

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

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

Prelude

Welcome

"As the deer panteth for the water"

* **Opening Hymn:** *"As the Deer"* (PP #246)

1. As the deer panteth for the water,
so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.

Chorus:

*You alone are my Strength, my Shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.*

2. You're my friend and You are my brother
even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Chorus

3. I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver,
and the apple of my eye.

Chorus

"As the Deer" Psalm 42:1 Martin Nystrom, ©1984 Maranatha! Music CCLI# 678905

Call to Worship:

Leader: Hear the Word of the Lord
Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory?

Leader: The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

**People: Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Leader: Who is he, this King of glory?

People: The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.
—Psalm 24:7-10, NIV

*** Song of Praise 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!

"In Christ Alone" Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, Copyright
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*** God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other**

"So my soul longeth after Thee"

Announcements

Call to Confession:

Let us confess our sin before God and one another
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.

For the LORD is God of justice.

Blessed are all who wait for him!

—Isaiah 30:15, 18, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, in your faithful love,
in your great tenderness wipe away my offences;
wash me thoroughly from my guilt,
purify me from my sin.

For I am well aware of my offences,
my sin is constantly in mind.

Against you, you alone, I have sinned,
I have done what you see to be wrong,
that you may show your saving justice
when you pass sentence,

Help us, O God of our salvation,
For the glory of your name;

**People: Deliver us, and forgive our sins,
For your name's sake.**

Words of Assurance:

Leader: Hear the good news!

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

—Psalm 145:13-14, NRSV

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace

People: Thanks be to God.

Call to Holy Living:

As God's forgiven people, how are we to live?

Hear now the Word of God:

Since you have been raised up to be with Christ,
you must look for the things that are above,
where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

Let your thoughts be on things above,
not on things that are on the earth,
because you have died,
and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.
But when Christ is revealed—and he is your life—
you, too, will be revealed with him in glory.

—Colossians 3:1-4, NJB

*** Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #693**

"Amazing Grace - My Chains Are Gone"

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Chorus

*My chains are gone, I've been set free;
my God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
unending love, amazing grace.*

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Chorus

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

Words: John Newton (sts), refrain by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio; © 2006
worshiptogether.com songs/sixsteps Music/Vamos Publishing; admin. EMI CMG
Publishing; Music: traditional American melody; refrain and arr. Chris Tomlin and
Louis Giglio EMICMGPublishing.com; arr. Diane Dykgraaf © 2012
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EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI # 678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

"You alone are my heart's desire "

*** Song of Preparation:** LUYH #776 *"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"*

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.
4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852,
P.D. CCLI #678905

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "The Valley and the Table"

Time of Prayer

"And I long to worship Thee."

*** Hymn of Application: "Ancient of Days" (City Alight)**

1. Though the nations rage Kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains
That my God is the Ancient of Days.

Chorus:

*None above Him none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne, it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of days.*

2. Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul
He is here with me I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days.

Chorus:

*None above Him none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne, it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of days.*

3. Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Savior king
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Chorus

Tag:

For my God is the Ancient of Days

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We Profess our Faith

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

**People: He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

—Psalm 23, NIV

God's Blessing

*** Parting Hymn of Praise: LUYH #466 "Abide with Me"**

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1847, alt., P.D.; Music: William H. Monk, 1861, P.D. CCLI #678905

*** Postlude**

Welcome! We invite all of you to praise God with hearts and hands and voices. Let us be mindful of the wonders God has given us. Come rejoice in God and together sing praises to His name. Reach out in warmth to all who have gathered in the house of the Lord. 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 30	Next Week: September 6
Sound:	Tim H.	Henry H.
Projection:	France B.	Tim H.
Video:	Isaac D.	Maddie D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

August 30, 2026

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

The Adult Sunday school class this fall will be a discussion of C.S. Lewis' well-known "Mere Christianity." Discussion will be guided by Kevin Kok and possibly others here and there. This class won't begin until Sunday, October 4. I'm sorry that doesn't mesh well with the kids' schedule. I hope you can join us.

Children's Sunday School begins on September 13! If your child is of the age to be in children's Sunday School you will have a schedule in your mailboxes right now!

Don't forget – Our Church Potluck is coming faster than you know it! We will be eating and fellowshiping on September 6!

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! Please RSVP to Tish at 360-540-2757.

If you do not have a picture of your family for the new church directory, you still have time to send Beth a landscape formatted picture. Beth hopes to start printing the new directories in the beginning of October.

There is a fall sign-up sheet to provide transportation for Joy Faber to and from church on the sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to be a blessing to Joy!

Beth will be out of the office from Sept. 2 until the week of Sept. 20. Catherine Vander Kooy will be filling in in the office. Please send your emails for announcements and prayer chain items to the regular office email. Beth will be doing some work remotely. *Note that the deadline for these announcements and prayer guide items will now be Weds. morning by 9 am until Beth returns.* Thank you!.

