in advance for your support, prayers and interest in this vital ministry.

Dear Friends,

Along with the Ten Commandments, the Twenty-third Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and a few other passages of Scripture – the Beatitudes of Jesus are some of the more familiar words of Scripture. Together we can affirm them, meditate upon them, and maybe even engrave them on plaques to hang on our walls. Yet, the main question is this: How are we to *live* in response to them?

This is the question that we hope to keep in front of us as we study them together throughout the months ahead. May God bless us as we do so!

In His Grace, Pastor John and Pastor Brad

May 5 – “Intro to the Beatitudes” (Matt. 5:1-12)

May 12 – “Blessed are Those Who Mourn” (Matt. 5:4)

May 19 – “Blessed are the Poor in Spirit” (Matt. 5:3)

May 26 – “Blessed are the Meek” (Matt. 5:5)

June 2 – “Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness” (Matt. 5:6)

June 9 – “Blessed are the Merciful” (Matt. 5:7)

June 16 - "Blessed are the Pure in Heart" (Matt. 5:8)

June 23 – “Blessed are the Peacemakers” (Matt. 5:9)

June 30 – “Blessed are Those who are Persecuted” (Matt. 5:10-12)

First CRC offers the option to give *your offerings online, 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](https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509)*

**Join C.A.R.E. Medical Center** (formerly Pregnancy Choices) for our Baby Bottle Campaign, running from Mother's Day to Father's Day!

C.A.R.E. Medical is a ministry that serves women and their partners in their medical and personal needs here in the Skagit Valley. Their medical clinic provides free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and STI testing. Through the Thriving Hearts Program, they personally and directly partner with underprivileged women through one-on-one mentoring relationships with mature women of God. Thriving Heart also provides resources to these women, such as baby clothes, maternity clothes, formula, and home goods. By participating in this Baby Bottle fundraiser, you can support the work of Thriving Heart in directly providing for the needs of these women and their children. We invite you to be a part of this invaluable ministry! Simply pick up a bottle in the foyer, fill it with change, bills, or checks, and return it to the church by Father's Day. Thank you for supporting our community's moms, dads, babies, and children!

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

April 7, 2024: <https://youtu.be/zwmbSsvRFbs>

**CALENDAR**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:**

April 14: Adam & Katie F., Greg & Beth B.

Next week, April 21: Fred F., Wiebe & Johnna VDH

**Worship Team:**

April 14: Sheri L., Mandi D., Kiera L., Nellie VDH

Next Week, April 21: Men’s Group

**Nursery:**

April 14: Mandi D., Tessa S.

Next Week, April 21: Glenda K., Emily VH

### **Children in Worship:**

April 14: Heidi B., Tess VDH

Next Week, April 21: Heather VH, Landon LH

**Womens Bible Study:** April 21, May 5, 19 and June 2.

### **This Week:**

**Weds., April 17, 6:30-8:30pm: GEMS**

### **Upcoming Events:**

**GEMS Sunday:** April 21

### **ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT**

Seize the opportunity for **early bird registration** by April 30th for Mid-America Reformed Seminary's 2024 **Center for Missions and Evangelism Conference!** Mark your calendars for October 11-12 and join us at Bethel Church in Lansing, IL, to be inspired by plenary speakers sharing insights on reaching our local communities and the nations with the gospel message. Discover more details at [midamerica.edu/cme/conference](http://midamerica.edu/cme/conference).

Please join Mid-America Reformed Seminary either in-person or via live stream on our YouTube channel as it celebrates its **39th Commencement** exercises on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**, at Redeemer United Reformed Church in St. John, IN. We will be graduating six candidates for the Master of Divinity degree. Refreshments will follow.

Mill Creek Community Church is hosting Poverty 101 on Saturday, April 27 from 9 AM-3 PM. This is an engaging seminar led by the CEO of Everett Gospel Mission that will help our community better understand the unique challenges of long-term poverty. It is designed to provide tools that will help each of us find the best way to engage with the people God puts in our path. The event is free. Lunch is provided. Space is limited to 60 participants.

You can register here <https://egmission.org/poverty-101/> .

