

God's Word Gives Our Lives Direction



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Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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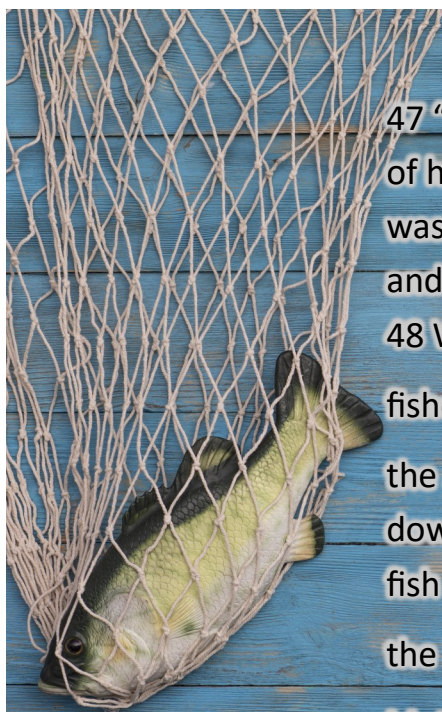
[www.firstcrcmv.com](http://www.firstcrcmv.com)

Pastor John Knoester

Pastor Brad Diekema

Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Church School: 9:30 AM  
September—May



47 "Once again, the kingdom  
of heaven is like a net that  
was let down into the lake  
and caught all kinds of fish.  
48 When it was full, the  
fishermen pulled it up on  
the shore. Then they sat  
down and collected the good  
fish in baskets but threw  
the bad away."

Matthew 13:47-48

**May 4, 2025**

The Loop System is provided for those using hearing devices by using the telephone mode on your device. This is available beginning in row 5 on either side of the sanctuary.

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***May 4, 2025 – Guest Pastor Nick Rosas***  
***Morning Service – 10:30 AM***

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

*“Sing praise to the Lord, you people of grace;”*

Prelude

Welcome

**\* Sung Call to Worship: LUYH #551 v. 1-6**

*“All Creatures of Our God and King”*

**All Sing**

1. All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice with us and sing:  
alleluia, alleluia!  
O burning sun with golden beam,  
and shining moon with silver gleam,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**All Sing**

2. O rushing wind so wild and strong,  
White clouds that sail in heaven along,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
New rising dawn in praise rejoice;  
You lights of evening find a voice:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Women Sing**

3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear;  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,  
providing us with warmth and light,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **Men Sing**

4. Earth ever fertile, day by day  
bring forth your blessings on our way,  
alleluia, alleluia!  
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,  
let them his glory also show:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **All Sing**

5. All you who are of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part;  
alleluia, alleluia!  
All you who pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on him cast your care:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **All Sing**

6. Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi; Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Public Domain;  
CCLI #678905

### **\* Opening Prayer**

### **\* Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 98)**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,

**People: for he has done marvelous things,  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.**

Leader: The Lord has made his salvation known  
and revealed his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation  
of our God.**

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,

**People: burst into jubilant song with music.**

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #7 v. 1-4

*"Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace"*

1. Sing praise to the Lord, you people of grace;  
fill heaven with the songs that sound from this place;  
since you are God's servants and meet in his name,  
his wonders declare and his glory proclaim.

*Refrain*

*Halle! Hallelujah!*

*Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!*

*Halle! Hallelujah!*

*Halle! Halle! Hallelujah!*

2. His greatness exceeds what words can explain,  
and his is the power no force can restrain;  
with fanfares of horns and crescendos of strings  
raise anthems to honor the King of all kings.

*Refrain*

3. Where music is made, let rhythms abound:  
let cymbals and drums add weight to the sound;  
with dance that is graceful and words that are clear,  
bring joy to the God you adore and revere.

*Refrain*

4. Yield all that you are to worship the Lord—  
see life as a psalm, each moment a chord;  
let harmonies flourish and melodies soar—  
let all that has breath praise the Lord evermore.

*Refrain*

PSALM 150; Words: Martin Leckebusch © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.; Music:  
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\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet Each Other

*"Fill heaven with songs that sound from this place;"*

Announcements

## Invitation to Transformed Living:

### Call to Confession:

In repentance and rest is your salvation,  
in quietness and trust is your strength,  
but you would have none of it.  
Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;  
he rises to show you compassion.

