

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
July 5, 2026, 10:30 am Service
Guest Pastor Michael Kooy

*** Please stand in body or in spirit.**

"Were the Whole Realm of Nature Mine"

Prelude

Welcome

Litany for Independence Day

Leader: Almighty God, we gather today in gratitude for the blessings of freedom and the gift of this land.

People: **We thank You, Lord, for the beauty of our country, from mountains to seas, and for the abundance we enjoy.**

Leader: For the vision of those who sought liberty and justice, and for the courage of those who defended it.

People: **We give thanks for their sacrifice and dedication.**

Leader: For the freedoms we cherish—of speech, of worship, of gathering together in peace.

People: **We praise You for these gifts and pray they may be preserved for all.**

Leader: Forgive us when we take these blessings for granted, or when we fail to extend them to others.

People: **Renew in us a spirit of compassion, justice, and unity.**

Leader: Guide our leaders with wisdom, humility, and integrity.

People: **May they serve the common good and seek peace among nations.**

Leader: As we celebrate and give thanks, we also remember that true freedom is found in You.

People: **We commit ourselves to walk in Your ways, loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

All: Lord of all, we pray that Your kingdom of justice, mercy,
and peace may come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH 281

“God of The Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.
3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
may true religion in our hearts increase,
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine;
all glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Words: Daniel C. Roberts, 1876, alt., P.D. CCLI #678905

* Prayer

* Song of Praise: LUYH 559 ***“Ten Thousand Reasons”***

Refrain

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.*

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Refrain

2. You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing—
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Refrain

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name,*

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing your praise unending—
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

Refrain

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name,*

worship your holy name, worship your holy name.

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* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

"That Were a Present Far Too Small"

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Confession:

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command.
and I will ask the Father, and he will give you
another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.
Whoever has my commands and obeys them,
he is the one who loves me.
He who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I too will love him and show myself to him."
Let us confess our sin to God.

—based on John 14:15-17, 21, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Song of Assurance: LUYH 175:1-3 with 176

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

Refrain

*Oh, the wonderful cross,
Oh, the wonderful cross
bids me come and die
and find that I may truly live.*

*Oh, the wonderful cross,
Oh, the wonderful cross,
all who gather here by grace
draw near and bless your name.*

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Refrain

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”; Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, P.D.;
Music: Lowell Mason, 1824, P.D. CCLI #678905 “The Wonderful Cross”; Words
and Music: Chris Tomlin, J.D. Walt, Jesse Reeves © 2000 worshipaltogether.com
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Call to Holy Living/God's Law:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6:8, NRSV

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.”

—from Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God, to present your bodies
as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God—
what is good and acceptable and perfect.

—Romans 12:1-2, NRSV

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH 738 ***“Jesus, All for Jesus” (2X)***

Jesus, all for Jesus,
all I am and have and ever hope to be.
All of my ambitions, hopes, and plans—
I surrender these into your hands.
For it's only in your will that I am free.
For it's only in your will that I am free.
Jesus, all for Jesus,
all I am and have and ever hope to be.

words and Music: Robin Mark © 1991 Authentic Publishing/Kingswaysongs.com;
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Welcome of Pastor Jacob Pottebaum and family

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

"Love So Amazing, So Divine"

* Song of Preparation: ***"The 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, 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: (2X)

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)

Scripture Reading: **Luke 10:25-37**

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness"***

Time of Prayer

"Demands My Soul, My Life, My All"

* Hymn of Application: LUYH 553 ***"How Great Thou Art"***

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

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!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

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* We Confess our Faith: *The Belgic Confession, Article 36*

We believe that because of the depravity of the human race, our good God has ordained kings, princes, and civil officers.

God wants the world to be governed by laws and policies so that human lawlessness may be restrained and that everything may be conducted in good order among human beings.

For that purpose God has placed the sword in the hands of the government, to punish evil people and protect the good.

And being called in this manner to contribute to the advancement of a society that is pleasing to God, the civil rulers have the task, subject to God's law, of removing every obstacle to the preaching of the gospel and to every aspect of divine worship.