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Practicing celebration early in the day can help adjust our mindset and focus us on God's goodness. Consider beginning each morning by praying a Scripture passage of celebration, such as Psalm 103:1-5. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

**Kids Corner: Imagine When...** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). How do you like to use your imagination? Maybe you imagine the characters in a book you're reading. Perhaps you can imagine a treehouse you want to design. Though your imagination is something only you can see, it can also help you shape your ideas. New inventions, solutions, and creations can all stem from your imagination! Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like The Spring Scavenger Hunt, and go for a hike!

**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](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**Support The Banner!** - By supporting The Banner, the monthly magazine of the Christian Reformed Church, you extend the reach and expand the impact of this journalistic ministry. To help keep this community conversation going please give online now at [TheBanner.org/Give](http://TheBanner.org/Give)



How can  
we  
**PRAY**  
for you?

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

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

Many of you will remember **Derick and Arnola Roos** and their four children who were a big part of our church and MVC community when they lived in Mount Vernon. Arnola was recently diagnosed with ALS or better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. This disease has a very grim prognosis. They are leaning on the everlasting arms of Jesus, taking one day at a time. Please keep them in your prayers as they walk this difficult journey.

Please pray for **Hank Vander Veen**, who is recovering from the hip surgery at Mira Vista that he underwent recently. Pray that he will gain strength and healing through physical therapy.

Continue to remember the families who have recently lost loved ones. May God be close to each one of them as they mourn their loss.

Please continue to pray for **Juli Oostra's** platelet levels!

**SHUT INS:** **Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp** at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; **Shirley Boonstra** at Country Meadow Village in Sedro-Woolley, **Marjean DeGroot** at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; **Martha Haarsma** at home in Mount Vernon, **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart is in Burlington; **Hans Meischke** at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, **Adrianna Swanson**, and **Clarence Vander Griend** at Home Place in Burlington; **Hank VanderVeen** at Mira Vista in Mount Vernon; **Sally Reehoorn** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** with family in Grandview, WA.

**OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)**

**Monday April 8 - Thrive: Gather: Minneapolis**

Pray for organizers as they prepare for the inaugural Gather event taking place in Minnesota later this month (Apr. 19-21). In this first of ten planned events, five Christian Reformed classes are coming together to bear witness to God's work in their local contexts and to discern where God may be leading them into renewed ministry and mission.

**Tuesday April 9 - Resonate: Alberta**

"Several students are asking a lot of questions about church and Christianity. I invite them to services and other ministry events, but so far they have not attended. . . . I'm praying the Holy Spirit will break through their hesitancy and resistance and move them forward in their spiritual journeys," shared George Koopmans, a Resonate partner campus minister at Medicine Hat College.

**Wednesday April 10 - World Renew: Gaza**

In grief-filled prayer we stand alongside people in the Gaza region experiencing unfathomable suffering. We pray that all may "seek peace and pursue it" (Ps. 34:14). May God's peace reign to help us be instruments of his peace, seeing all people as his imagebearers, worthy of love.

**Thursday April 11 - Indigenous Christian Fellowship: Programming**

Due to staff transitions and COVID restrictions, our Home Fires Family Youth activities remain significantly limited. Ask the Creator's Spirit to bless staff and volunteers with insight, passion, creativity, and love as they develop and deliver culturally appropriate programs to inner-city Indigenous families.

**Friday April 12 - Resonate: Lithuania**

"Please continue to pray for peace in all of the regions our students come from, asking that they will become peacemakers," say Resonate missionaries Tricia and Benjamin Groenewold Van Dyk serving at LCC International University. LCC welcomes students from Ukraine and many other countries experiencing war and conflict right now.

**Saturday April 13 - *ReFrame: India***

ReFrame's Hindi ministry leader in northern India asks you to pray for Christians in Bihar. "Recently some incidents resulted in violence against Christian pastors," he shared. "There is an increase in the violent interruption of Sunday worship."

**Sunday April 14 - *Thrive: Abuse Awareness Sunday***

"In every anxious thought we have, in all our current chaos and uncertainty, in every war that is raging in and around us . . . In all the . . . conflict we experience with one another . . . In every active struggle against injustice, in every hurt that yearns for healing: may the peace of Christ rest upon us and be our comfort today" (Haley Montgomery).