—Isaiah 30:15, 18a, NIV

### Prayer of Confession

### Words of Assurance

But now, this is what the Lord says –  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the LORD, your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

—Isaiah 43:1-3, NIV

### Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #430 “You Are Mine” v. 1-4

(Solo)

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.

(Solo)

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 (All)*

*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."*

*(Duet)*

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 (All)*

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 (All) Please Stand*

Words & Music: David Haas (b. 1957) © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.; All Rights Reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-711218

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*(Following the offertory children ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited  
to make their way to Children in Worship in the Fellowship Hall)*

\* Song of Preparation: "Christ Our Wisdom" v. 1-4

1. Christ our wisdom we are humbled  
When You hide Your ways from us  
You have purposes unnumbered  
Each one good and glorious  
Help us trust when we grow weary  
Free us from our anxious thoughts  
Give us grace to see more clearly  
You are God and we are not

2. Christ our wisdom be our gladness  
When we fail to understand  
You ordain all joy and sadness  
To fulfill Your perfect plan  
Help us know You rule with power  
Over every raging flood  
In our most uncertain hour  
You are God and we are loved
3. Christ our wisdom we will follow  
Though the way ahead is veiled  
As we journey through the shadows  
Grant us faith where sight has failed  
Help us cling to Your commandments  
Strengthened by Your faithful Word  
We will never be abandoned  
You are God and we are Yours
4. Christ our wisdom we adore You  
For the beauty of the cross  
Once in foolishness we scorned You  
But Your blood has ransomed us  
Help us sing the endless mercies  
Of Your humble heart to save  
Christ our wisdom Christ our glory  
You are God forever praised

Tag

Help us sing the endless mercies  
Of Your humble heart to save  
Christ our wisdom Christ our glory  
You are God forever praised

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# 678905

*"Since you are God's servants and meet in his name,"*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:47-50

Prayer of Illumination:

Message: ***“The Parable of the Net: Faithfulness > Success”***

Theme: In the Kingdom of God, success isn’t measured by how many people we sort, fix, or save – it’s about staying faithful to the slow, aching, Spirit-led work of pulling the net together, trusting that God will sort all things out by the shore in love, in time.

Prayer of Application

*“His wonders declare and his glory proclaim”*

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #440 v. 1-4 *“He Leadeth Me”*

1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate’er I do, where’er I be,  
still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

*Refrain*

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me;  
by his own hand he leadeth me:  
his faithful follower I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me.*

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
sometimes where Eden’s flowers bloom,  
by waters calm, o’er troubled sea,  
still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

*Refrain*

3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,  
nor ever murmur nor repine;  
content, whatever lot I see,  
since ’tis my God that leadeth me.

*Refrain*

4. And when my task on earth is done,  
when, by thy grace, the victory’s won,  
e’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,  
since God through Jordan leadeth me.

*Refrain*

*Words: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862, P.D.; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1864, P.D.*



\* We Proclaim our Faith: Based on Article 24 of the Belgic Confession

Leader: What do we believe about true faith  
and the sanctification of sinners?

**People: We believe that true faith,  
produced in us by the hearing of God's Word  
and by the work of the Holy Spirit,  
regenerates us and makes us new creatures  
causing us to live a new life  
and freeing us from the slavery of sin.**

Leader: So then, it is impossible for this holy faith  
to be unfruitful in a human being,  
seeing that we do not speak of an empty faith  
but of what Scripture calls  
"faith working through love,"  
which moves people to do by themselves  
the works that God has commanded in the Word.

**People: These works, proceeding from the good root  
of faith, are good and acceptable to God,  
since they are all sanctified by God's grace.  
Yet they do not count toward our justification—  
for by faith in Christ we are justified,  
even before we do good works.**

\* Call to Service: Based on Ephesians 4:1-3

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #302 v. 1-2 "*Hear Our Praises*"

1. May our homes be filled with dancing,  
may our streets be filled with joy.  
May injustice bow to Jesus  
as the people turn and pray.

*Refrain*

*From the mountain to the valley,  
hear our praises rise to you.  
From the heavens to the nations,  
hear our singing fill the air.*

2. May your light shine in the darkness  
as we walk before the cross.  
May your glory fill the whole earth  
as the water over the seas.

