

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***Pastor Brad Diekema***  
***April 6, 2025***

**\* Please stand in body or in spirit**

Prelude

*"All to Jesus I surrender; All to Him I Freely Give"*

Welcome

**\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #537 "Open the Eyes of My Heart"**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;  
open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see you, I want to see you.  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;  
open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up,  
shining in the light of your glory.  
Pour out your power and love,  
as we sing holy, holy, holy.  
Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.  
Holy, holy, holy. I want to see you.

Words and Music (EYES OF MY HEART): Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna!  
Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com CCLI #678905

**\* Call to Worship:**

Leader: The Lord Jesus who calls us to worship him today  
is the same Jesus who refused the temptation  
to worship the evil one.  
Rather than receive the glorious kingdoms  
of this world, he endured the shame of the cross,  
and today is Lord of lords and King of kings.  
Now are gathered in him all the treasures  
of wisdom and knowledge, glory, and power.  
With the saints of all ages we say,

**People: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom  
and strength and honor and glory and praise!”**  
—based on Colossians 2:3; Revelation 5:12

\* Hymn of Praise: Revelation Song

1. Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain  
Holy, holy is He  
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on  
Heaven’s mercy seat.

Repeat verse 1

*Chorus*

*Holy, holy, holy  
Is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
With all creation I sing  
Praise to the King of kings  
You are my ev’rything  
And I will adore You.*

2. Clothed in rainbows of living color  
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder  
Blessing of honor, strength and glory  
And power be to You the only wise King

*Chorus*

3. Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder  
At the mention of Your name  
Jesus Your name is power, breath and living water  
Such marv’lous mystery yeah

*Chorus*

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\* Opening Prayer

\* Song of Response: LUYH #770 "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.
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!

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*"All to Jesus I Surrender,  
Make Me Savior Wholly Thine"*

\* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

Announcements

**Invitation to Transformed Living**

Call to Confession

When we gather to praise God,  
we remember that we are people  
who have preferred our wills to his.  
Accepting his power to become new persons in Christ,  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance

\* Song of Response: LUYH #177 "Oh, to See the Dawn"

1. Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
nailed to a cross of wood.  
This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
we stand forgiven at the cross.
2. Oh, to see the pain written on Your face  
bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Every bitter thought, every evil deed  
crowning Your blood stained brow.  
This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
we stand forgiven at the cross.
3. Now the daylight flees,  
now the ground beneath  
quakes as its Maker bows his head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,  
finished the vict'ry cry.  
This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
we stand forgiven at the cross.

4. Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
for through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,  
won through Your selfless love.  
This the power of the cross:  
Son of God slain for us.  
What a name, what a cost,  
we stand forgiven at the cross.

*"The Power of the Cross" Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend,  
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Offering: General Fund

Offertory

Children's Message—Mrs. Marjo Rouw

(Following the Children's message children ages 3-3rd grade  
are excused for Children and Worship)

\* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #762 "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.

*Refrain*

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

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*

Words: Lynn DeShazo © 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, (ASCAP), admin.  
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*"I Will Ever Love and Trust Him  
in His Presence Daily Live"*

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:11-27

Prayer of Illumination

Message: The Parable of the Ten Minas

Time of Prayer

*"All to Jesus I Surrender,  
Lord I Give Myself to Thee"*

\* Song of Application: LUYH #739 "I Surrender All"

1. All to Jesus I surrender,  
all to him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust him,  
in his presence daily live.

*Refrain*

*I surrender all, I surrender all;  
all to thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.*

2. All to Jesus I surrender,  
make me, Savior, wholly thine;  
let me feel thy Holy Spirit, truly know  
that thou art mine.

*Refrain*

- 3 All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord, I give myself to thee;  
fill me with thy love and power,  
let thy blessing fall on me.

*Refrain*

Words: Judson W. VanDeVenter, P.D. 678905

\* Proclaim Our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 1

Pastor Brad: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**People: My only comfort in life and in death  
Is that I am not my own, but belong—  
body and soul, in life and in death—  
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.  
He has fully paid for all my sins  
with his precious blood, and has set me free  
from the tyranny of the devil.  
He also watches over me in such a way  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven:  
in fact, all things must work together  
for my salvation.  
Because I belong to him,  
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,  
assures me of eternal life and makes me  
wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on  
to live for him.**

\* 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*

Prelude

**Welcome!** Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation, poured out for us in Jesus Christ. Welcome, one and all! 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	This Morning April 6	Next Sunday April 13
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Tim H.	Isaac D.
Video:	France B.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC

## Bulletin Announcements

### *April 6, 2025*

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

#### **This Week's Deep Q's with PB & J:**

What spiritual gifts has God blessed you with? As a part of your church, how do you use these gifts to share God's love?

#### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

**Sunday School** will **not** meet on April 6. We will resume on April 13 at 9:30 a.m.

**Choir** will practice on April 6 after the morning service.

There are still slots open for volunteers to drive **Shirley Boonstra** to and from church. Check out the sign-up sheet today!

