

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
August 23, 2026, 10:30 am Service
Pastor Jacob Pottebaum

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

Prelude

Welcome

"Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!"

* Opening Song: *Good Shepherd of My Soul*

1. Good Shepherd of my soul
Come dwell within me
Take all I am and mould
Your likeness in me
Before the cross of Christ
This is my sacrifice
A life laid down and ready to follow
2. The troubled find their peace
In true surrender
The prisoners their release
From chains of anger
In springs of living grace
I find a resting place
To rise refreshed and ready to follow
3. I'll walk this narrow road
With Christ before me
Where thorns and thistles grow
And cords ensnare me
Though doubted and denied
He never leaves my side
But lifts my head and calls me to follow

4. And when my days are gone
My strength is failing
He'll carry me along
Through death's unveiling
Earth's struggles overcome
Heaven's journey just begun
To search Christ's depths and ever to follow
To search Christ's depths and ever to follow

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* Call to Worship:

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord.

Come, let us bow down in worship,

People: Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

for he is our God

and we are the people of his pasture,

the flock under his care. —Psalm 95:6-7, NIV

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #538 *“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”*

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber; Music: John B. Dykes;

Descant: David McK. Williams; Public Domain; CCLI# 678905

God's Greeting & Congregational Greeting

"Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;"

Announcements

Call to Confession:

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.
The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words:
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.
We express our longing for God's leading
by our own transparent confession.

-based on Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast
love; according to your abundant mercy blot out
my transgressions.

**People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Leader: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**People: Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**People: Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: Do not cast me from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

—Psalm 51:1-4, 6, 9-11, NRSV

Words of Assurance

Leader: Hear the good news!

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have obtained access to this grace
in which we stand;
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

—Romans 5:1-2, NRSV

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

Call to Holy Living: God's Law:

We respond to God's forgiveness

By living our thanks according to God's Word.

Hear now God's will for our lives

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

* Song of Response: 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

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

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

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

“Holy, Holy Holy! Merciful and Mighty”

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #348 “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23: Words: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951
Hope Publishing Company; Music: William M. Runyan, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951
Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #678905

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

Prayer of Illumination

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.

Amen.

Message: "Our Great Shepherd"

Time of Prayer

"God in three persons, blessed Trinity"

* Song of Application: LUYH #451 "When Peace Like A River"

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain

3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

4. O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;

it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873, P.D.; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876, P.D.
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We Profess our Faith

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together
for good for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39, NRSV

God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise: LUYH #369

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

1. My Shepherd will supply my need;
the LORD God is his name:
in pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back,
when I forsake his ways;
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.

2. When I walk through the shades of death
your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
shall still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows,
your oil anoints my head.

3. The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger or a guest,
but like a child at home.

Psalm 23; Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, alt., P.D.;

Music: W. Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012); © 1990 Dale Grotenhuis; CCLI #678905

- 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 23	Next Week: August 30
Sound:	Henry VZ	Tim H.
Projection:	Tim H.	France B.
Video:	Maddie D.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

August 23, 2026

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

New Church Directories: Last Chance!

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!

If you signed up to have your picture taken this morning, please meet Beth outside on the east side (Walter Street) of the church after the service.

First CRC is having a BABY SHOWER for the Vogels on September 24 at 7:00pm! It's been a while since we've been blessed with a new baby! If you are interested in helping put on this special event, please let Beth know very soon.

There is still an open slot for volunteers to pick up and bring **Joy Faber** to and from church for Sept. 20. Please sign up if you are able to do this. There is a new sign-up sheet for the fall out as well.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

PM, August 16 Service: <https://youtube.com/live/1CKFLUGIWA0?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 23: Eliot & Sue B., Mardi & Kristi S.

Next Week, August 30: Cody & Angela S., Bob DG

Worship Team: Today: August 23: Greg & Beth B., Linda G., France B.
Next Week, August 30: Men's Group

Nursery: Today: August 23: Adriana S., Riley VDV
Next Week, August 30: Reese VDV & Macy VDP

Children in Worship: Today: August 23: Jennie VDV, Nellie VD
Next Week, August 30: Jodi VDP, Myra VDB

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

Today, August 23: Melba DK

Next week, August 30:

Family Visiting Sunday, September 13:

5:45 pm: Brandon & Julie S., Simon LC, Darin & Michelle K.