They should do this while completely refraining from every tendency toward exercising absolute authority, and while functioning in the sphere entrusted to them, with the means belonging to them.

They should do it in order that

the Word of God may have free course;

the kingdom of Jesus Christ may make progress;

and every anti-Christian power may be resisted.

Moreover everyone, regardless of status, condition, or rank, must be subject to the government, and pay taxes, and hold its representatives in honor and respect, and obey them in all things that are not in conflict with God's Word, praying for them that the Lord may be willing to lead them in all their ways and that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all piety and decency.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise: LUYH 938

“My Friends, May You Grow in Grace”

My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever,
now and forever, amen.

Words: 2 Peter 3:18; Timothy James Meaney (b. 1965) and Sean Diamond (b. 1968); rev.
Gregg DeMey (b. 1972) and Gregory Kett (b. 1970) © 1991, 2001 Wiseman Music
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* 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: July 5	Next Week: July 12
Sound:	Henry H	Mardick S.
Projection:	Emily VH	Beth B.
Video:	Isaac D.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

July 5, 2026

The Deadline for Announcements this next week is Thursday, 9:00 a.m.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

This morning we welcome the Pottebaum family to our family of believers!

There are quite a lot of slots open for volunteers to pick up and bring **Joy Faber** home from church each Please sign up to share this blessing for Joy.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

PM, June 28 Service: <https://youtube.com/live/neiNNlwPTBo?feature=share>

First CRC's Worship Services are now being livestreamed! Go to our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@1stcrcmv841>
You will see the option for the worship service Livestream there.

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: Today, July 5: Mardy & Kristi S., Brad & Crystal DK

Next Week, July 12: Terri & Mandi D., Marjo R.

Worship Team: Today: July 5: Henry & Pam VZ, Mandi D., Ella VH
Next Week, Kevin K., Eliot B., Heidi B.

Nursery: Today: July 5: Tessa S., & Maddie D.

Next Week, July 12: WARM BEACH, NO NURSERY

Children in Worship: Today: July 5: Jenny VDV, Lane VDH
Next Week, July 12: NO C&W, WARM BEACH

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

Today, July 5: Mardick S.

Next week, July 12: Adam Faber

Family Visiting July 12:

5:45 pm: Jon & Katherine VH, Henry & Sharon K., Weibe & Johnna VDH

7:00 pm: Robert & Judy A., Josh & Juliana H., Hank & Sylvia VZ

8:15 pm: Michelle DK, Lexi B., Sarah Z.

TODAY:

Sunday, July 5:

10:30am Worship Service

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fri. & Sat., July 10-11: Ragnar Race using our parking lot

NEW DATE! Sun., July 19: Church Potluck

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Cascade Family Bible Camp – July 9-13 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. Register today: <https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org>

Join Mid-America Reformed Seminary on October 2–3 at Bethel Church in Lansing, IL, for the **2026 Center for Missions and Evangelism Conference, *From Believing to Belonging: Hospitality and Evangelism in the Local Church***. Speakers include John Bouwers, Greg Bylsma, Jon Dennis, Alan Strange, Dale Van Dyke, Heather Watkins, and Eric Watkins. Learn more and register at www.midamerica.edu/cme/conference.

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wisdom in the Age of AI Conference - How should Christians respond to Artificial Intelligence (AI) in church, education, business, healthcare, and the arts? The Wisdom in the Age of AI Conference will be held at Calvin University October 8-10 and features top keynote speakers and parallel sessions dealing with each of these topics. For more information and to register to join the conversation, visit: <https://calvin.edu/wisdomAI>

Kids Corner Devotions: Apollos: The Gift of Accepting Help - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Apollos: The Gift of Accepting Help" at www.kidscorner.net. Sometimes we try to do everything on our own because we want to feel strong—but it's okay to need help! God made us to learn from each other, so who can you learn from today? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like The Kids Corner Activity Book Collection.