Our next **Potluck** will be held next Sunday, April 13 after the morning service. Please bring a hot dish and salad or dessert.

Our **Good Friday Service** will be held at First CRC on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. Faith Community Fellowship will join us in worship that evening. We will also celebrate communion together. There will be reader parts for the service. Please call the office at 336-2405 if you are interested in reading a part.

Would you like to purchase an **Easter Lily or Bible** in memory of a loved one? They will be placed at the front of the church on Easter Sunday and your loved one's name will be listed in the bulletin. If you would like to order, please call or leave a message for Beth at the church office (336-2405) by Wednesday, April 16. Donations are \$11 for a lily and \$5 for a Bible. The lilies may be taken home after the Easter service.

**A LIVING GIFT:** Have you noticed the new red maple sapling in the front lawn of our church? It was planted by John Vander Meulen and is a gift from his son, Jansen, and daughter-in-law, Eleanor. Jansen is a grandson of our former members, Dick and Mary Jo Reitsma, and is a lover of trees and plants. He attended Mount Vernon Christian School as a child and often enjoyed the shade of the beautiful old birch tree that for decades stood near the spot of the new sapling. His hope is that the new tree will also provide beauty and shade for many years to come! Jansen, Eleanor, and their infant son, Peter, live in Washington, D.C., where Jansen and Eleanor practice as lawyers and are members of Wallace Presbyterian Church. We gratefully accept their living gift and say a heartfelt thank you!

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

The word *'parable'* literally means *"brought alongside."* In the Bible, parables are short stories about familiar subjects that are used to illustrate a spiritual truth. To those with a genuine hunger for God, a parable is often an effective way to convey divine truth and is therefore a blessing. Yet, for those with hard hearts and ears, a parable is often an instrument of both judgement and mercy.

Jesus himself told well over 30 parables that are mostly recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Throughout the seasons of Epiphany and Lent we will take a closer look at many of them. Listed below is a tentative plan of study and as always we encourage you to read and ponder them in advance before the day they are proclaimed. May God bless us in this study together. In His Grace, - Pastor John and Pastor Brad

- March 2     *"The Pharisee and Tax Collector"*  
              Luke 18:9-14
- March 9     *"The Good Samaritan"* Luke 10:25-37
- March 16    *"The Friend at Midnight"* Luke 11:1-13
- March 23     *"The Lost Sheep and Coin"*  
              Luke 15:1-10
- March 30    *"The Rich Man and Lazarus"*

Luke 16:19-31  
April 6      *"The Parable of the Talents"*  
                  Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27  
April 13     *"The Persistent Widow"* Luke 18:1-8  
April 18     *"The Parable of the Tenants"*  
                  Luke 20:9-19

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

AM March 30, 2025: [https://youtu.be/JaCR\\_PyWNt4](https://youtu.be/JaCR_PyWNt4)

**Cascade Family Bible Camp** – July 3-7 at Warm Beach Camp, Stanwood, WA: Enjoy a faith-filled getaway with fellowship, worship, and fun activities for all ages! Hear inspiring speakers, engage in dynamic kids' programs, and take part in swimming, mini golf, sports, rock climbing, zipline, laser tag and more.

<https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info> Register online:  
<https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info>

For questions, contact [rona718@hotmail.com](mailto:rona718@hotmail.com) or [dean@lithocraft.com](mailto:dean@lithocraft.com).

<https://youtu.be/jRiQjiHD6MM> or longer 2-minute video: <https://youtu.be/NNcngNLLu0s>

**CALENDAR:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:** April 6: Simon LC. & Derek & Heidi B.  
Next Week, April 13: Wiebe & Johnna VDH, Darrel & Sunee L.

**Worship Team:** April 6: Eliot B, Heidi B, Isaac D, Jennaya K.  
Next Week, April 13: Greb B., Mandi D., Kayla & Ella VH

**Nursery:** April 6: Kayla VH & Macy VDP.  
Next Week, April 13: Pam VZ & Maddie D.

**Children in Worship** April 6: Heather VH & Lexi VDP  
Next Week, April 13: Julie S., Leia V.

**Volunteers to drive Shirley B:**  
This Week: April 6: Mardick S.  
Next week, April 13: Katie J.

## **THIS WEEK:**

### **Sunday, April 6**

No **Sunday School** today

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Youth Group

Women's Bible Study on March 30 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, April 9:** Cadets

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

April 13: Sunday - **Church Potluck** after the service

April 13: Sunday at 6:30 p.m. – **Women's Bible Study**

April 18: Friday at 7:00 p.m. – **Good Friday Service**

April 16: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. - **GEMS**

## **CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Forty Days of Prayer for Synod** - You're invited into 40 days of intentional, guided prayer leading up to Synod 2025. Echoing the Emmaus Road theme from Gather events, we hope to "Journey With Jesus" as we ask for God's guidance, with prayers written by a wide variety of CRC contributors. Learn more and sign up at [crcna.org/synod/prayer](http://crcna.org/synod/prayer) for either daily Scripture and prayers OR a week's worth of Scripture and prayers that will be emailed to you. The 40 days of prayer will begin on Sunday, May 4.