7:00 pm: Eliot & Sue B., Jillian H., John & Brooke K.

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/THIS WEEK:

Sunday, August 23:

10:30am Worship Service

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Sept. 6: Church Potluck

Thurs., Sept. 24, 7:00pm: Baby Shower for little James Vogel

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:

We're Hiring! Director of Communications - The successful candidate will provide leadership, strategy, planning, and oversight in the communications of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) and its ministries. The Director of Communications will ensure that communications and marketing across the denomination function within the established ecclesiastical and organizational frameworks in a way that supports and facilitates the ministry of the CRCNA and its institutions and agencies, in conformity with the denominational ministry plan. This is a full-time, hybrid position based in Burlington, Ont., or Grand Rapids, Mich. Apply at crcna.pinpointhq.com by August 29, 2026.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: A New School Year: What Can I Offer? - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "A New School Year: What Can I Offer?" at www.kidscorner.net. Choose the best ways this school year to show love to God. Maybe it's by helping a classmate, working hard in school, or being kind when it's not easy. Maybe it's all of these and more! Check out the new Kids Corner Devotions app at <https://kidscorner.net/app>

Groundwork: Jesus is the High Priest Who Meets Our Needs - Do you ever feel alone, like no one can understand what you're going through? Join Groundwork as we study Hebrews 4:14-7:28 to learn about the high priest Melchizedek. Together, we'll see how the author of Hebrews draws a connection between Melchizedek and Jesus to help us better understand the extent to which Jesus truly understands, cares for, and meets our needs. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

CRC Planned Giving

Giving to ministry from an IRA - If you are 70 ½ or older, you can give to CRC Ministries from your IRA and receive significant tax benefits in return. Learn more at crcna.org/heritagefund or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor at 616-223-5885

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was curious about the racial climate in the United States in the 1960s. Growing up in the segregated South troubled and inspired him for a better vision

of an America that lived out the true meaning of its creed that all people are created with equality and dignity. How might the Lord be nudging you to reach out to someone with curiosity this week? What simple act can you do this week to move toward love, unity, and a celebration of diversity? 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.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please keep **Ryanne VanderPol** and her family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of brother John.

Please pray for the **Van Hofwegen** family as they settle into their new surroundings in Sioux Falls.

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 August 17 - *Church Renewal: Grace and discernment*

Congregations face challenges when they come to the end of their life cycle. Pray that congregations who are discerning their future may do this gracefully, loving and caring for each other in the process.

Tuesday August 18 - *Resonate: Matriarchs*

Resonate missionary Sarah Aderemi asks for prayer for the Matriarchs group, which supports mothers in pursuing and living out their faith. Please pray for leaders and participants as they encourage and support one another in Christ.

Wednesday August 19 - *ReFrame: Japan*

Kobe Reformed Seminary is preparing for a special August broadcast featuring the voices of its faculty and newly admitted students. Pray for our ministry team as they help to produce and prepare this program, and may the broadcast beautifully share what God is doing at the seminary, encouraging listeners to support future leaders in ministry.

Thursday August 20 - *Thrive: Pastors and ministry leaders*

Take a moment to pray for the pastor(s) and ministry leaders within your congregation. May they find rest, support, and a renewed sense of calling in this upcoming ministry year.

Friday August 21 - *Indigenous Family Centre: Fellowship*

Please pray for the development of meaningful connections among members of our community, for growing relationships, and for increasing closeness to our Creator God.

Saturday August 22 - *World Renew: Leadership, justice, and peace*

Ask the Lord to be with community, regional, and national leaders to ensure accountability, protect people who are vulnerable, and provide peace during election seasons in the year ahead. Give thanks that even amid complex political and social challenges, God continues to work through his people to bring hope and stability.

Sunday August 23 - *Diaconal Ministries Canada: New deacons*

Summer is often a time of transition for local church councils. Pray for new deacons as they learn their roles and responsibilities, and as they engage in the life and leadership of their congregations.