*Refrain x2*

*From the mountain to the valley,  
hear our praises rise to you.  
From the heavens to the nations,  
hear our singing fill the air.*

Words and Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Publishing (APRA), admin. US  
& Canada at [EMICMGPublishing.com](http://EMICMGPublishing.com); CCLI# 678905

Postlude

**Welcome!** The psalmist prayed: “Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved” (Psalm 80:19). May all who have come to worship find restoration, inner peace and spiritual strength. 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.

Tech Team	Today: May 4	Today: May 11
Sound:	Henry VZ	Henry VZ
Projection:	Tim H.	France B.
Video:	Brandon S.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin

## Announcements

**May 4, 2025**

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

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

What is one thing you've learned from a mission trip, a service project, or a missionary's story?

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

**This morning we welcome Pastor Nick Rosas, who will be leading us in worship,**

**There is no choir practice for the next while. We will let you know when we resume.**

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

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PACKETS** are out in the fellowship hall, ready for the taking. Please grab yours either this morning or next Sunday morning so we don't need to mail them to you. Thank you!!

**Greg and Tish invite their church family to share with them in celebrating Tish's retirement and God's faithfulness** through the ups and downs of the last 25 years. Greg and Tish thank God for the many witnessing opportunities her job provided in the community. Praise be to God for his faithfulness. Join Greg and Tish after church, where they will share cake to celebrate God's faithfulness and this milestone.

**If you have forgotten to bring money to the office for the Bibles and Easter lilies from last week, do not hesitate to do so. Thank you!**

## **Worship Service YouTube Links:**

AM, April 27 GEMS Sunday:

<https://youtu.be/Zw2jOLQXmLA>

**Ministry Associate Update/Dates:** A detailed update on the ministry associate position was placed in your church mailbox on Sunday, April 27. Pastor Nick Rosas will be preaching for us on Sunday, May 4 to be followed by a public interview on Monday, May 5 at 6:45 PM. A town hall meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12 at 6:45 PM to specifically converse/address the increased financial commitments a potential call would entail and to openly discuss any other questions/concerns congregational members might have. Ideally, we would like to converse/address any major concerns as much as possible before our Monday, May 19 (7 PM) congregational meeting and vote.

**Congregational Meeting: Save the date! Monday, May 19 at 7pm** is the date for our annual Congregational Meeting. Our annual church budget will be presented for approval and informational reports from various church committees will be presented. We will also vote on whether to extend a call to Pastor Nick Rosas. Meeting packets are available to pick up in person in the fellowship hall following our morning service on both May 4 and 11. All packets not picked up by the 11th will be sent out in the mail on Monday, May 12. The Council presents the following three nominees for the office of elder (2 open spots): Greg Ackermann, Greg Boon, and Jon Vander Kooy. The Council presents the following three nominees for the office of deacon (3 open spots, 1 spot is a two year term): Spencer Donaldson, Mardy Stevens, and Jack Van Klaveren. If you have any questions about any items on the agenda, please don't hesitate to contact your district Elder prior to the Congregational Meeting. Absentee ballots can be placed in Beth's mailbox by her office door.

**Sermon Series:** The Parable of the Prodigal Son is arguably one of Jesus' most famous parables. Through the years many people have testified how this parable either initially brought them to faith, saved their faith, saved their marriage, or even saved their life. It's a parable not just about one lost son, but two. More importantly it's a parable about a loving Father who is not only reconciling His children to himself, but the whole world. May God bless us as we spend four weeks meditating on this incredible parable together!

In His Grace, Pastor John

1. May 18 – “The Parable of the Prodigal Son – Returning Home”
2. June 1 – “The Parable of the Prodigal Son – The Lost Younger Son”
3. June 8 – “The Parable of the Prodigal Son – The Lost Older Brother”
4. June 15 – “The Parable of the Prodigal Son – The Prodigal Father”

### **CALENDAR:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:** May 4: Jason & Shelby VDK, Larry & Margaret VDP

Next Week, May 11: Greg & Beth B., Brandon & Julie S.

**Worship Team:** May 4: Eliot B., Heidi B., France B., Emma S.

Next Week, May 11: Kevin & Glenda K., Kayla & Ella VH

**Nursery:** May 4: Juliana LC, Lexi VDP

Next Week, May 11: Catherine VDK & Noah VDK

**Children in Worship** May 4: Jodi VP, Lauren VDB

Next Week, May 11: Jenny VV, Adriana S.

**Volunteers to drive Shirley B:**

This Week: May 4: Mardick S.