Groundwork: God Calls and Prepares David - As humans, we are typically drawn to strong, confident leaders. Join Groundwork as we continue our study of 1 Samuel by examining 1 Samuel 16-17. Together, we'll learn what God looks for in the heart of a leader and discuss what that means for us when he calls us to partner with him in his work in the world today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Help Families Affected by the Venezuela Earthquakes - Two powerful earthquakes devastated communities in Venezuela on June 24. World Renew is working with local organizations to respond, meeting urgent needs for families who have lost their homes or can't access clean water and sanitation. Your church can help share Christ's hope with survivors by giving at worldrenew.net/venezuela-earthquake, by calling 1-800-552-7972, or by mailing a check made out to World Renew, with "Venezuela Earthquake" in the memo line, to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Is it hot outside today? Here in the Northern Hemisphere it is summer, and the temperatures have climbed. Do you like that? Or would you rather it be cooler? Sadly, you can't order your favorite temperature today! Just as in many other parts of life, the temperature outside is not yours to control. Remembering that is helpful for recognizing that you are small and that God (who can control the temperature) is big. Are there other things in your life that you can't change? Name one of those things each day this week, and praise God for his big-ness. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

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 REQUEST:

Please keep **Deanna Van Beek's father** in your prayers as he recently had extensive surgery to create a new jawbone. Please pray that his recovery will go smoothly and the new jawbone will work as intended. Please pray for Bryan and Deanna and their family as well as they go through this journey to healing.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Pray for Rynanne VanderPol's brother, **Ed VanderPol**, as he is recovering from a bad bike accident in North Dakota, and that he will be allowed to travel back to Washington to continue healing closer to family.

Please continue to pray for **Pastor Brad Diekema and his family**, as his father has been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

Randy Burr's valve replacement went well. Randy is gaining strength and recovering as expected. Praise and glory to the Lord for His faithfulness, grace and mercies through the storm!

Continue to pray for **Dena Klunder's** stroke recovery at her daughter Julie's house.

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)

Monday June 29 - Church Renewal: Discernment

Pray for congregations trying to discern where God may be leading them. For those that may be near the end of their life cycle, pray for clarity in understanding the Spirit's leading, peace in the process, and courage to follow as the Spirit ministers to them in a difficult time.

Tuesday June 30 - ReFrame: Leadership

As Rev. Kurt Selles retires and Rev. Darrell Delaney steps into his new role as director of ReFrame Ministries, we lift up this season of leadership transition. Pray for Rev. Selles as he enters retirement, and ask for wisdom, favor, and God's clear guidance for Rev. Delaney as he begins this role. May the work of Reframe continue to flourish.

Wednesday July 1 - CRC Communications: Canada Day

As Canada celebrates another year since confederation, give thanks for this country that has provided a home and hospitality to many. Ask God to guide the CRCNA in Canada as we share the gospel, work toward reconciliation, seek justice, and find fellowship as believers. Pray for Canada's leaders and citizens in navigating the challenging times we face today.

Thursday July 2 - World Renew: Local leaders and volunteers

Community leaders trained through World Renew programs are playing a vital role in strengthening families, churches, and neighborhoods. Their leadership helps to ensure lasting, locally led change. Pray for wisdom, integrity, and perseverance for these leaders. Give thanks for the gifts God has placed within their communities.

Friday July 3 - *Resonate Global Mission: New missionaries*

Give thanks for five new career missionaries who have recently stepped up to serve on behalf of the Christian Reformed Church in countries around the world. Please pray for these missionaries as they transition into new roles, build support networks, complete their field training, and build relationships.

Saturday July 4 - *CRC Communications: Independence Day (U.S.)*

As America marks 250 years of independence, let us thank God for his faithfulness and ask him to guide the decision making of people and leaders at all levels. We pray that the Holy Spirit will grow fruit through all who proclaim the name of Christ.

Sunday July 5 - *Thrive: Workplace chaplains*

Many of our chaplains work in the industrial or corporate world, serving employees affected by crises at home or work who may not have a spiritual support network. During the past year, these chaplains have been called on to provide spiritual care to employees experiencing grief, trauma, and crisis. Please pray for these chaplains and the people they serve.