

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
August 5, 2026, 10:30 am Service
Pastor Jacob Pottebaum

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

*"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace"*

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
(Sovereign Grace)**

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the name! I'm fixed upon it
Name of Thy redeeming love.
2. Hitherto Thy love has blessed me
Thou hast brought me to this place
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood
3. Oh to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Acapella

4. Oh that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last.

Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last.

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*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord
Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**People: Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.

**People: Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.

People: Praise the LORD, O my soul.
—Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22, NIV

Leader: We have gathered to praise our gracious God.

People: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

* 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

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

*"Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise"*

Call to Confession:

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." —Isaiah 1:18, NIV

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Merciful God,

you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.
Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

**People: Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Do not cast us from your presence,
or take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us
with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen. (-based on Psalm 51:10-12)**

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Hear the good news!

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting
to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant and remember
to do his commandments.

—Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18, NRSV

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God!

Call to Holy Living:

Leader: We respond to God's forgiveness
by living our thanks according to God's Word.
Hear now God's will for our lives:
What is the great and first commandment?

**People: Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

Leader: What is the second commandment like it?

People: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Leader: What does this mean?

People: Love is the fulfilling of the law.

Leader: To what does this call us?

People: To a life of faith working through love.
-based on Matthew 22:37-40

* Song of Thanksgiving: Cornerstone (Hillsong)

1. My hope is built on nothing less,
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

Repeat Verse 1

Chorus

*Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.*

2. When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

3. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless stand before the throne.

Chorus (2x)

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Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, and William Batchelder
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Offering: General Fund

Offertory

*"Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above"*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #833 "There is a Redeemer"

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus:

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

Chorus

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Chorus

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

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Scripture Reading: Psalm 103

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Gracious God,
we do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from your mouth.
Make us hungry for this your Word,
that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life.
Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven.

People: Amen.

Message: "God's Transforming Mercy"

Time of Prayer

*"Praise the name, I'm fixed upon it.
Name of God's redeeming love"*

* Hymn of Application: "Nothing But the Blood" (CHH #337)

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

*O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

2. For my pardon this I see,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing, this my plea,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

3. Nothing can for sin atone,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

4. This is all my hope and peace,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

Text: Robert Lowry; Music: Robert Lowry; Public Domain

* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 1

Q & A 1

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

**People: A. 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.**

Q & A 2

Leader: Q. What must you know to live and die
in the joy of this comfort?

**People: A. Three things: first, how great my sin
and misery are; second, how I am set free
from all my sins and misery;
third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**

* God's Blessing:

Leader: People of God, hear now these words of blessing,
The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face
toward you and give you peace. —Numbers 6:24-26, NIV

Bless the Lord.

People: The Lord's name be praised!

* Parting Hymn of Praise: 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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Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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: August 2	Next Week: August 9
Sound:	Henry H	Tim H.
Projection:	Beth B.	Maddie D.
Video:	Isaac D.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC
Bulletin Announcements
August 2, 2026

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:
New Address & Contact information
For Larry Greidanus
916 Heather Circle #3
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

The Van Hofwegens

4800 S. Louise Ave

PMB 312

Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Thank you! I want to thank everyone for all their concern and well wishes as Ed recovers. Through God's grace and healing hand, he is making good progress as he heals and recovers and hope soon to be able to return home to Oregon. Praise be to God for all he has done." -
Ryenne VanderPol

New Church Directories: Beth decided to put a sign-up sheet with the others for the coming Sundays where she'll be taking pictures directly after church. Please sign up! Thank you!

There are still slots open for volunteers to pick up and bring **Joy Faber** to and from church in the months of August and September. Please sign up to share this blessing for Joy.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

PM, July 26 Service: https://youtube.com/live/9_G4sBl1bHw?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, August 2: Larry & Margaret VDP, Keith & Jean R.

Next Week, August 9: Greg & Beth B., Brandon & Julie S.

Worship Team: Today: August 2: Henry VZ, Mandi D.

Next Week, August 9: Greg B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

Nursery: Today: August 2: Glenda D., Emma S.