Next week, May 11: TBD

### **THIS WEEK:**

**Sunday, May 4: Guest Pastor Nick Rosas**

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm

**Monday, May 5, 6:45 pm:** Public interview of Nick Rosas

**May 7, 6:30 pm:** GEMS Mother/Daughter Night

**May 10, 1:30 p.m.:** Memorial for Sandra Scalf

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

May 12, 6:45 pm: Town Hall Meeting

May 19, 7:00 p.m.: Congregational Meeting

June 1: Church Potluck

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:**

**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).

### **CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

Groundwork: Christian Engagement in Societal Issues - Together, let's delve into the complexities of Christian engagement in societal issues. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17, Romans 3:10-12, and James 2:1-9 to discover practical insights and biblical wisdom to help us discern what it means to faithfully engage and embrace our role in shaping a more just and God-honoring society. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

### **Thrive**

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Teacher Appreciation Week - Ephesians 4 says that Christ himself gave us leaders, including teachers, "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (4:11, NIV). At a mealtime with family members this week, share a story of a teacher who had a big impact on your life. How did God use them to help guide and encourage you? Brought to you by Thrive: [crna.org/Thrive](http://crna.org/Thrive)

### **World Renew**

Join Us in Supporting Babies and Moms Next Week - The first 1,000 days of a child's life are the most important. But in many countries, pregnant mothers and their babies don't get the care they need. That's why World Renew equips local communities around the world to deliver life-saving care. Together, we can share God's love and help babies grow up healthy and strong in the first 1,000 days. Learn more or give online at [worldrenew.net/first1000days](http://worldrenew.net/first1000days).



# 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.

## **NEW CONCERNS:**

The Stiles family thanks you for your continued prayers for Amy's heart. The medication seems to be doing its job and she is scheduled for an ablation on June 10th. The doctors are hopeful that this "remodeling" will help the heart to heal and therefore improve its function.

## **CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

**Elaine Hammingh** had some additional stents placed and all went well. Please pray for a swift recovery from the procedure and renewed strength in the weeks to come!

**Eleanor Klunder** has been diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. Please pray for Eleanor, Clarence, Todd and Jill as she goes through more tests. As they navigate this difficult time, may God give the comfort and peace that only He can give!

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

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 April 27 - Thrive: Abuse Awareness Sunday**

Bounteous Spirit, bring forth in our lives your fruit—that we may find rest in your love, joy in your service, peace in your merciful pardon, patience in affliction, goodness and gentleness amid trials and provocations, faithfulness and kindness to forgive freely, and self-control to align our desires with your holy will (Gal. 5:22-23).

**Monday April 28 - *World Renew: Maternal and child health***

The well-being of mothers, infants, and children can determine the health of the next generation and the future of a community. Please pray for the continuation of maternal and child health training and resources for communities worldwide, that every mother may access the care she needs, and every child may have a healthy start.

**Tuesday April 29 - *Resonate: Cambodia***

Resonate missionaries Navy and Ly Chann-Chhay work with many pastors and growing churches in Cambodia. They give thanks for the many people who are deciding to follow Jesus, and they ask you to pray for “new believers to grow in understanding the Word of God.”

**Wednesday April 30 - *ReFrame: Cuba***

Please pray for Yami, who receives Cada Día devotions through our Spanish ministry partners. She gives thanks that these devotions have been a source of encouragement and spiritual growth for her. Ask God to keep strengthening Yami’s faith, provide for her needs, and bless her journey with biblical wisdom and peace. Pray that Cada Día may also reach and uplift many more Spanish speakers.

**Thursday May 1 - *Communications: National Day of Prayer (U.S.)***

Join with Christians across the United States in prayer for the nation and the world. Pray for God’s guidance and wisdom for world leaders and decision makers, for peace, for food security, and for God’s work and will to be done.

**Friday May 2 - *Resonate Global Mission: Middle East***

A Resonate missionary in the Middle East has started a counseling center for missionaries and other ministry leaders. This month the counseling center is leading a group debriefing for leaders in the Sudanese community. Ask God to provide healing and encouragement for these leaders.

**Saturday May 3 - *World Renew: Myanmar earthquakes***

Please pray for families who lost loved ones in the devastating earthquakes in Myanmar this spring, for medical teams continuing to treat the injured, and for organizations like World Renew working to respond and bring hope. Ask God for provision as the people of Myanmar, who were already struggling with effects of poverty, must now rebuild from this disaster.