Education Committee Meeting- September 6th.

If you are on the Education Committee, we will be having a brief meeting in the council room shortly after our service on September 6th to discuss the upcoming year.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

PM, August 23 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 30: Cody & Angela S., Bob DG

Next Week, Sept. 6: Greg & Tish A., Randy & Peggy B.

Worship Team: Today, August 30: Men's Group

Next Week, Sept. 6: Henry & Pam VZ, Mandi D., Jennaya B.

Nursery: Today, August 30: Reese VDV & Macy VDP

Next Week, Sept. 6: Jeannette F., Nellie VDH

Children in Worship: Today, August 30: Jodi VDP, Myra VDB

Next Week, Sept. 6: Julie S., Macy VDP

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

Today, August 30: Keith & Jean R.

Next week, Sept. 6: Mardick S.

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 30:

10:30am Worship Service

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Sept. 6: Church Potluck

Sunday, Sept. 6: Education Committee Meeting right after the service.

Sunday, September 13, 9:30am: Children's Sunday School begins.

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

Sunday, October 4, 9:30am: Adult Sunday School begins

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Get Into the Habit - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Get Into the Habit" at www.kidscorner.net. What are your spiritual daily habits that help grow closer to God? They're things like prayer, Bible reading, and worship. They're habits we do because we love God and have his spirit in our hearts. Check out the new Kids Corner Devotions app at <https://kidscorner.net/app>

Kids Corner Bible Devotions App - Help your child build a healthy habit of personal devotions and prayer. The Kids Corner Bible Devotions App features short Bible readings, memory verses, thoughtful reflections, simple guided prayers, and fun puzzles. It's free with no in-app purchases. Download at kidscorner.net/app

Groundwork: Jesus' Sacrifice is Complete and Makes Us Holy - Guilt has weight; it becomes a burden to one who carries it. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Hebrews 8:1-10:18 to see how the author of Hebrews offers reassurance to weary believers by showing how Israel's covenant, tabernacle, and sacrificial system all dealt with guilt, but ultimately point to and find their fulfillment in Christ. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - The late United States congressman John Lewis believed in the nonviolent resistance techniques he learned from Martin Luther King, Jr., and others. He grew up with the gospel teaching that everyone is made in the image of God. To honor that image, we just need to slow down and see others through the lenses of grace and forgiveness. Humanizing people—even one's enemy

(Matt. 5:44-45)—according to Lewis, is the first step toward reconciliation and social change. Whom might God be asking you to forgive this week? How can you recognize and honor the image of God in everyone you encounter this week? Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

2026 Cambodia Discovery Tour - World Renew invites you on a learning journey to explore Cambodia! Grow in your understanding of World Renew's work from communities already leading change, while experiencing the history, traditions, and culture of Cambodia. Join us from November 6-16, 2026, and come discover what God is doing in Cambodia. Registration is limited. For more information and to register, visit: worldrenew.org/travel

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>



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 pray for complete healing of **Greg Ackermann's** foot and leg.

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 24 - *Church Renewal: Engagement in mission*

Each congregation is in a unique place at a particular time. We all have the calling to be ambassadors for Christ in our world. Pray that each congregation in the CRCNA may discover how to live out their calling in their location with the people and gifts God has given them.

Tuesday August 25 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: New academic year*

The seminary is gearing up for the new school year, both online and with residential students. Orientation, travel, move-ins, and preparations for courses are ongoing. Pray for these transitions as we begin the new school year together.

Wednesday August 26 - *Thrive: Abuse prevention and response*

Please pray for Thrive's ongoing abuse prevention and response work. Pray for healthy churches where abuse in all forms—abuse of power, spiritual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, and more—is unconscionable and where solace and safety are offered to all who have experienced betrayal.

Thursday August 27 - *CRC Communications: New ministry year*

As we approach another season of ministry, pray for churches, campus ministries, agencies, and all kinds of organizations pursuing ministry. Anticipating God's continued care and guidance, ask the Holy Spirit to work in all believers so that people may be drawn to Christ because of his love shining through us.

Friday August 28 - *ReFrame: Prayer ministry*

Tina shared that in her retirement she feels she is drowning financially, even as she holds on to the truth that God will provide everything she needs. Pray for peace to calm her anxieties and wisdom for managing her resources. Ask God to show her that he will faithfully provide for her during this new season of life.

Saturday August 29 - *Resonate: Japan*

Resonate missionaries Jeong and Misook Gho are leading pre-baptism classes with a family of four in Japan. Please pray for this family as they learn more about Jesus as Lord and Savior and proceed in this important step of discipleship.

Sunday August 30 - *World Renew: Reporting and accountability*

Pray for all staff and partners during this busy reporting season. Ask God for clarity, endurance, and a spirit of collaboration as we complete important year-end responsibilities. Pray for wisdom and guidance as teams prepare to implement plans for the coming fiscal year.