**Kids Corner: Lent: God's Will Be Done** - Check out this week's kids' devotion "Lent: God's Will Be Done" at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). What do you do when it's hard to obey God? Discover how Jesus prayed for strength and trusted God's plan in tough times. Learn how to follow his example and seek God's help when obedience feels hard! Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

**Groundwork: What Jesus Taught in His Final Days** - As Jesus' time on earth brought him closer to the cross, he wanted his disciples, and now us, to understand some important lessons. Join Groundwork as we explore Mark 9:30-37, Mark 10:13-40, Luke 12:35-40, Matthew 24:36-51, and Matthew 25:31-45 to learn what it means to be a watchful servant as we wait for the day when Jesus will return. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Help Myanmar Earthquake Survivors** - On March 28, two powerful earthquakes struck central Myanmar, leaving devastation in their wake. World Renew is working to bring emergency assistance to those affected by this disaster. With your support, we can bring hope and relief to people already struggling with poverty, displacement, and limited healthcare access in Myanmar. Please join us in prayer and donate to help earthquake survivors at [worldrenew.net/myanmar-earthquake-response](http://worldrenew.net/myanmar-earthquake-response), by calling 1-800-552-7972, or by mailing a check made out to World Renew, with "Myanmar Earthquake 2025" in the memo line, to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.

**The Awakening** - The Awakening is a 1-week worship arts summer camp at Hope College. Close to 400 high school students have come from 17 states to grow their hearts deeper toward God and develop their worship arts gifts of all things musical, visual arts, dance, sound tech, and preaching. The camp is from June 8 (pm) to June 13 (noon). Most students say it was the best week of their lives. Learn more at [hope.edu/awakening](http://hope.edu/awakening)



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.

**NEW CONCERN:**

We extend our condolences to **Dick and Linda Gudmunson** and to **Glen Scalf** in the passing of Glen's wife, Sandra (Linda's aunt). We lift the family up in prayer asking God to pour out his peace and comfort on the family in the coming days and weeks.

Please pray for **Marilyn Cooke** as she, her daughter and grandson travel to California for her mother's memorial service April 6, and for traveling mercies April 3 and 7 as they travel to and from California.

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

**Elaine Hammingh** had stents inserted for 3 blocked arteries on Wednesday, April 2. Soon she will also have a heart valve replacement done. Pray that she will have complete healing in the days to come.

Continue to pray for the families **of Mary Koopmans, Greg & Beth Boon, and Corky Vander Griend** in the recent loss of their loved one.

We thank God that the eye surgery **Greg Ackermann** had recently was successful. Pray for continued healing.

Please keep regular visitors **Glen and Sandra** (Linda Gudmonson's Uncle and Aunt) in your prayers. Sandra has entered into hospice care. Please pray for God's comfort and peace for them at this time.

Continue to pray for **Amy Stiles** as she continues with new heart medication.

Continue to pray for **John Velasquez**.

**SHUT INS:** Nell Annema and Shirley Boonstra at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; Marjean DeGroot at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; Martha Haarsma at home in Mount Vernon, Clarence Vander Griend at Home Place in Burlington; Sally Reehorn at Creekside in Burlington.

***OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)***

**Sunday March 30 -Thrive: Change and transition**

Please pray for churches and ministry leaders throughout the denomination who are navigating seasons of transition within the life of their congregation. Pray for perseverance, faithfulness, discernment, and gentleness in each process.

**Monday March 31 - Resonate: Cohort**

Please pray for volunteers who have been serving with our young adult cohorts in Central America, Detroit, Europe, and the Middle East. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as the young adults in these groups transition from their time together to go and live out their faith and follow God's call on their lives.

**Tuesday April 1 - ReFrame Ministries: Chinese ministry**

Pray for Qing, who read a New Testament book produced by our Chinese ministry team, thanked them for it, and shared copies with his coworkers. Pray that Qing may continue to grow in faith, that these resources may bless many more people, and that our Chinese ministry partners may have many other opportunities for meaningful follow-up and support.

**Wednesday April 2 - Thrive: Military chaplains**

Please pray for our U.S. and Canadian military chaplains who serve on active duty, in the reserves, and in the National Guard. Many spend time away from their families in training and deployments as they provide a ministry of presence to service members. Pray also for the families of military chaplains as they support this calling.

**Thursday April 3 - Resonate Global Mission: Kenya**

When Lucy Otieno participated in Educational Care training led by Resonate missionary Mwikali Wambua, she felt called by God to start a Christian school in Lucky Summer, a neighborhood of Nairobi, Kenya, that really needed—and wanted—a Christian school. Give thanks for the ways God is working through Lucy and the teachers there to bring transformation for students and their families.

**Friday April 4 - World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS)**

After serving as World Renew's groups program manager since 2018, Chris Gibson has accepted the role of director of Disaster Response Services (DRS) following the retirement of Bob Laarman. Please pray for a smooth transition for Chris and the rest of the DRS team as they continue to respond to disasters in North America and to support communities in need.