Next Week, August 9: Pam VZ, Myra VDB

Children in Worship: Today: August 2: Heidi B., Tessa S.

Next Week, August 9: Angela S., Emma S.

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

Today, August 2: Keith & Jean R.

Next week, August 9: Mardick S.

Family Visiting Sunday, August 9:

5:45 pm: Sally R., Bob P., Jason & Shelby VDK

7:00 pm: Karen J., Jill R., Marilyn C.

8:15 pm: Judy V., Randy & Peggy B., Dave & Nancy V.

If you are unable to meet on the date you are scheduled for a visit, please call the elders who are assigned to your district (Found at the top of the column you are in on the 2026 Family Visiting Schedule)

TODAY:

Sunday, August 2:

10:30am Worship Service

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, Aug. 15: Heather Village Garage Sale across the street from church in the vacant lot.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

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:

Kids Corner Devotions: Talking About Sin: Big & Bigger News for You - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Talking About Sin: Big & Bigger News for You" at www.kidscorner.net. In this week's devotion's Bible reading, Romans 5:18-21, we learn that sin—the things we think, say, or do that don't please God—is big and powerful. Sin separates us from God. But the good news is that bigger news about Jesus is coming. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like Family Practices for Family Collection.

Groundwork: What Happens After We Die? - What happens after we die? Where do we go? Where do our bodies and souls go while we're waiting for Jesus to return on Judgment Day? Join Groundwork as we study Luke 23:39-43; Philippians 1:20-26; Ecclesiastes 9:5-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9, 16-17; Romans 8:34-39; and Philippians 3:20-21 to better understand three Christian views on life after death, and to receive the rich assurance and deep comfort God's Word provides. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Other

We're hiring! IT Salesforce Administrator - Apply at crcna.pinpointhq.com

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - The God of the Bible is radically curious. God was curious about taking formless things and creating something beautiful. God was curious on the first day as God spoke light into existence and gave darkness a place in creation. God was curious enough that creating sky, land, and oceans was life-giving and affirming in the world. God was curious enough to believe diversity in plants and animals was cool, creating them in a variety of dimensions, shapes, and colors. God's curiosity led to the creation of two beacons in the sky to serve the earth. In the mind of God, curiosity was God's radical bent of being in relationship, always moving toward life. This week reflect on what makes you curious about God, God's world, and your world. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Calvin University

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 from October 8-10 and features top keynote speakers and parallel sessions dealing with each of these topics. For more information and register to join the conversation, visit: <https://calvin.edu/wisdomAI>



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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Congratulations to the **Vogel family** on the birth of little **James Matthew** last week!

Please pray for continued strength and healing for **Tim Van Hofwegen** and for the whole family as they prepare to move across the country.

Please continue to pray for **Deanna Van Beek's father**, as he recovers from jaw replacement surgery.

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

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 July 27 - from: Church Renewal: Disciples and leaders

As we live out our calling to be disciples who make disciples, pray that new disciples and leaders will be raised in our churches and classes. And may everyone have the courage to follow the calling of the Spirit.

Tuesday July 28 - from: Thrive: Thrive staff

Please pray for guidance and wisdom for Thrive staff as they journey alongside congregations. May they provide meaningful support to church leaders and volunteers as they seek to cultivate deeper spiritual growth and vibrant faith communities.

Wednesday July 29 - from: World Renew: Haiti

Lift up Haiti, where political instability and insecurity continue to create hardship for families and staff. Pray for protection and renewed opportunity and resilience among program participants. Please also ask God to give our staff and partners wisdom, creativity, and perseverance.

Thursday July 30 - from: ReFrame: *Today* devotions

Marty left a note on the *Today* Facebook page, sharing that he has been diagnosed with stomach cancer and is seeking total healing. Please pray for his complete physical restoration, asking that God will also fill him with a profound sense of peace and security.

Friday July 31 - from: The King's University: New facility

At The King's University we are celebrating God's faithfulness as we plan to open a new Centre for Excellence in the Sciences this coming fall. This facility will expand programs, strengthen research, and deepen partnerships, equipping students to serve God's world through discovery, innovation, and hands-on learning rooted in Christian hope.